



CANADIAN NETWORK *for*
the PREVENTION of ELDER ABUSE

RÉSEAU CANADIEN *pour la PRÉVENTION*
du MAUVAIS TRAITEMENT des AÎNÉS

POSITION STATEMENT ON THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PEOPLE

Understanding the Issue

Human rights are the basic civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights and freedoms to which all people are entitled, including older adults, without discrimination. Demographic change is resulting in ever increasing numbers of older people globally. As a consequence, greater numbers of people will be directly (and indirectly) affected by age discrimination and ageism. Regretfully, there is currently no United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Older Persons to provide an explicit legal framework, guidance, and support to ensure that the rights of older persons are realized. We firmly believe that older people's human rights need to be upheld and entrenched with a legally-binding convention.

CNPEA's commitment

CNPEA envisions and works toward a Canadian society where older adults are valued, respected, and live free from abuse. We work to connect people and organizations, foster the exchange of reliable information, and advance program and policy development on issues related to preventing the abuse of older adults, with a firm focus on the promotion and protection of the rights of older people.

We demonstrate our commitment by:

- Calling for the development of a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Adults. We align ourselves with national and international organizations such as the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People, the International Federation on Ageing, the International Longevity Centre Canada, Help Age Canada, and the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.
- Contributing as an accredited member of the UN Open Ended Group on Aging.
- Promoting public awareness and education about ageism and elder abuse prevention.



CANADIAN NETWORK for
the **PREVENTION** of **ELDER ABUSE**

RÉSEAU CANADIEN pour la **PRÉVENTION**
du **MAUVAIS TRAITEMENT** des **AÎNÉS**

- Seeking opportunities to work with individuals and organizations that share our commitment to make ageism and other violations of the rights of older people a priority for governments at every level.
- Supporting research and encouraging collective action towards ageism and abuse prevention by promoting practices and improving policies.
- Centering ageism and the rights of older people in our pan Canadian Roadmap to Elder Abuse Prevention, [Future Us](#).

What you can do to address the issue:

- Check out resources such as [Strengthening Older People’s Rights: Towards a UN Convention](#)
- Stay up to date on and support the [Age with Rights](#) campaign by the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People
- Mobilize your community campaigners to urge governments to support a UN convention for the Rights of Older People.
- Visit [FutureUs.cnpea.ca](#) for more information and resources on community engagement, ageism and building safer communities for older Canadians.

Our Approach

Our perspective on human rights is informed by:

- The [United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)
- The [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#)
- The [Canadian Human Rights Act](#)