



54th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council (11 September – 13 October 2023)

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 report on violence against and abuse and neglect of older persons.

In some societies, the prevailing logic of efficiency and productivity, of the primacy of economy over solidarity and fraternity, increasingly considers older people a social burden.

Regrettably, the isolation/abandonment of older people is progressively becoming part of common practice, with older persons relegated in some institutes, at the margins of community life. More and more often the solution to, for instance, family abandonment or lack of adequate economic means of support is institutionalization.

Moreover, in many cases, the discourse about older persons is limited to the health aspect without proper attention to other needs, such inter alia, relationships, friendship, spirituality, and the need for a family.

Unfortunately, the voices of the older human being in our society are often muted or ignored.

APG23 would like to ask the Independent Expert which other actions the Civil Society can promote to make the voices of older people, even those in institutionalized facilities, heard and to facilitate their participation in the formulation of policies and strategies at the local and national levels to combat violence, neglect, and abuse.

Thank you!