

New Directions in
Challenging Times: An
International Perspective
*Toward a Human Rights
Convention for Older Persons*

Magali Girod, Program Coordinator
Global Action on Aging

June 23, 2009





- Website:

www.globalaging.org

- Blog:

<http://globalaging.blogspot.com/>

International Demographic Statistics about Aging



- 11% of the world's population is over 60 years old today. Most are women.
- The majority of older persons live in poor countries
- In rich countries, life expectancy is 78 years
- In poor countries, life expectancy is 63 years
→ 49 years in Africa

Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging

- Adopted at the United Nations in 2002 by 159 countries.
- Main focus:
 - Older persons and development
 - Health and well-being of older persons
 - Creating enabling and supportive environments for older persons



Human Rights of Older Persons



What are human rights?

→ Human rights are rights people are entitled to simply because they are human beings.

What are human rights of older persons?

→ As a person turns 60 these rights continue.

→ However, older persons face age discrimination.

A Human Rights Convention (or Treaty) on Older Persons

Why we need a Convention?

- Legally-binding international obligations for governments
- Deepens and precisely defines older persons' rights
- Consolidates existing international and national laws and norms
- Creates new rights (ex: social pensions)
- Increases visibility of vulnerable group



Join the Movement toward a Human Rights Convention for Older Persons!



Contact us to join the network
at globalaging@globalaging.org
and visit www.globalaging.org
to stay informed about aging
issues.