



## **PRESS RELEASE**

3 April 2025

### **Historic decision on the human rights of older persons: Governments decide to start drafting an international convention**

On 3 April, UN Member States in the Human Rights Council in Geneva adopted a landmark resolution<sup>i</sup> to create a new intergovernmental working group to draft an international legally binding instrument (UN convention) on the human rights of older persons. This milestone is the culmination of many years of advocacy and campaigning by older persons, civil society and other advocates around the world, including Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario. The evidence compiled over this period has demonstrated that the best solution to the deficiencies and fragmentation in the international human rights system is a dedicated convention.

A new UN convention will have a positive impact on the lives of older persons around the world today, and all of us as we age in the future. It will provide greater clarity and essential guidance to States on how to better promote and protect older persons' rights. It will help eliminate ageism and age discrimination and ensure that older persons can seek redress for violations of their rights. This important political decision brings us closer to making this a reality.

As the resolution was adopted, one of several GAROP Steering Group members, participating in Geneva said *'This feels like my dream has come true. Our voices have been heard and governments have now recognised at the global level that they need to develop a dedicated UN convention. I stand in solidarity and celebrate with older people around the world who have been pushing for this decision for a long time. We are ready to work with our governments to ensure that this UN convention delivers for older persons everywhere.'*

The next steps at the UN level will be to determine how the new intergovernmental working group will be resourced and organised.

Ina Voelcker (Co-chair of the Global Alliance, also in Geneva) said *'We commend the work of the core group of States who led this resolution. We will continue to advocate for the full, meaningful and effective participation of civil society, especially older persons and their representative organisations. It is vital that this new drafting process is as inclusive and transparent as possible. We look forward to engaging with the new working group and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to achieve this.'*

### **Further Information**

- Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council: <https://docs.un.org/A/HRC/58/L.24/Rev.1>

- [About GAROP](#)

Established in 2011, the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP) was born out of the need to strengthen the rights and voice of older people globally. Today, GAROP is a network of over 400 members worldwide, united in our work to strengthen and promote the rights of older persons. Our mission is to support and enhance civil society engagement with Member States and National Human Rights Institutions at national, regional and international levels around a UN convention on the rights of older persons.

[www.rightsofolderpeople.org](http://www.rightsofolderpeople.org)

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<sup>i</sup> The resolution was proposed by a core group of Member States comprising Argentina, Brazil, the Gambia, the Philippines and Slovenia.