

Easy Read version of the report “Normative standards and obligations under international law in relation to the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons”



# Making sure that laws in the world work much better for older people and their human rights



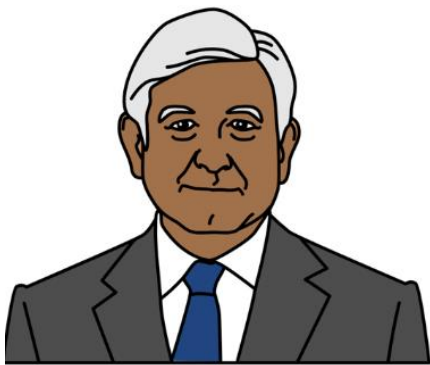
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# About this report

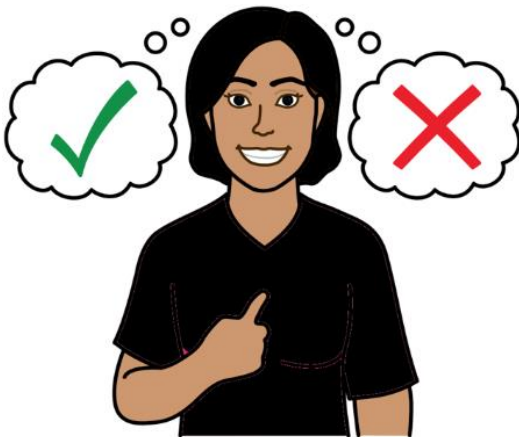


We are part of the United Nations (UN).

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



This report is about making sure that older people get their human rights.



We all have human rights.

Like the right to be safe and treated fairly.

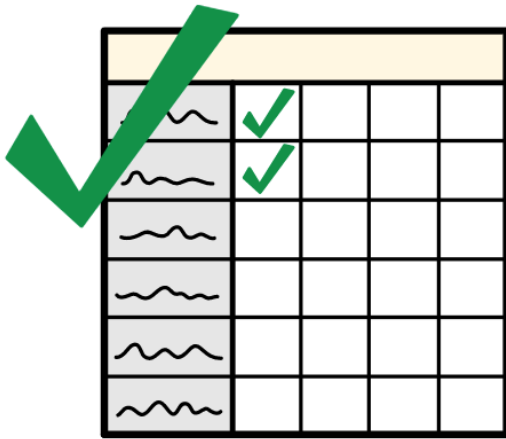
That is what should happen in everyone's lives.



There are laws about human rights in the world.

Many countries have promised to follow the laws.

This report is about:



- What is happening to older people and their human rights in the world at the moment
- How human rights laws are working for older people and their human rights
- What needs to change to make sure that older people get their human rights



We asked countries and organizations for their ideas before we made this report.



There will also be a meeting to talk about this report.

Different countries and organizations will be at the meeting.

We will write a report about that meeting and what should happen next.

# What is happening to older people and their human rights at the moment



Many people in the world are living longer.

That means there are more older people in the world.

Older people have the same human rights as everyone else.

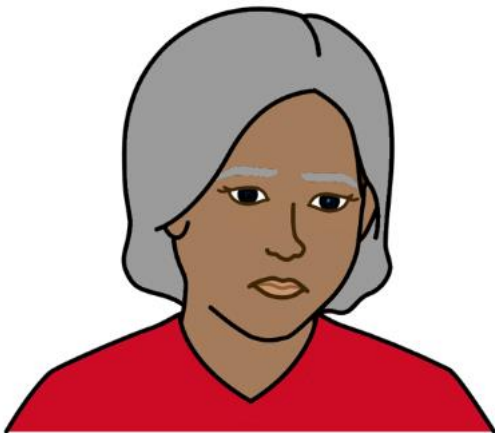
But many older people are not getting their human rights.

They are treated badly because of what other people think about them.

People often have unfair ideas about older people and what they can do.

For example, people might think that older people are all the same.

Or they might think that older people cannot do much.





Many people across the world have unfair ideas about older people.

They often do not know that the ideas are unfair. And no one says they are unfair.



But the ideas often stop older people from getting their human rights.

For example, the ideas might stop older people from doing things that could make their lives better.



Like working, learning new skills and taking part in the community.

Covid-19 has made problems for older people even worse.

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



Covid-19 showed that human rights laws in the world are not keeping older people very safe.

For example:

Many older people got ill or died from Covid-19.

That includes many older people who got Covid-19 in care homes where they should have been safe.

Many older people did not get the right health care during Covid-19.

Many older people were left alone during Covid-19. They could not see family or friends.

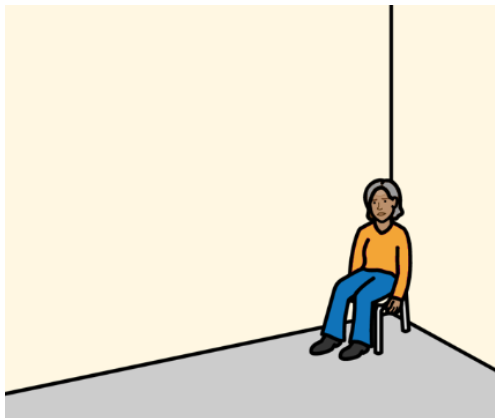
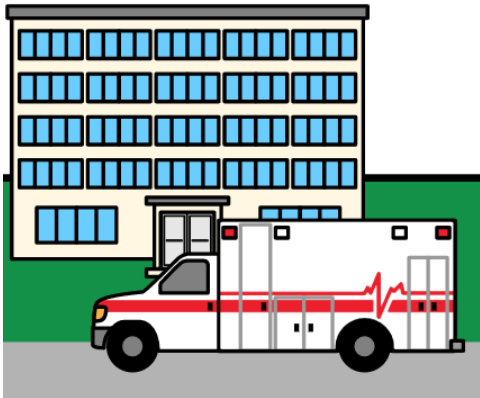
Governments said that was to keep older people safe.

But it meant that many older people did not get the right health care.

And it made many older people sad and worried.

Many people said bad things about older people during Covid-19.

For example, they blamed older people for Covid-19 problems.

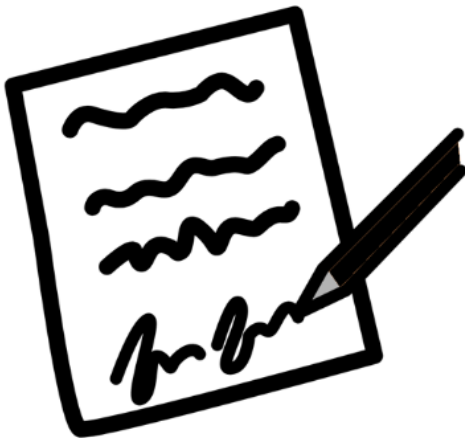


# How human rights laws at the moment are not good enough for older people and their human rights



There are laws in the world that say countries must treat people fairly.

That includes older people. But the laws do not clearly talk about older people.



There are some laws that countries in the same part of the world have made together.

The laws are about the rights of older people.

But most human rights laws in the world do not talk about older people and their rights.

That means human rights laws in the world are not good enough to stop older people being treated badly.







The laws do not clearly say that countries must stop older people being treated badly.

And there is no law for the whole world just about the rights of older people.



Because of that many countries have not made good laws for their own countries to stop older people being treated badly.



That means many older people do not get their human rights to do with important things like:

- Getting the right health care and support
- Being safe from violence
- Having enough food and money
- Having a safe place to live
- Using computers and the internet
- Getting the right support when war, floods or other big problems happen







There is also not much information about older people and what they need.

That makes it hard for countries to make good laws that work for older people.



More work has started on the rights of older people.

For example, the United Nations has been looking at human rights laws and how they work for older people.



A United Nations group was set up in 2010 to look at the human rights of older people.

The group is called the United Nations Working Group on Ageing.



There is also an expert who works for the United Nations.

Her job is called Independent Expert.

She helps older people everywhere to get their human rights.

But much more needs to be done.

# What countries and organizations should do next

They should do the following things:

Ask older people and other people about human rights laws for older people and what needs to change.

That will also help the United Nations with its work on the rights of older people.



Make sure that many people can take part in the work of the United Nations on the rights of older people.

That includes older people and organizations that support older people.



There are also experts from the United Nations.

They check that countries are doing what they should to make sure that people get their human rights.





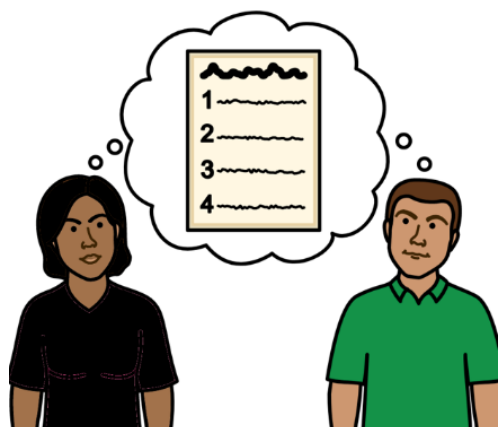
The experts have talked a bit about the rights of older people in their work.

But they could do a lot more.

For example, they could include the rights of older people more in their work.

## What should happen next

There are 2 main things that need to happen:



### **1. Making human rights at the moment work better for older people.**

Work on that should start straight away.

But that will not be enough to really change things.



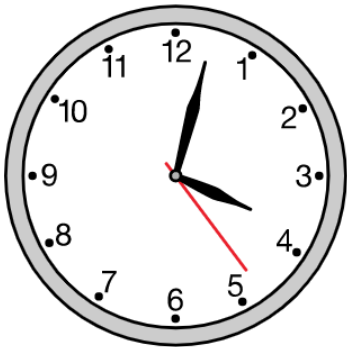
### **2. There should also be a new human rights law in the world just about the rights of older people.**

The new law should talk about what different groups of older people need now.



The law should look at all the ways that older people might be treated badly.

For example, older women might be treated badly because they are older and because they are women.



Countries should work more quickly to make the new law.

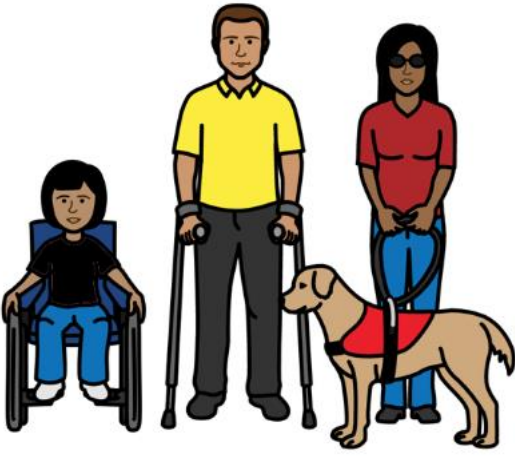


The new law will show that all older people are important and must get their human rights.



The law will help countries to make better laws about the rights of older people.

It will help people and organizations to do more work on the rights of older people.



That has already happened with a law about the human rights of people with disabilities.