

Handout 1:

List of definitions for Voice concepts

1. Agency

The ability to take action or to choose what action to take.

2. Autonomy

Is the ability to make choices and decisions, with support if necessary, according to one's will and preferences.

3. Citizenship

The state of being a member of a particular country and having rights because of it.

Although the term citizenship is used in the Voice guide, HelpAge recognises the exclusionary nature of the term. All older people living within a state should be able to participate in policymaking including refugees, asylum seekers, migrant workers etc.

4. Participation

The act of taking part in an event or activity.

5. Empowerment

The process of gaining freedom and power to do what you want or to control what happens to you.

6. Power

Ability to control people and events.

7. Independence

The ability to perform actions of daily living and participate in society, with support if necessary, according to one's will and preferences.

8. Rights-based approach

A way of working which is based on realising human rights to ensure people's dignity and well-being.

9. Good governance

Relates to the political and institutional processes and outcomes that are necessary to achieve the goals of development.

10. Spaces (formal and informal)

Formal spaces are created by the state for citizen participation while informal spaces are often created by grassroots organisations or those who have been marginalised.

11. Accountability

The state of being accountable, liable, or answerable. Accountability is about a relationship between those responsible for something, and those who have a role in passing judgement on how well that responsibility has been discharged.

12. Access to information

Access to information (or Freedom of Information (FOI)) legislation is seen as an essential part of the enabling environment for citizen access to information.

13. Advocacy and campaigning

Is a series of organised actions with intent to produce political or social change. Advocacy and campaigning is the sum of all the parts needed to reach a certain change goal.

14. Leadership

The action of leading a group of people or an organisation.