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## JOINT NGO ORAL STATEMENT

### INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE PREVENTION OF ELDER ABUSE (INPEA)

#### Item 3: INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE INDEPENDENT EXPERT ON THE ENJOYMENT OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS BY OLDER PERSONS

UN Human Rights Council  
54<sup>th</sup> session  
11 September - 13 October 2023

Co-sponsored by:

Age Platform Europe  
Amnesty International  
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Senioren-Organisationen (BAGSO)  
Grey Cells  
International Longevity Centre Canada  
International Longevity Centre Global Alliance (ILC GA)  
Make Mothers Matter (MMM)  
Sorooptimist International

Mr. President,

We welcome the report of the Independent Expert on violence, abuse and neglect of older persons.

Older persons' perceptions, opinions and lived experiences are **crucial** in defining and categorizing violence and abuse, their identification, and remedies. Structural and societal abuse have been highlighted as a clear category. Violence and abuse in all forms constitute a violation of human rights and governments have an obligation to prevent and respond adequately.

Protecting the human rights of older persons includes guaranteeing their full participation at

local, community and societal levels **and** guaranteeing their personal safety and dignity.

Violence, abuse and neglect of older persons across all settings, are deeply rooted in societal ageism and age-based discrimination. It is also apparent in the negative portrayal of older persons in the media and in harmful traditional practices against older persons, particularly older women.

Ageism must not be tolerated and must be treated with the same seriousness as other forms of discrimination.

We need to change the way older persons are portrayed and treated. This societal change needs to be anchored in national, regional, and international legal frameworks.

Existing legal frameworks have failed to adequately protect older persons' rights and have equally failed to protect older persons from all types of violence, abuse and neglect. A human rights-based approach is the only appropriate framework to challenge ageism.

There is a clear need for a legally binding international convention on the human rights of older persons to ensure the right to live free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Mrs Mahler, What can the Council do to assist States to protect the rights of older persons?