



United Nations Human Rights Council



Easy to read

**How older people are treated  
very badly**

**And what countries should do  
to make sure that older people  
get their human rights**



Report of the Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of all  
Human Rights by Older Persons. Claudia Mahler



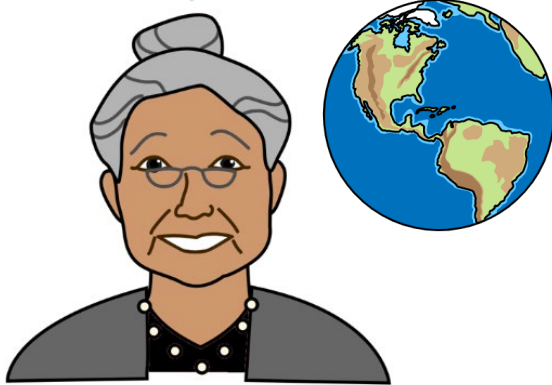
## About this report

My name is Claudia Mahler.



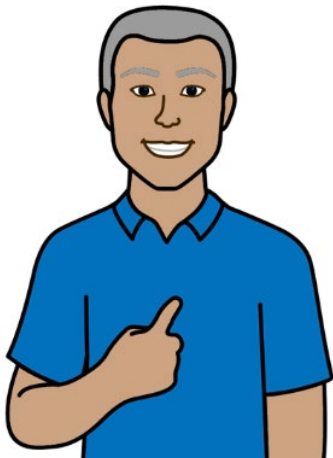
I am working for the United Nations (UN).

The United Nations is a group of countries that work together to make the world better and safer.



I am called an Independent Expert.

My job is to help to make sure that older people everywhere get their human rights.



Everyone has human rights.

Like the right to be safe and treated fairly.

Older people have the same human rights as everyone else.



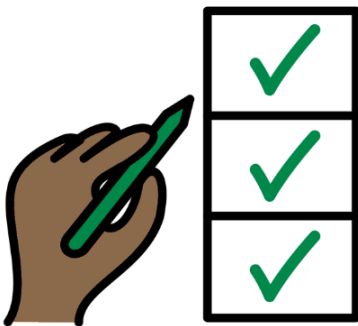
My report is about:

- How older people are treated very badly.
- What countries should do to make sure that older people get their human rights.



This report uses information from:

- My work and work from other experts.
- Information that countries and organizations gave me.



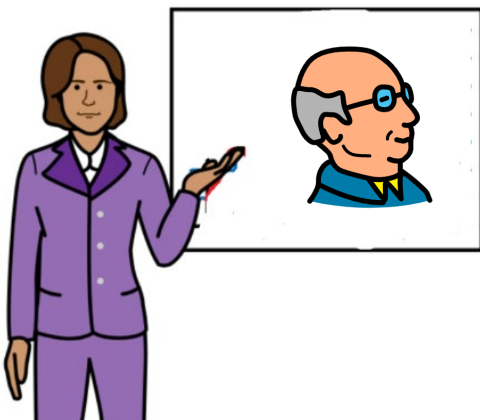
I have already done lots of work on the human rights of older people.

For example:

I have been checking what is happening to older people across the world.

I have been talking about the human rights of older people at important events.

I have been writing reports about what is happening to older people and what needs to change.





## How older people are treated very badly

Older people are often treated badly.

And they are often left out.

## Unfair ideas

People often have wrong ideas about older people.

For example, people might think that:

- All older people are weak and cannot do much.
- Older people are less important than other people.



But these ideas are not true.

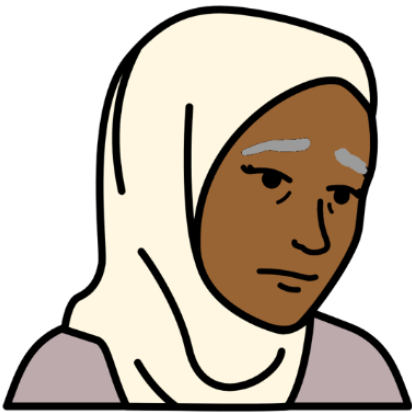
All older people are different.

And older people do important things and have important skills.



People might think that unfair ideas about older people are normal and OK.

That means older people might be treated unfairly without anyone stopping it.



Older people might feel bad about themselves because of what other people think about them.

That means they might not do something about other people treating them badly.



Unfair ideas often stop older people from getting their human rights.

## Unfair laws and rules

Laws and rules for the country often include unfair ideas about older people.

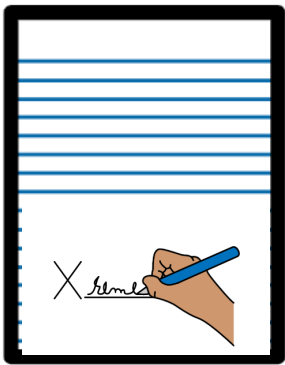
For example, many laws say that older people should stop working at a certain age even if they do not want to.





Unfair laws and rules can also stop older people from getting:

- Education
- The right health care and support
- Enough money to live on



There are laws about human rights in the world that many countries have promised to follow.

But the laws do not do enough to stop older people being treated unfairly.

## Older people are often left out

People and countries often forget about older people and leave them out.

For example, older people are often left out of plans and rules for the country.

That includes plans about what to do if there are big problems like war or floods.

That can put older people in danger.



## Older people are often hurt or treated badly

Older people can be hurt or treated badly in many ways.

For example:

- People might hit or hurt older people or say mean things to them.
- People might leave older people without the medicine or care they need.



Older people might not get the right support from the police if something bad happens to them.

Older people might not know about their rights and how to get help.

Older people might be scared to speak up.

That means nothing is done about many bad things that happen to older people.





## Other problems for older people

Older people might be treated badly for more than one reason.

For example, older women are often treated unfairly because they are older and because they are women.



For example, more violence happens to older women.

And laws often stop older women from owning land or homes.



Older people with disabilities are often left out and treated badly because they are older and because they have disabilities.

For example, they might find it hard to get the support, money or healthcare they need.



There is not enough information to show what life is like for older people and what they need.



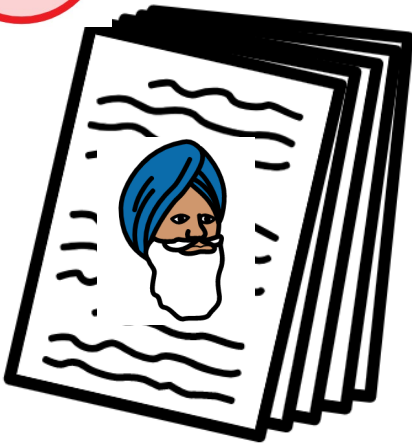
## Older people and Covid-19

Covid-19 is an illness that many people in the world have been getting.

Many problems for older people have got worse since the start of Covid-19.

For example:

- Many plans that countries made about Covid-19 did not include older people.
- And many people blamed older people for Covid-19 problems.



Many older people live in homes called care homes.

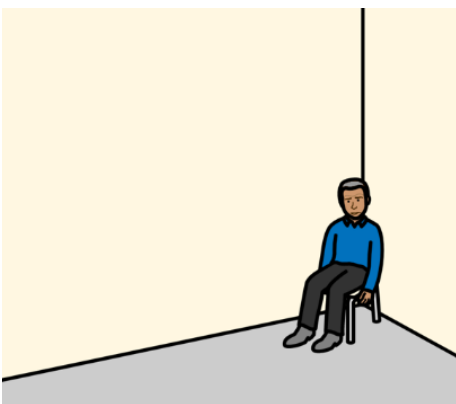
Older people in the homes were often treated badly.

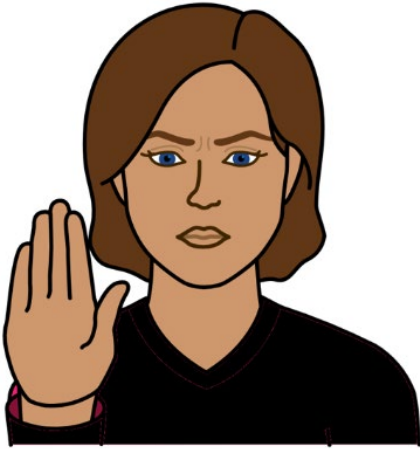
For example:

- Many staff in care homes did not have the right things to keep older people safe. Like face masks.



- Many older people were left alone in care homes. They could not see their family or friends.





## What countries must do to make sure that older people get their rights

Countries must work to stop all older people being treated unfairly.



Countries must make sure that all older people get their human rights and can take part in the community.

That includes older people who are treated more unfairly now.



For example, countries should make sure that laws and rules are fair for people of all ages.

Countries should stop any laws or rules that are unfair to older people.

For example, laws that stop older people from getting money, education or health care.



Countries must work with older people to make better laws and plans.

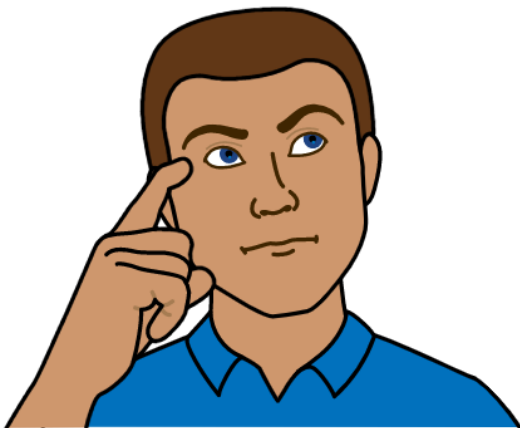
That includes plans about Covid-19.

And plans about big problems that might happen like war or big weather problems.



Older people should get good support if people stop them from getting their rights.

For example, support from the police and courts.

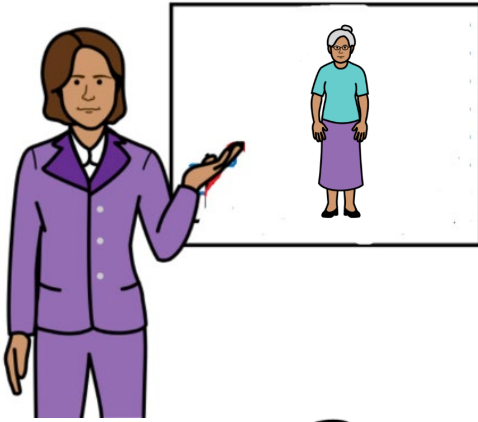


Countries must also look at why older people are treated unfairly and work to change that.



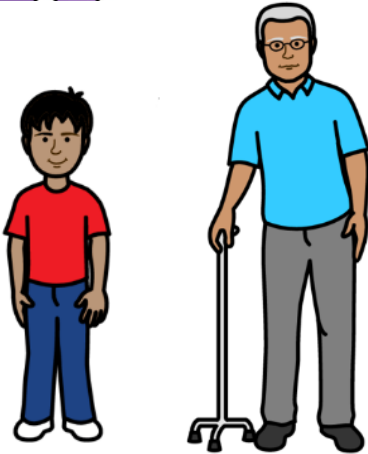
For example, all older people are different and need different things.

And some older people are treated unfairly for more than one reason.



People in the country should get information and training about older people and their human rights.

That includes information and training for older people and people who work with older people.



Countries should support people of all ages to meet and spend time together.



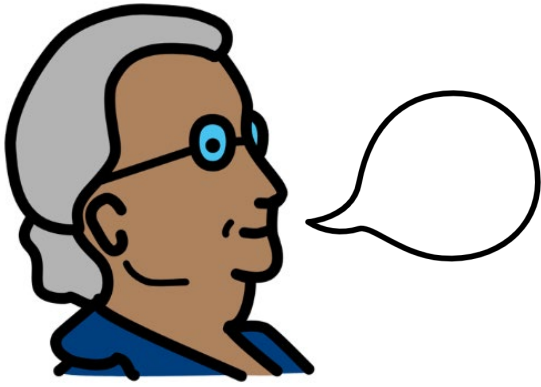
Countries should support the media to talk more about older people and to talk about older people in a better way.

The media includes TV, radio, newspapers and news on the internet.



That will help to change unfair ideas about older people.

It will also help people to see what older people can do and why they are important.



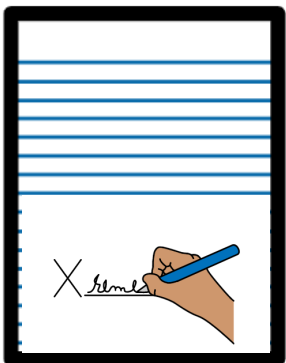
Older people should get more support to take part in the community.

That includes support to learn new skills and make their own choices.

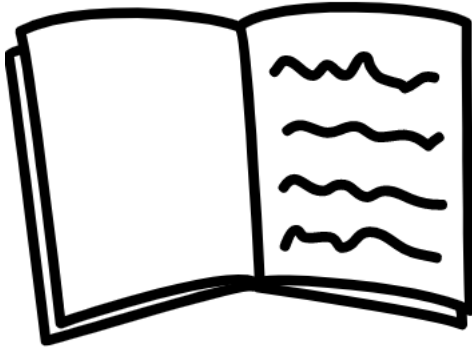


Countries should get better information about older people and what they need.

That will help countries to make laws and plans that work well for all older people.



There should be a new human rights law in the world just about the human rights of older people.



This is an easy to read report. We use the words **older people** in this report.

This report includes the main points from a bigger report.

The bigger report uses the words **older persons**.



The bigger report is on this website. It does not have easy words and pictures:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc4853-report-ageism-and-age-discrimination>