

Civil Society in Geneva

The human rights of older persons in
international human rights mechanisms

Silvia Perel-Levin
BAGSO, 8 November 2023

Main Representative of INPEA and ILC GA to the UN in Geneva
Chair, sub-committee on human rights, NGO Committee on Ageing, Geneva

Geneva International Organizations

- WHO: Ageing (in two departments), Women's health, Assistive Technologies, +
- ITU International Telecommunication Union is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies.
- UNFPA, Headquarters: New York, Geneva office (ICPD)
- UNECE: SWGA and Regional CSO mechanism
- UNITAR An autonomous UN body established in 1963, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research is a training arm of the UN
- OHCHR
- ILO
- UNHCR
- UN WOMEN, Headquarters: New York, GVA office with new section on emergencies
- ...and more

International human rights mechanisms

Treaty Bodies

CESCR

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

CEDAW

Elimination of Discrimination against Women

CRPD

Rights of Persons with Disabilities

CCPR

Human Rights Committee, Civil and Political Rights

CERD

Elimination of Racial Discrimination

CAT

Committee against Torture

CRC

Rights of the Child

CMW

Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families

CED

Enforced Disappearances

Human Rights Council

Universal Periodic Review

Special Procedures

Other international Conventions outside international human rights system

ILO/ WHO Conventions

Regional mechanisms

OHCHR is the secretariat for all mechanisms and technical agency on human rights

Search the Universal Human Rights Index

Search on 15 October 2023

Mechanism	Documents	Recommendations
Committee on the Rights of the Child	15	22
Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	33	62
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	152	416
Committee against Torture	16	29
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	87	206
Human Rights Committee	13	24
Committee on Migrant Workers	4	7
Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture	8	

Treaty bodies: 901 rec/obs on Older Persons out of 102,214 = **0.88%**

CEDAW:
While OP appear in 176 out of 378 documents, 476 recommend. out of 18,015 = **2.64 %**

CESCR:
OP appear in 92 documents out of 195
226 recommendations out of 11,266 = **2%**

UPR: 556 on OP out of 101,132 = **0.55%**

Special Procedures: 535 rec on OP out of 18,604 = **2.86%**
362 from IE – **0.9% without IE**



Countdown to Human Rights Day

Digital Artist YAK bring UDHR to life

[Learn more >](#)

Welcome to the United Nations

Resources

العربية

中文

English

Français

русский

Español

More +



Donate



What are human rights?

Topics

Countries

Instruments & mechanisms

Latest

About us

[Get Involved](#)

HR75 Spotlight: B-Tech Project

Developing safer digital technologies for all

[Read the story](#)



Germany



Table of Contents

[Overview](#)

[News & Statements](#)

[Featured Stories](#)

[UN and OHCHR Reports](#)

[Universal Periodic Review](#)

[Special Procedures](#)

[Treaty Bodies](#)

[Status & Reporting](#)

[External Resources](#)

[Contact Information](#)

Overview

Germany is covered by the OHCHR Regional Office for Europe (ROE), whose primary function is to advance human rights in the European Union (EU) through technical assistance, advocacy, and reporting on human rights, based on the recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms. The office works to address human rights gaps in EU legislation, budgeting and policy-making, seizing the impetus created by the Sustainable Development Agenda. [Read more >](#)

News & Statements

[Back to top](#) ^

Report HRC/49/70

Normative standards and obligations under international law in relation to the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons

- The existing human rights framework provides fragmented and inconsistent coverage of the human rights of older persons, in law and practice
- The engagement by international human rights mechanisms on the human rights of older persons has been far from systematic, coherent or sustained
- The lack of a dedicated legally binding instrument and the limitations of existing instruments continue to hinder the effective protection of human rights of older persons

Report HRC/52/49
Summary of the multi-stakeholder meeting
on the human rights of older persons

- Reaffirmed previous reports and analytical studies by OHCHR:
 - ✓ Current international framework provides fragmented and inconsistent coverage
 - ✓ There is a need to expeditiously develop and adopt a comprehensive human rights instrument on older persons.
- States should, in collaboration with civil society, NHRIs, the UN and older persons themselves, **develop and adopt a comprehensive convention on the human rights of older persons**

What would a Convention Do?

- Codify standards and norms
- Assist ratifying states to adopt non-discriminatory laws and oblige them to comply and combat ageism
- Draw attention to multiple and intersecting discrimination
- Provide basis for advocacy and public awareness
- Provide a reporting and accountability mechanism



GA hall April 2021 OEWGA

Thank you