

Sustainable development goals for all ages . . . dare we dream?

[Sustainable development goals for all ages...dare we dream?](#) ← Blog Post



Although the Chief Executive Officer of HelpAge International wrote this blog, it is essential to note that Gray Panthers, through the efforts of Jack Kupferman, Frances Zainoeddin, Caroline Bernal Silva and Lobi Redhawk, is one of the core advocacy groups leading the Stakeholder Group of the Ageing Community for the post-2015 Global Development Agenda. The Gray Panthers delegation on this initiative, led by Jack Kupferman, has been a key player at every stage of advocacy. There has been enormous progress. Yet, the end is not in sight.

Our joint goal is to ensure the explicit inclusion of the concerns of older persons in the Sustainable Development Goals, scheduled to begin in 2015. Global discussions and decisions are happening now. When the world came together to establish the first set of global goals (Millennium Development Goals which began in 2000) there was zero mention of older persons. We want to make sure that omission does not happen again.

When Toby Porter speaks of advocacy in New York, he is aware that Gray Panthers works closely with many organizations with greater resources. Gray Panthers leads by arranging and attending visits with diplomats from many nations, by drafting easy to understand language appreciated by the UN and by Member States so that the concerns of older persons might be easily incorporated into the Sustainable Development Goals, by strategizing with the core stakeholder group for the Ageing Community, by establishing personal links for further success, by being visible by speaking up at the innumerable meetings on the post-2015 Development Agenda, by taking advantage of momentary opportunity to persuade, and more.

We have much to be proud of. With hesitancy, we may be able to count accomplishments for the improvement of the quality of life for 800 million older persons and all those who are ageing. There is much more to do. We count on all Gray Panthers, and those of every generation to support these important efforts.