

Oral Statement by the International Longevity Center Global Alliance on normative elements autonomy and independence, long term care and palliative care

Statement delivered by Silvia Perel-Levin

Age discrimination in all fields of life prevent older persons, especially older women, from exercising their rights. Too many current Ageist national and global policies and legislation lead to abusive practices, undignified and inadequate treatment and lack of respect for individual choices and freedom. Older women and men should have the right to enjoy their full autonomy and choose where, with whom and how to live their lives until the end of life.

Misconceptions about what long-term support and assumptions about the adequacy of existing options are real barriers to a dignified life in older age.

Older persons have the right to quality holistic support including long-term and palliative care that is available, acceptable, accessible, timely and affordable, with full respect to the needs, preferences and autonomy of the older persons without discrimination of any kind. The right applies in all public and private settings including at: home, community based, primary care, residential institutions, hospitals, day-care centres, hospices, prisons or any other setting.

This right is independent from the income or financial capability of their family members. It is a right for all, not a charity when there are left overs in budgets.

A Convention on the rights of older persons can clearly delineate the norms that will guide government to implement policies that are human rights based, hold them accountable, and provide appropriate remedy when an older person's rights are violated.

We call on the Working Group to step up the work and focus on what it was set out to do mandated by the GA, to protect the human rights of older persons for the older people of today and to enable the young to hope for a dignified future. We support the call for an outcome document