



International Day of Older Persons Celebration 2021 Theme: "Digital Equity for All Ages"

The Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria, in partnership with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Working Group on the Rights of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities in Africa, cordially invites you to participate in a webinar to commemorate the International Day of Older Persons with countries that have ratified or made progress towards ratifying the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons (Older Persons Protocol) targeting the Governments of Benin, Ethiopia, Lesotho and Malawi.

WEBINAR: International Day of Older Persons Celebration 2021 Theme: "Digital Equity for All Ages"

Monday 4 October 2021
11:00 – 13:30 SAST

REGISTER ON ZOOM



**Centre for
Human Rights**
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Background

Globally, the population is ageing. People over the age of 60 are projected to register for 21% of the global population by 2050. The growing number of older people presents a considerable challenge to states in ensuring that their civil rights and fundamental freedoms are fully exercised on an equitable basis with others.

Older persons continue to face several problems, including access to health care facilities, proper food and water, care and protection, as well as abuse, ill-treatment, violence, and neglect, all of which undermine their dignity.

These challenges have given rise to the Centre for Human Rights' [**#AgewithRights campaign**](#) which calls on the AU Member States to take positive steps to ratify the Older Persons Protocol. The Older Persons Protocol was adopted on 31 January 2016 to strengthen regional safeguards for older persons to enjoy their maximum rights and freedoms on an equitable footing with other demographic classes. So far, 14 countries have signed the Protocol on Older Persons (Benin, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Lesotho, Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Togo, and Zambia). As of April 2021, only two countries had ratified it: Benin and Lesotho, whilst Ethiopia and Malawi have made considerable progress towards ratification.

Ratifying the Older Persons Protocol is essential to reinforcing legal safeguards for the rights of older persons. It ensures that laws prohibit discrimination based on age, establish rights-based community support, improve the accessibility of the physical environment, guarantee access to justice, and promote participation in decision-making. Similarly, this should also complement national government policies and ensure remedies for violations of the rights of older persons. Having ratified the Older Persons Protocol, states are to act in line with the objectives of the instrument. Participants will consider measures that can be put in place to attain these objectives.

By engaging the AU member states that have ratified or taken progressive steps towards ratifying the Older Persons Protocol, we expect to illicit information on the factors that have influenced these states to sign and ratify the instrument. This information will inform future development of the [**#AgewithRights campaign**](#) seeking to operationalise the Older Persons Protocol.

Speakers

Moderators:

- **Ms Matilda Lasseko-Phooko**
Manager, Women's Rights Unit, Centre for Human Rights, UP
- **Mr Bruno Menzan**
Legal Officer, African Union Commission

Introductory remarks

- **Prof Frans Viljoen**

Director, Centre for Human Rights, UP

Special mechanism of the Chairperson of the Working Group on the Rights of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities in Africa

- **Honourable Commissioner Marie Louise Abomo**

African Commission Chairperson of the Working Group on Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities in Africa

Short term, mid-term and long term interventions that can be adopted by countries that have ratified the Older Persons Protocol to improve living conditions of older persons

- **Ms Roseline Kihumba**

International and Regional Policies Coordinator, HelpAge International

- **Mr Philip E. Oamem**

Law Lecturer, University of Northampton

- **Mr Mr Ghost O. Ekhatara**

Law Lecturer, University of Derby

Discussion:

Developing strategies for increased ratification of the Older Persons Protocol

Concluding remarks

- **Ms Matilda Lasseko-Phooko**

Manager, Women's Rights Unit, Centre for Human Rights

Event details

Monday 4 October 2021

09:00 GMT / 10:00 WAT / 11:00 SAST / 12:00 EAT

All participants are required to [register on Zoom](#).

The event will be live streamed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

Contacts

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Agenda

TIME	TOPICS/ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR(S)
11:00 – 11:10	Welcome and opening remarks	Frans Viljoen <i>Director, Centre for Human Rights</i>
11:10 – 11:30	Introduction to proceedings and feedback on the online survey	Matilda Lasseko-Phooko <i>Manager, Women's Rights Unit, Centre for Human Rights</i>
SESSION I		
11:30 – 12:10	Short-term, mid-term and long-term interventions that can be adopted by countries that have ratified the Older Persons Protocol to improve living conditions of older persons	Moderated by: Matilda Lasseko-Phooko Presenters: Honourable Commissioner Marie Louise Abomo <i>African Commission Chairperson of the Working Group on Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities in Africa</i> Roseline Kihumba <i>International and Regional Policies Coordinator, HelpAge International</i> Philip E. Oamem <i>Law Lecturer, University of Northampton</i> Eghosa O. Ekhatior <i>Law Lecturer, University of Derby</i>
12:10 – 12:30	Q & A	Moderated by: Matilda Lasseko-Phooko
SESSION II		
12:30 – 13:10	Breakaway group discussions: Strategies for increased ratification of the Older Persons Protocol	Moderated by: Bruno Menzan <i>Legal Officer, Secretariat of the African Union</i> All <i>Breakaway group discussion suggesting strategies for increased ratification</i>
13:10 – 13:30	Feedback from breakaway group discussions	Moderated by: Bruno Menzan All <i>Group Rapporteurs</i>
13:30	Closing remarks	Honourable Commissioner Marie Louise Abomo <i>African Commission Chairperson of the Working Group on Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities in Africa</i>