

## **FACT SHEET 1**

### **NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING-New York**

GPNYC has had consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN since 1980 and is a member of the NGO Committee on Ageing-New York.

[Click here to see the NGO Committee on Aging-New York brochure](#)

### **MISSION**

The Committee works to raise global awareness of the opportunities and challenges of ageing. By 2030, an estimated 16.5% of the world's population will be over age 60. The Committee advocates within the United Nations community to ensure that ageing concerns are included in all UN policies and programs.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee is comprised of NGOs that have consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council, as well as NGOs concerned with issues involving older persons.

### **OVERSIGHT**

An Executive Board meets monthly to discuss the work of its subcommittees, collaborates with other organizations, **and** forms coalitions, among other activities. Currently, Cynthia Stuen is the Chairperson (International Federation on Ageing) and Frances Zainoeddin is the Vice-Chair (GPNYC Board member).

### **ACTIVITIES**

The NGO Committee on Ageing advocates on behalf of older adults everywhere. It monitors the work of organizations within the United Nations system that concern older persons. These organizations include the United Nations Secretariat, its regional commissions, UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, **and** ILO.

The Committee is also a member of the [Stakeholder Group on Ageing](#) (SGA) that focuses on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and of the [Global Alliance on the Rights of Older People](#) (GAROP), which focuses on advocacy for an international legal instrument to protect the rights of older persons. Through these organizations it calls attention and ensures the visibility and inclusion of the older population over 60. Gray Panthers is also a member of SGA and GAROP.

### **ANNUAL EVENTS**

There are about nine program events a year where a variety of issues relating to older persons are presented, as well as updates on what is happening at the UN. For 2022, [here are the events](#).

### **THE MADRID INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON AGEING**

The Madrid International Plan of Action (MIPAA), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2002, is a resource for policymaking that suggests how Governments and non-governmental organizations might reorient the ways in which their societies perceive, interact with and care for older persons. It provides a roadmap for government action that is reviewed by the United Nations Commission for Social Development every five years, although it is not legally binding.

### **PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS**

The Committee works collaboratively to promote and support efforts by the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing to determine the feasibility of drafting a United Nations Convention for the Rights of Older Persons.

Such a legally-binding instrument among nations would ensure that older persons are viewed as rights holders and not as an issue of medical rehabilitation and social welfare. A convention would codify the rights of older persons in one document, establish a common global understanding of definitions and minimum standards of practice, would act as an anti-discriminatory tool to challenge prevailing negative stereotypes, would improve State accountability and transparency, and would raise public awareness in respect of older persons rights.

For details, [click here](#).

### **UN CELEBRATION OF OLDER PERSONS**

October 1 is the International Day of Older Persons