

Older Women Count: Bringing Visibility to Violence against Older Women 20 years after Beijing

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3:00pm – 4:15pm
Conference Room 11
United Nations, New
York, NY

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Community Living



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

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Kathy Greenlee, Assistant Secretary for Aging, US Dept of Health & Human Services
H.E. Ms. Maria Cristina Perceval, Permanent Representative of Argentina to the UN
Susan Markham, Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, USAID
Daniela Ligiero, Vice President of Girls and Women Strategy, UN Foundation
Kate Bunting, CEO, HelpAge USA



Agenda

- I. Age, Gender and Human Rights
- II. Older women, Beijing+20, and Post-2015
- III. Violence against Older Women
- IV. How can civil society, donors, and the UN work together to advance the human rights of older women?

Social Media: #OlderWomenCount

- **The world is aging:** There will be 1.375 billion people over 60 by 2030, meaning that older people will constitute 16% of the global population. Older women make up the majority of those living over 60, and most live in developing countries.
- **The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** forever changed global policy by mainstreaming gender into human rights considerations. As we celebrate 20 years since the Beijing Conference on Women, we must acknowledge that the world has changed in important ways; older age needs to be mainstreamed into women's rights discussions—particularly on the subject of violence against women.
- **Violence against older women** represents an ongoing confluence of human rights violations. Gaps in research and policy on this violence in later life is representative of a host of broader lack of inclusion of age into gender concerns and vice versa. Problematically, the predominant discourses of both gender-based violence and elder abuse rarely recognize violence against older women.

This leaves older women and protections for their rights to fall through the cracks. This discussion will explore their absence from these mainstream conversations, seeking to identify structural barriers and their effects on the full realization of older women's human rights.

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