



International Conference on  
Human Rights of older Persons  
Agenda and Background Information

**2023**

## Basic Information

The conference starts with a festive reception on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, in the „Ovalhalle“ of the MuseumsQuartier. This event marks the initial opportunity for bilateral and multilateral discussions among participants and delegates. Additionally, throughout the conference, „Barocke Suite B“ (*side room of the conference venue*) is available for further bilateral and multilateral conversations. The **working languages** are **English and German**, with simultaneous translation provided.

On the first day of the conference, Thursday, November 30, 2023, Director General **Edeltraud Glettler** officially opens the conference in the name of the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care, and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK).

Keynotes include video messages from UN High Commissioner for Human Rights **Volker Türk** and the Chair of the Open Ended Working Group, Ambassador **Maria Squeff** as well as a presentation by the UN Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons **Claudia Mahler**. There is also the possibility for additional keynotes if desired.

The second day of the conference, Friday, December 1, 2023, will be opened by the Austrian Minister of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, **Johannes Rauch**.

The conference will be concluded with the acceptance of a joint Conference Declaration by the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK) and a summary by the independent United Nations expert on the human rights of older persons. Four Ministers confirmed to participate at the conference: **Johannes Rauch (Austria)**, **Simon Maljevac (Slovenia)**, **Alexei Buzu (Moldova)**, Vice-Minister **Tatevik Stepanyan (Armenia)**, as well as State Secretary **Alexandre da Silva (Brazil)** and Dep. Ambassador **Jorge Aranda (Portugal)**.

## Content & Speakers

### Conference Focal Points

A study co-funded by the BMSGPK found that older people are inadequately protected within the human rights system, leading to structural disadvantages and further discrimination. For instance, in Austria and the European Union, age is comprehensively protected against discrimination only in the realm of the workplace, while other areas are neglected. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that older people experienced disadvantages in terms of social participation, as they often faced difficulties or were denied alternative means of participation, particularly in the digital sphere.

Given the demographic shifts and technological advancements, it is imperative to consider the needs of older persons in order to achieve sustainable development goals related to health, education, gender equality, and reducing inequalities.

To address these issues, it was decided at the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the OEWGA (*Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing*) to appoint two facilitators. These facilitators identify normative gaps and propose solutions through informal discussions with member states and stakeholders of the OEWGA. Their work will be presented at the upcoming 14<sup>th</sup> session of the OEWGA.

## Topic Focus:

The ICHROP 2023 Conference is organized over two days, each with a distinct focus. The first day is dedicated to academia, experts, and civil society, while the second day is designed for political decision-makers, state representatives, and the appointed co-facilitators of the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing.

1. The **Panel on the Rights, Challenges, and Solutions for Older Persons** is scheduled for November 30<sup>th</sup>
2. The **Panel on Aging in the Digital Age: Rights, Realities and Responsibilities** is set for December 1<sup>st</sup>

Throughout both days, the conference will address, discuss and present issues related to two primary themes in the current discourse on the human rights of older persons. The **first theme** focuses on questions surrounding the „**fragmented protection of older persons in the current human rights framework**“. The **second theme** is oriented towards finding solutions for „**living together in the age of digitalization, the lessons of COVID-19 and the implementation of the SDGs**“

Key areas of interest and discussion will include:

- OHCHR Study Update on normative gaps in the human rights protection of older persons
- The work and networking of the CO-Facilitators of the OEWGA
- Human Rights Council in Geneva (*Substantial work from Geneva*)
- Age discrimination
- Social disadvantage due to COVID-19
- Digital Society
- Right to information through digital media
- Infrastructural gaps (*Urban-rural divide, Residential and care facilities*)
- Social Development Goals

## Speakers and Panelists – November 30<sup>th</sup>

### 9:20 am Informal Session on the Conference Declaration and HROP - Libelle

Christoph Angster	Austria ( <i>Social Ministry</i> )	Chair
Matthias von Schwanenflügel	HROP Expert	Status Quo Impulse & Moderation

### 11:00 am Opening Session - Libelle

Edeltraud Glettler	Austria ( <i>Director General Social Ministry</i> )	Welcoming Words
Volker Türk (Video)	OHCHR ( <i>High Commissioner</i> )	75 Years Human Rights

### 11:30 am Keynotes - Libelle

Claudia Mahler	UN Independent Expert	Reports & current challenges
Maria Squeff (Video)	Argentina ( <i>Ambassador</i> )	Chair OEWGA

### 12:00 am Opening Traveling Exhibition "Stop. No Violence" and Lunch

### 1:30 pm Panel 1a - Panel on the Rights, Challenges, and Solutions for Older Persons – Libelle

#### CHAIR: Mourad Mahidi (BMEIA)

Andrew Byrnes	HROP Expert	OHCHR Study Update & current challenges
Sabine Springer	FRA – European Union	Ageing & Digital Society
Bridget Sleap	Human Rights Watch	Update on normative gaps
Emem Omokaro	National Senior Citizens Centre	Social Development Goals

### **3:30 pm Panel 1b - Panel on the Rights, Challenges, and Solutions for Older Persons – Libelle**

#### **CHAIR: Konrad Bühler (BMEIA)**

Natasa Todorovic	Red Cross – Serbia	Social disadvantage due to COVID-19
Peter Litschke	German Institute for Human Rights	Age discrimination
Madeleine Müller	Research Institute	Digital Human Rights
Pradeep Wagle	OHCHR	Substantial work from Geneva

**7:00 pm Dinner at „Mayr am Pfarrplatz“**

## Speakers and Panelists – December 1<sup>st</sup>

### 9:15 am Opening Tag 2 - Libelle

Johannes Rauch	Austria ( <i>Minister</i> )	HROP
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### 9:30 am Panel 2a – Panel on Aging in the Digital Age: Rights, Realities and Responsibilities – Libelle

#### Chair: Claudia Mahler (UN Independent Expert)

Johannes Rauch	Austria ( <i>Minister</i> )	Position of Austria
Alexandre da Silva	Brazil ( <i>National Secretary</i> )	CO-Facilitator - OEWGA
Alexei Buzu	Moldova ( <i>Minister</i> )	Position of Moldova
Simon Maljevac	Slovenia ( <i>Minister</i> )	Position of Slovenia

### 11:00 am Panel 2b - Panel on Aging in the Digital Age: Rights, Realities and Responsibilities – Libelle

#### Chair: Claudia Mahler (UN-Independent Expert)

Jorge Aranda	Portugal ( <i>Dep. Amb/PR</i> )	CO-Facilitator - OEWGA
Tatevik Stepanyan	Armenia ( <i>Dep. Minister</i> )	Position of Armenia
Wang Shaozhong	PR-China ( <i>CNCA</i> )	Position of the People's Republic of China

12:30 pm **Lunch**

### 02:00 pm CD-Adoption & Closing - Libelle

Christoph Angster	Austria ( <i>Social Ministry</i> )	Adoption of the Conference Declaration
Claudia Mahler	UN Independent Expert	The way forward
Edeltraud Glettler	Austria ( <i>Director General Social Ministry</i> )	Closing the Conference



## Conference Declaration

Prior to the conference, an informal session on the Conference Declaration and Human Rights of Older Persons (HROP) will be conducted. This session aims to engage civil society and conference participants, providing them with an opportunity to discuss the Conference Declaration in a plenary setting and to offer suggestions for improvement.

The Conference Declaration will be shared with participants via the website [ageing.at](http://ageing.at) in November, allowing for questions and proposed changes to be submitted ahead of the conference. These suggestions will then be presented and discussed during the conference to ensure that the Declaration serves as a comprehensive consensus document, reflecting the concerns and insights of all stakeholders. The goal is to have a foundational basis for the final Declaration by the start of the conference, with only minor adjustments needed thereafter.

At the Closing Session of the conference, the final Conference Declaration, summarizing the consensus reached in the two main thematic foci of the conference will be presented. These focal points primarily address the legal fragmentation in protection against age-based discrimination, as well as the inadequate and opaque data, or existing deficiencies in infrastructure related to older people. The aim is to incorporate as many insights as possible from each panel into the document and support the work of the CO-Facilitators. The "Meeting Declaration" is a jointly adopted document that will be appended in the annex of the planned conference report. This document will be submitted to the OHCHR for documentation on the OEWGA website, ensuring that both the conference report and the "Meeting Declaration" are accessible to its members prior to the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the OEWGA.

This comprehensive approach could serve as a vital instrument to draw attention to the challenges older people face regarding their human rights and to promote progress in this field.

## Side Event – Barocke Suite A

### Traveling exhibition "Stop. No Violence"

- The contents of the traveling exhibition will be translated and printed on roll-up banners for display at the conference.
- Presentation by Verena Schriebl (BMSGPK)

The traveling exhibition 'Stop. No Violence' addresses various aspects of violence, with a special focus on violence against women. It consists of nine roll-up banners, each presenting a specific theme. The first station addresses the issue of restricted freedom within one's own family, while the second station focuses on the invisible emotional pain. The third station delves into the often overlooked personal attention within the family, and the fourth station examines the dangers of street life. Stations five to seven illuminate various facets of everyday violence. Station five addresses degradation, while station six looks at the effects of limited technological knowledge. Station seven emphasizes the importance of sufficient time and attention. The last two stations focus on the themes of loneliness and the effects of austerity measures on health. The contents of the traveling exhibition will be translated and displayed on roll-up banners at the conference. In addition, Verena Schriebl will deliver a presentation.