

# Kerala Declaration

*Declaration from the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People's  
Asia Pacific members workshop*

**Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, 14 November 2019**

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We make this urgent call from GAROP members in Asia Pacific States to the OEWG on Ageing to accelerate the work relating to the adoption of a new UN convention on the human rights of older people.

As per World Population Ageing 2017 statistics, the global aged population (60+) which was 382 million in 1980 more than doubled itself to 962 million in 2017 and it will again more than double to 2.1 billion in 2050 – more than one-fifth of the global population. **The majority of this population is in Asia and will continue to be so in 2050 also.**

The Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (the Working Group) was established by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 65/182 in December 2010 for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons. The Working Group's mandate was extended by General Assembly Resolution 67/139 in December 2012, which requires the Working Group to present proposals on the main elements of a new international legal instrument to the General Assembly, at the earliest possible date.

We believe that a legally binding UN convention on the rights of older persons is essential for all older people to fully enjoy all their human rights without discrimination on any ground or combination of grounds.

The case for a new UN convention has become stronger with each of the Working Group's ten sessions to date. The Working Group has now heard ample and convincing evidence of significant failures of existing human rights instruments and procedures to devote adequate attention to older people's human rights. The fundamental framing elements of a convention continue to take normative shape. However, at the current rate it would take at least several more years to debate all the areas of human rights listed in the report of the 7<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group. We older people cannot wait indefinitely for justice.

We therefore underline the urgent need to strengthen the promotion and protection of our rights in this region and world-wide. We call on Member States to ensure that the Working Group fulfils its mandate as a matter of priority, and to support the drafting of a new international instrument to commence **no later than 2021**. We see no justification for further delays.

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The above Declaration is endorsed by the following members of GAROP from the Asia Pacific region:

Ageing Nepal

Alzheimer's and Related Dementia Society-Nepal

Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS), Jordan

Ardager, Kazakhstan

ARGA Foundation, India

Arjon Foundation, Bangladesh

Asia Pacific Forum on Families International (APFAM Int.)

Association for Social Solidarity and Empowerment Training Trust (Asset), India

Bangladesh Association for the Aged and Institute of Geriatric Medicine (BAAIGM)

Bangladesh Model Youth Parliament

Care Rights, South Korea

Centre of Gerontological Studies, India

Console Mission, Nepal

Development Welfare and Research Foundation, India

DOBARA, Hyderabad, India

Ecumenical Commission for Human Development, Pakistan

Elders Clubs International Foundation, India

Forum for the Rights of the Elderly, Bangladesh (FREB)

Free Forum For Rights, Nepal

Gharonda Public Charitable Trust, Pune, India

Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS), India

HelpAge International

HelpAge Korea

International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA)

Lanka Fundamental Rights Organization, Sri Lanka

Middle East Academy for Medicine of Ageing, Lebanon

Nepal Participatory Action Network (NEPAN)

Nobo Jatra Foundation, Bangladesh

Pahel Pakistan

PROGOTI, Bangladesh

Rajadighi Community Health Service Society

Resource Integration Centre (RIC), Bangladesh

Senior Citizen's Welfare Association Nepal (SCWAN)

Silver Inning Foundation, India

Social Advancement through Unity (SATU), Bangladesh

Society for Community Organization and Rural Education (SCORE), India

The Centre for Elderly Empowerment & Care (Ehsan), Qatar  
The Pass It On Network  
Women for Human Rights, Nepal