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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS



NGO Committee on
AGEING
UNITED NATIONS. NY



Permanent Mission of the
Argentine Republic
United Nations
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship



#UNIDOP | 4 October 2018 | New York

We Are the Champions

Celebrating Human Rights of Older Persons

**28th Anniversary of the
United Nations International Day of Older Persons
(UNIDOP)**

We Are the Champions
Celebrating Human Rights of Older Persons

ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ, New York
4 October 2018 (10 AM – 1 PM)

Organized by

The NGO Committee on Ageing in New York

Sponsored by

The Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations

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COUNTS
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS

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The 2018 event is co-sponsored by



Group of Friends of Older Persons at the United Nations in New York

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador (Chair), Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Qatar, Slovenia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Uruguay

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Mission Statement

On this 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the United Nations International Day for Older Persons (UNIDOP) celebrates the importance of this Declaration, and reaffirms the commitment to promoting the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by older persons.

Growing older does not diminish a person's inherent dignity and fundamental rights.

Almost 40 years following the adoption of UDHR, issues of human rights for older persons were taken up in 1991 in the formulation of the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, which provided guidance in the areas of independence, participation, care, self-fulfillment and dignity.

A decade later, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), adopted in 2002, represented the first time Governments agreed to link questions of ageing to other frameworks for social and economic development and human rights. The interdependence between older persons' social integration and the full enjoyment of their human rights cannot be ignored, as the degree to which older persons are socially integrated will directly affect their dignity and quality of life.

The 2018 theme of UNIDOP is "Celebrating Older Human Rights Champions". What better way to celebrate this Day than by celebrating the older people around the world who dedicate their lives to championing human rights?

Older human rights champions today were born around the time of the adoption of the UDHR in 1948. They are as diverse as the society in which they live: from older people advocating for human rights at the grass root and community level to high profile figures on the international stage. Each and every one demands equal respect and acknowledgement for their dedication and commitment to contributing to a world free from fear and free from want.

The 2018 theme aims to:

- Promote the rights enshrined in the Declaration and what it means in the daily lives of older persons;
- Raise the visibility of older people as participating members of society committed to improving the enjoyment of human rights in many areas of life and not just those that affect them immediately;
- Reflect on progress and challenges in ensuring full and equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by older persons; and
- Engage broad audiences across the world and mobilize people for human rights at all stages of life.



4 October 2018 (10AM to 1PM)
ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ, New York

Opening Session

- Welcome **Janet Sigal**, Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing in New York
James O’Neal, Chair, UNIDOP Programme Sub-committee, NGO Committee on Ageing in New York
- Remarks by **H.E. Mr. Martín García Moritán**, Permanent Representative of the Mission of Argentina to the United Nations
H.E. Mr. Milenko Skoknic, Permanent Representative of the Mission of Chile to the United Nations on behalf of the Group of Friends of Older Persons

Video: Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Panel Discussion: “We Are the Champions: Celebrating Human Rights of Older Persons”

- Moderator **Craig Mokhiber**, Director, New York Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights
- Panelists **Jose Alejandro Luchsinger**, Director, Center on Aging and Health Disparities, Columbia University Medical Center, USA
Helen Codd, Professor of Social Justice and Law, University of Central Lancashire, England
Miroslava Matic, Volunteer Member, Red Cross Kragujevac branch, Serbia
Jeffrey Gardere, Psychologist and Talk Show Host, USA

Interactive dialogue

Closing Session

- Remarks by **Lahya Itedhimbwa Shikongo**, Rapporteur of the General Assembly’s ninth session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing
Amal Abou Rafeh, Chief, Programme on Ageing Unit, UNDESA

Biographies



Martín García Moritán

AMBASSADOR

Ambassador Martín García Moritán is the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations. He is also the Chair of the General Assembly's Open-ended Working Group on Ageing.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. García was the Director of Federal and Electoral Affairs in his country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2012 to 2013, having served as Director of the Special Representation on Terrorism Affairs in 2011. He was the General Commissioner for the Argentine Pavilion to the World Exposition in Shanghai, China, from 2009 to 2010. Mr. García previously served in Argentina's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York between 1995 and 1998 and again from 2003 to 2009. He was Consulate General in Recife, Brazil, from 1998 to 1999. A career diplomat since 1983, he was assigned as a Foreign Service Officer in Bolivia from 1993 to 1994, Brazil from 1987 to 1992, and the Holy See from 1984 to 1985.

The holder of a graduate degree in international affairs from the Complutense University in Madrid, Spain, he earned a bachelor's degree in law from the University of Buenos Aires. Mr. García also studied at the Argentine Diplomatic Academy in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Milenko Skoknic

AMBASSADOR

Ambassador Milenko Skoknic is the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations

Prior to his latest appointment, from 2016, Mr. Skoknic was Political Director at his country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, having previously served as Consul-General in La Paz, Bolivia, from 2014 to 2016 and as Ambassador to Argentina from 2013 to 2014. Between 2012 and 2014, he was Chile's Representative in the Dialogue of Peace between Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), in Havana, Cuba.

Earlier in his diplomatic career, Mr. Skoknic was Chef de Cabinet to the Minister for Foreign Affairs from 2010 to 2013. Between 2005 and 2010, he was Ambassador to Austria, Slovenia and Slovakia, serving concurrently as Permanent Representative to the international organizations based in Vienna, including as President of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) between 2007 and 2008. He also held positions in Chile's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York; its embassies in the Holy See, Turkey and Argentina; and its consulates in Toronto, Canada, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Mr. Skoknic holds a diploma in International Politics and Economics from St. Antony's College, Oxford, United Kingdom. He studied law at the University of Chile.



Craig Mokhiber

MODERATOR

Mr. Craig Mokhiber, is the Director of the New York Office of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Deputy to the Assistant-Secretary-General for Human Rights.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Mokhiber headed the Branch on Development and Economic and Social Issues of OHCHR in Geneva. A lawyer and specialist in international human rights law, policy and methodology, he has served the UN human rights programme since January 1992.

As Chief of the Human Rights and Development Team in the 1990s, Mr. Mokhiber led the development of OHCHR's original work on human rights-based approaches to development and human rights-sensitive definitions of poverty.



Jose Alejandro Luchsinger

PANEL MEMBER

Jose Alejandro Luchsinger is a Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC) in New York City. He is the director of the Center on Aging and Health Disparities in the division of general medicine. He is also Vice Chair for Clinical and Epidemiological Research of the Department of Medicine at CUMC, and Director of the Community Engagement Core Resource of the Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research at CUMC. Dr. Luchsinger's research has primarily focused on risk factors and prevention of cognitive impairment and the health of caregivers of persons with dementia. He received his medical degree from the Universidad Central de Venezuela in Caracas and completed his medicine residency training at St. Luke's Hospital in New York City. He also received a Masters in Public Health from the Mailman School of Public Health of Columbia University in New York City.



Helen Codd

PANEL MEMBER

Helen Codd is Professor of Law & Social Justice at the University of Central Lancashire in the UK. She is passionate about social justice and human rights and has an extensive international record of research and publications in relation to prisons, prisoners and prisoners' families, her work having been cited with approval by the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights. Questions of diversity and rights, especially in relation to gender and ageing, have underpinned her research throughout her career, and her current ongoing research reflects her own experiences of disability. She has a strong record of collaboration and consultancy with third sector voluntary organisations and NGO's, and has been appointed by the UK Ministry of Justice as a MAPPA Strategic Management Board Lay Adviser. Helen is an Associate Research Fellow of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies of the University of London and a Fellow of the RSA.



Miroslava Matic

PANEL MEMBER

Miroslava Matic, 71 years old from Serbia has been an active Age Demands Action campaigner for five years. A valued member of the Red Cross of Serbia, Ms. Matic has been involved in many local campaigning activities preparing older people prior to meetings with Ministers and providing commentary on the healthy ageing toolkit. Working as part of a team of volunteers in her local Red Cross telephone assistance service, Ms. Matic has direct access hearing about the issues older people face in her community. Her work in the branch allows her to learn of cases of discrimination and unfair treatment of older people as well as instances of violence and abuse. Ms. Matic took part in a consultation conducted by HelpAge earlier this year to hear from older women about what their views are on the right to non-discrimination and equality and the right to freedom from violence, abuse and neglect in older age. She also attended the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing at the United Nations in New York where she made a statement about age discrimination.



Jeffrey Gardere

PANEL MEMBER

Dr. Jeff Gardere is one of the most widely sought-after experts in the field of mental health. In addition to having a private practice in Manhattan, he is an Assistant Professor and Course Director of Behavioral Medicine at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in New York City. Dr. Jeff Gardere, better known as "America's Psychologist", is also a prolific author of four books and a contributing author of a half-dozen books including the brand-new text, "The Causes of Autism." In addition to being a respected academician, Dr. Jeff has been a contributor to the FOX Network, the Today Show, MSNBC, and CNN. Dr. Jeff was the host of VH1's Dad Camp, and recently was the psychologist on The Housewives of Atlanta. This season he is the principle psychologist on: another Housewives show (a secret till air time), For My Man on TV one, Celebrity Damage Control and They Got Away With It on the Reelz Channel. He is also the aftercare coordinator and psychologist for the syndicated shows; Lauren Lake's Paternity Court, and Couples Court with the Cutlers.



Lahya Shikongo

RAPPORTEUR, OEWG ON AGEING

Lahya is a native of Namibia and is currently the Second Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia to the UN. Lahya is also in charge of the Third Committee and is also an election officer- Lahya has served in this capacity for 3 years. Prior to that, she was the officer in charge of the South East Asia desk in Windhoek, Namibia.



Amal Abou Rafeh

CHIEF, PROGRAMME ON AGEING UNIT

Amal Abou Rafeh is Chief of Programme on Ageing Unit at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York. She serves on the Secretariat of the General Assembly's Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and is a member of the Steering Committee of the Titchfield City Group on Ageing-related Statistics and Age-disaggregated Data.

Amal joined the United Nations in 2001, working in the areas of social policy, sustainable development and demography, and served on the Secretariats of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) and the High-level Meeting on Youth (2011). She held positions in Beirut and New York. Before joining the United Nations, Amal lectured on analysis of social and demographic data.

Amal was born in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and holds a Master of Science in Population Studies from the American University of Beirut.



Janet Sigal

CHAIRPERSON, NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING

Janet Sigal is the Chairperson of the NGO Committee on Ageing in New York, and the Main Representative to the United Nations of the American Psychological Association (APA). For several years, she was Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Ageing and was in charge of the Programs Sub-committee. She is also a member of the NGO Committee on the Family, and the NGO Committee on the Status of Women. She is a Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Fairleigh Dickinson University, and the Past President of APA's Division 1, the Society of General Psychology. She received her Ph.D. from Northwestern University, and her major area of research focuses on women's issues. She is the Co-Editor of "Violence against Girls and Women: International Perspectives," a recent two-volume set of books which included a chapter on Elder Abuse.



James O'Neal

CHAIR, UNIDOP2018 PROGRAMME SUB-COMMITTEE

James C. O'Neal is an independent consultant on older adult issues. He began his community healthcare career with Oxford Health Plans and assisted in establishing VNS CHOICE Managed Long-Term Care Plan at the Visiting Nurse Service of New York in 1998 where he worked for over 13 years. James was Director of Community Outreach at CenterLight Health Care (Beth Abraham) for 4 years until he retired in January 2015. He continues to promote healthcare education and community social services in ethnic and immigrant communities in New York City. For over 10 years, James served as co-Chair of the Adult Immunization Coalition of the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene of New York City, and was on the Advisory Board of the HUD sponsored "Healthy Homes, Health Seniors" Community Study conducted by Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. Earlier this year, he was appointed a Member of New York Governor Mario Cuomo's Advisory Committee for the Aging for a term to expire July 5, 2018. In January 2018, Mr. O'Neal became an United Nations Representative for the

International Federation in Ageing. James has been honored by the Council of Senior Centers and Services of New York City (now named LiveOn NY) with its Community Leadership Award, in addition to several other community service awards including: Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, the Chinese American Planning Council-Nan Shan Senior Center, the United Hindu Cultural Council of North America Award for Outstanding Community Service in Queens, India Home's Friendship Award, and Jamaica Service Program for Older Adults (JSPOA) Community Service Award. In October 2014, Mr. O'Neal was the recipient of the Advocate for Older Adults Award from SSA. In October 2016, he was presented the Walter Beattie Award for outstanding contributions and commitment to the work of the State Society on Aging of New York. Mr. O'Neal is also a past President (2003) and current Board Member of the State Society on Aging of New York (SSA). He is a Board Member of Neighborhood SHOPP (senior centers and services), the Washington Heights/Inwood Interagency Council on Aging, the Public Health Association of New York City, and is President of the Bronx Interagency Council on Aging (BRICA). James O'Neal is a BA graduate of Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA, and earned his MA from New York University in New York City.

NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING, NEW YORK

Chairperson	Janet Sigal , International Council of Psychologists
Vice-Chairperson	Cynthia Stuen , International Federation on Ageing
Treasurer	Katharine Weiss , International Association of Homes and Services for the Aged
Corresponding Secretary	Martha Bial , International Association of Gerontology & Geriatrics
Recording Secretary	Sandra Timmermann , International Federation on Ageing
Past Chairperson	James Collins , International Council on Social Welfare
Members-at Large	Erica Dhar , AARP
	Rebecca Riger Tsurumi , AARP
	Nélida Quintero , American Psychological Association
	Ranjit Jayanti , The Guild of Service
	Frances Zainoeddin , International Federation on Ageing and Gray Panthers

United Nations International Day of Older Persons Planning Committee, 2018

James O'Neal (International Federation on Ageing)

Janet Sigal, International Council of Psychologists
Erica Dhar, AARP
Cynthia Stuen, International Federation on Ageing
Frances Zainoeddin, Gray Panthers
Sandra Timmermann, International Federation on Ageing
Nélida Quintero, American Psychological Association
Valerie Levy, International Federation on Aging
Kathy Kline, S.E.R.R.

NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING, NEW YORK

Organizational affiliations

AARP
AFSCME-DC37 Retirees

Ageing, Work and Health Research Unit,
University of Sydney
Alzheimer's Disease International
American Psychological Association
Armenian International Women's Association
Care Rights
Center for Advanced Study in Education (CASE)
Dobroe Delo Civic Foundation
ElderCare Buddy
Elders Share the Arts
European Federation of Older Persons (EURAG)
Fordham University – Graduate School of Social
Service
Fordham University – Global Healthcare
Innovation Management Center
Generations United
Global Action on Ageing
Global Alliance on Women's Health
Gray Panthers
Guild of Service
HelpAge USA, affiliate of HelpAge International
Instituto Qualivida
International Association of Homes and Services
for the Ageing
International Alliance of Women
International Association of Gerontology and
Geriatrics
International Association of Schools of Social Work
International Council of Psychologists
International Council on Social Welfare
International Federation on Ageing
International Federation for Home Economics
International Longevity Center
International Network for the Prevention of Elder
Abuse

Jewish Association for Services for the Aged (JASA)
KAIST Graduate School of Science and Technology
Policy
League of Women Voters

MedCom Int. GmbH, German Seniors League
NYC Housing Authority; Aging in America
Sanctuary for Longevity Project
South Beach Psychiatric Center
The Global Aging Forum, Inc.
Uniao Geral dos Trabalhadores, UGT
VA Boston Healthcare System
World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations
Yilaga, India