



The voice of older people at the United Nations

8th of November 2023, 10am to 3pm, Bonn/online

About the speakers

Martin Amberger

Government Director, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. He studied social sciences and political science at the University of Koblenz-Landau, Stellenbosch University and the University of the Western Cape (Cape Town), graduating with a degree in social sciences. Since 2008, he has held various positions at the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, since 2017 as advisor and deputy head of division in Division 314 (International Policy for Older People, Inclusion). He is the National Focal Point on Ageing at the UNECE since November 2017. Since 2019, he is member of the Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGGA) Bureau and acts as Vice-Chair since 2023. He leads the task force to develop a new Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) in the UNECE region.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/themen/aeltere-menschen/internationale-politik-fuer-aeltere-menschen>

José Carreira

José Carreira is President of the National Association *Stop Idadismo (Stop Ageism)* and of the association *Social Works of Viseu*. Activist and social entrepreneur, he has worked in the third sector since 2020. He coordinates the Support Center for People with Alzheimer's and other Dementias in Viseu, since 2012, and was President of the Portuguese Alzheimers' Association. Director of the magazine *Revista Envelhecer*, dedicated to longevity.

José Carreira is a PhD student in Social Sciences and Aging. He holds a Master in Care for Persons with Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia as well as a Master in Social Work. He is Teacher of Portuguese Language and History.

<https://envelhecer.pt/> | <https://stopidadismo.pt/>

Nena Georgantzi

Human Rights Manager at AGE Platform Europe and Adjunct Lecturer at the National University of Ireland, Galway

A trained lawyer specialized in human rights (MA, Université de Strasbourg, France) and social protection (MA, KU Leuven, Belgium), Nena Georgantzi is working since 2010 for AGE Platform Europe (AGE), an EU network, which aims to voice and promote the rights of older people in the European Union and to raise awareness on the issues that concern them most. Nena holds a PhD in Law from the National University of Ireland in Galway where she is also an Adjunct Lecturer. She has participated in the drafting of the Council of Europe recommendation on the rights of older persons and has consulted the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Labour Organization. She is actively involved in the political process around a new UN convention on the rights of older persons and has served as Deputy Chair of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older Persons. Nena is the author of several reports, articles, books chapters and co-author of a book on law, ageing and ageism.

<https://www.age-platform.eu/>

H.- Günter Heiden

H.-Günter Heiden (M.A.) was born in 1953. He studied special education (AfH Cologne) and journalism (FU Berlin) and works as a journalist in Berlin. His main topics are: Human rights, legal equality, participation, international disability policy, accessibility. Co-founder of *NETZWERK ARTIKEL 3 e.V.* - Association for Human Rights and Equality of People with Disabilities. 2005/2006 he participated as an assistant in the negotiations on the UN Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN-CRPD) in New York. From 2012 to 2015 he was coordinator of the CRPD Alliance, which drew up the first parallel report of German civil society for the UN Committee of Experts.

<https://www.nw3.de/>

Margaret Gillis

Margaret Gillis is the founding President of the International Longevity Centre Canada, a human rights-based organization, and Co-President of the International Longevity Centre Global Alliance, which is an alliance of 16 Centres around the world dedicated to the needs of older people. She is also an “Ambassador” for Elder Abuse Awareness Ontario an organization providing education, training and information on elder abuse.

An award-winning executive and innovative leader, Margaret played a key role in establishing the Age-friendly Community program in Canada and internationally. Other career highlights include the establishment of the “Canadian Coalition Against Ageism” a nation-wide social change movement to combat ageism.

Margaret has strong credentials in regard to human rights, working with and speaking at the UN General Assembly on behalf of older people. Margaret has been actively working for a United Nations Convention on the Rights of Older Persons in Canada and internationally. With a background in health promotion, protection and programming, Margaret is committed to improving the rights of older people.

<https://www.ilccanada.org/>

Verity McGivern

Verity McGivern is Europe Regional Representative of HelpAge International. As such she leads HelpAge’s work with European governments, the European Union, and other regional bodies and actors to strengthen the commitment to older people’s rights in low and middle-income countries, in close coordination with network members.

Since joining HelpAge in 2015, she has held roles leading work across the network on Agenda 2030 and humanitarian advocacy. She played a key role in the establishment of the UN Titchfield City Group on Ageing and has previously chaired the Stakeholder Group on Ageing in New York and the Bond Humanitarian Working Group in London.

Verity has extensive experience in advocacy and working with UN bodies, EU institutions, and governments. Before joining HelpAge, she worked predominantly on children’s rights. She holds a master’s degree in European Affairs and undergraduate degrees in Politics and International Affairs from Cardiff University and Sciences Po Bordeaux.

<https://www.helpage.org/>

Dr Heidrun Mollenkopf

President of AGE Platform Europe & Board Member of BAGSO, the German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations. Since 2016, she represents BAGSO regularly at the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing at the UN in New York, where she has since then campaigned resolutely for a UN convention for the rights of older persons. In 2019, she has been appointed to the Bureau of the Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGGA) at the UNECE in Geneva as the representative of civil society. In this role, she constantly advocates for the rights of older people to be

considered in the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the UNECE region.

Heidrun Mollenkopf is a sociologist and gerontologist. Before she retired, she was Senior Researcher at the German Centre for Research on Ageing (DZFA) at the University of Heidelberg.

<https://www.bagso.de/> | <https://www.age-platform.eu/>

Silvia Perel-Levin

Silvia Perel-Levin is an advocate for the human rights of older persons and an independent consultant. She has been working with international organizations in the fields of human rights, ageing, and health for 25 years.

In Geneva, Silvia represents the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) and the International Longevity Centre Global Alliance (ILC GA), advocating for the adequate inclusion of older persons at the Human Rights Council and the UN, and promoting a UN Convention on the human rights of older persons. She leads the subcommittee on Human Rights of the NGO Committee on Ageing in Geneva, Committee she chaired for eight years until April 2022.

Silvia edited the book “Ageing of the Oppressed: A Pandemic of Intersecting Injustice” recently published. She also chairs the Programme Committee for the conference “Independent Ageing”. She was born in Argentina and has also lived, studied, and worked in England, Israel, Hungary, and Switzerland. She currently lives in Tel Aviv.

<http://www.inpea.net/> | <https://www.ilc-alliance.org/> | <https://ageingcommitteegeneva.org/>

Tatiana Sorocan

Tatiana Sorocan is Country Director for HelpAge International in Moldova, a rights-based organization, aimed to promote and protect the rights of older people. She has about 15 years of progressive senior leadership role in social development with a focus on strategic programme planning and development, management and growth, programme quality, organisational change and capacity building of CSOs.

<https://www.helpage.org/global-network/eurasia-and-the-middle-east/eastern-europe/moldova/>

Ina Voelcker

Ina Voelcker is the Head of the Secretariat for International Policy on Ageing at BAGSO, the German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations. She coordinates BAGSO's international work which involves representing older persons' interests in international debates and fostering the exchange of civil society organisations from various countries. Since 2022, Ina is vice chair of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP).

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Gerontology and a Master's degree in Public Policy and Ageing from King's College London. Previously Ina worked with HelpAge International in London and the International Longevity Centre Brazil in Rio de Janeiro.

<https://www.bagso.de/> | <https://rightsofolderpeople.org/>

Dr Lisa Warth

Lisa Warth is Chief of Population Unit at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) whose work contributes to promoting policy dialogue on various facets of demographic change across the UNECE region. Through the inter-governmental Standing Working Group on Ageing, UNECE supports member States across Europe, Central Asia and North America in the implementation, monitoring, and appraisal of progress in implementing international policy frameworks on ageing, such as the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. Through technical advisory services, capacity building and various knowledge products including guidelines, policy briefs and seminars, UNECE promotes experience exchange and guidance on mainstreaming ageing.

Prior to joining UNECE in 2017 Lisa Warth coordinated and developed the Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities and Age-friendly World platform at WHO. Lisa Warth has a background in comparative policy analysis and holds a doctorate in Social Policy from the London School of Economics.

www.unece.org/population

Frances Zainoeddin

Frances Zainoeddin left Australia in 1970 to join the United Nations first as a research assistant in the Population Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs where she learned about determinants and consequences of population trends and policies around the world and the different policies governments adopted to address population growth, fertility levels, and economic and social development. Her career went in another direction following opportunities that became available in

monitoring the deliberations of intergovernmental bodies that provide overall direction for the UN Secretariat's work, and then in administration and management of UN programmes, ending with the position of Deputy Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division, defending the work of the Secretariat in terms of funding requirements.

Upon retirement she decided to continue to promote the ideals of the United Nations by joining the NGO community to address human rights for all and alleviation of poverty. She focused on issues related to gender equality, including for older women. This led to advocating for an international legal instrument to protect the rights of older persons. Frances is a representative to the United Nations in New York for the International Federation on Ageing, and for Soroptimist International. She also represents the NGO Committee on Ageing in New York on the Steering Group of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP).

<https://ifa.ngo/> | <https://www.ngocoa-ny.org/>

Nicole Zündorf-Hinte, M.A.

Nicole Zündorf-Hinte has been Head of the International Policy for Older People, Inclusion Division at the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) since May 2020. From 2019 to 2020, she held the Evaluation, International Affairs and Research on Democracy and Diversity Division. Between 1994 and 2019, she held various positions within the BMFSFJ: She was policy officer for family policy and a policy officer for the protection of women against violence, coordination of international policy against gender-based violence and human trafficking, including lead negotiation of the Palermo Protocol, the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and representation of Germany in the relevant EU bodies, ER bodies and UN bodies, negotiation of the Istanbul Convention for Germany.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/themen/aeltere-menschen/internationale-politik-fuer-aeltere-menschen>

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