



39th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 10 – 28 September 2018

Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons

Oral statement delivered by: Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23)

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Mr President,

APG23 thanks the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons for her latest report ¹ on the impact of the social exclusion of older persons.

Social exclusion of older persons involves the lack or denial of resources, rights, good and services and the inability to participate in societal relationships and activities. It affects the quality of life and the enjoyment of human rights. The Independent Expert “emphasises the imperative to adopt of human rights-based approach to ageing” with a shift in the way societies view older persons: from passive receivers and burdens to active contributors of society.²

According to WHO “the pace of population ageing is much faster than in the past” and “all countries face major challenges to ensure that their health and social systems are ready to make the most of this demographic shift.”³

The involvement of communities and families in the promotion of human rights of older persons such as, inter alia, the right to health and the right to an adequate standard of living, in the protection of their dignity and in the safeguard of their autonomy and independence, is of paramount importance.

According to our experience, we consider crucial to:

- Promote a culture that recognises older persons as an indispensable part of society and of the family, bringing with them values and experience;
- Develop projects for combatting loneliness and ensure, as far as possible, that older persons are able to stay in their own home and not institutionalised;
- Promote and provide support for older persons to reside with their original family or if that is not possible, develop plans to welcome them into family homes or in foster families in order for them to live a life in which there are plenty of relationships.⁴

We advocate for Governments to promote policies that recognise older persons as an integral and necessary part of families and societies, in order to fulfil the promise of leaving no one behind.

¹ A/HRC/39/50

² A/HRC/39/50 p. 17

³ <http://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ageing-and-health>

⁴ http://www.apg23.org/en/elderly_people/

Thank you