



INFORMAL ASEM SEMINAR ON
Human Rights



Asia-Europe Meeting

20th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights

Human Rights of Older Persons

22-24 February 2021 | Seoul, Republic of Korea | Virtual

Program Book



AGAC 아셈노인인권정책센터
ASEM Global Ageing Center


National
Human Rights
Commission of Korea


외교부
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



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Program

DAY 1 – MONDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2021

All times are displayed in South Korean Time UTC+9

Time	Program
Official Welcome	
16:00–16:30	Welcome Remarks Toru MORIKAWA , Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) Eun-Hee CHI , Executive Director, ASEM Global Ageing Center (AGAC)
	Congratulatory Remarks on behalf of the host Young-ae CHOI , Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK)
	Congratulatory Remarks on behalf of the co-organizers María CASTILLO FERNÁNDEZ , EU Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Korea
	Keynote Address Claudia MAHLER , Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons
	16:30–16:35
Joint Presentation of Background Paper by Main Rapporteurs	
16:35–17:15	Moderator Rolf RING , Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
	Presenter 1 Titti MATTSSON , Professor in Public Law, Lund University
	Presenter 2 Andrew BYRNES , Professor of Law, University of New South Wales
17:15–17:45	Plenary Discussion and Q&A
17:45–17:55	Break
	“Cultural Highlights of Korea” (Video)
Moderated Panel Discussion: “The Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of Older Persons in the Post-COVID-19 Era”	
17:55–19:30	Moderator Kyunghee CHUNG , Member of AGAC Expert Group and Former Senior Research Fellow, Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs (KIHASA)
	Panelists (ROK) Eun-Ha NAMKUNG , Associate Research Fellow, Center for Research on Aging Society of Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs (KIHASA) (Germany) Hana BECKER , First Secretary of Political Affairs, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany (Denmark) Nina MONRAD BOEL , Counsellor of Health, Embassy of Denmark in Korea
	Discussants (ROK) Dongwoo LEE , Deputy Director, Social Human Rights Division, National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK) (Asia) Eduardo KLIEN , Regional Director, HelpAge International Asia Pacific (Europe) Nena GEORGANTZI , Policy Coordinator Human Rights & Non-Discrimination, AGE Platform Europe
	Discussion and Q&A

Program

DAY 2 – TUESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2021

Time	Program
Simultaneous Working Groups	
16:00–19:00	Working Group 1: Autonomy and Independence of Older Persons Rapporteur Titti MATTSSON , <i>Lund University</i> Moderator Rio HADA , <i>UN OHCHR</i>
	Working Group 2: Social Protection and Human Rights of Older Persons Rapporteur Andrew BYRNES , <i>University of New South Wales</i> Moderator Srinivas TATA , <i>UNESCAP</i>
	Working Group 3: Age Discrimination against Older Persons Focusing on Labour Markets Rapporteur Jolanta PEREK-BIALAS , <i>Jagiellonian University</i> Moderator ZHANG Wenjuan , <i>Renmin University</i>
	Working Group 4: Empowerment of Older Persons through Education and Training Rapporteur Yeong-Ran PARK , <i>Kangnam University and ASEM Global Ageing Center</i> Moderator Bridget SLEAP , <i>HelpAge International</i>

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2021

Time	Program
Closing Plenary	
16:00–16:40	Chair Achsanul HABIB , <i>Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia</i>
	Rapporteurs' Summary on Each Workshop
16:40–17:40	Q&A Session
Official Closing	
17:40–18:00	Closing Address Amal ABOU RAFEH , <i>Head of the Ageing Programme, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations (UN DESA)</i>
	Closing Remarks on behalf of the host Hye-kyung LEE , <i>Chairwoman of AGAC Board of Directors and Professor Emeritus of Yonsei University</i>
	Closing Remarks on behalf of the organizers Jenny PIAGET , <i>Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland</i>

About Co-hosts

Young-ae CHOI

Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission of Korea

Hye-kyung LEE

Chairwoman, ASEM Global Ageing Center's Board of Directors
Professor Emeritus, Yonsei University

Eun-Hee CHI

Executive Director, ASEM Global Ageing Center



About Co-hosts

Co-hosts



Young-ae CHOI

Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission of Korea

Young-ae CHOI has been the 8th Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK) since 2018. She is the first woman to lead the Commission. She has been working for the advancement of human rights, especially promoting the rights of women. Prior to serving as the Chairperson of the NHRCK, she was the Chair of the Human Rights Committee of the Seoul Metropolitan City and the Chief Director of the Women's Human Rights Defenders. She also served as the Chair of the Special Committee on Gender Equality and Human Rights of Gyeonggi Provincial Office of Education, the Chair of the Task force on the special act against sexual violence, and the President of Korea Sexual Violence Relief Center. She also previously worked at the NHRCK as its first Secretary-General and the Standing Commissioner. She has been leading the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Working Group on Ageing as Chair of the Working Group since her inauguration. She serves as Vice Chair of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) and also serves the APF Governance Committee as Vice Chair. Lastly, she is a member of the GANHRI Bureau representing the APF.

Co-hosts



Hye-kyung LEE

Chairwoman, ASEM Global Ageing Center's Board of Directors
Professor Emeritus, Yonsei University

Hye-kyung LEE is an Emeritus Professor of Yonsei University and she has been the Chairwoman of the ASEM Global Ageing Center's Board of Directors since 2020. She has served various positions with her deep expertise in Social Welfare Studies, including as the Chair of the Presidential Committee on Social Inclusion, the President of the Korean Social Security Association, the Chairperson of the Korean Association of Women's Studies, the Vice Chairman of the Community Chest of Korea, the Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the Seoul Welfare Foundation, and the Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the Korea Foundation for Women.

About Co-hosts

Co-hosts



Eun-Hee CHI

Executive Director, ASEM Global Ageing Center

Eun-Hee CHI has been the 2nd Executive Director of the ASEM Global Ageing Center (AGAC) since 2020. She worked as a human rights activist to promote and protect women's rights for most of her career, starting with the Co-representative of the Women for Equality and Peace, which is the first progressive women's organization of the Republic of Korea since liberation, and also served as the Co-representative of the Korean Women's Associations United and the Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation. From 2003 to 2005, she served as the Minister of Gender Equality and Family. After serving as the Minister, she worked for various positions, including as the Chair of the Policy Advisory Committee of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, the President of Duksung Women's University, and the Chair of the Gender Equality Committee of Seoul Metropolitan City.



About Co-organizers

Toru MORIKAWA

Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation

María CASTILLO FERNÁNDEZ

EU Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Korea



About Co-organizers

Co-organizers



Toru MORIKAWA

Executive Director, Asia–Europe Foundation

Ambassador Toru MORIKAWA joined the Asia–Europe Foundation (ASEF) as its 8th Executive Director in August 2020.

Ambassador MORIKAWA is a seasoned career diplomat bringing decades of experience and expertise to ASEF. His previous postings include serving as Minister, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan in Iran; and Minister–Counsellor, Embassy of Japan in France where he was in charge of various cultural exchange initiatives. He has also worked in the areas of Media and Regional Economic Cooperation and has experience in cultivating and enhancing partnerships for projects with different organisations including the private sector.

Ambassador MORIKAWA received his Bachelor’s Degree in Law from the University of Tokyo. He is fluent in Japanese, French, and English.

About Co-organizers

Co-organizers



María CASTILLO FERNÁNDEZ

EU Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Korea

María CASTILLO FERNÁNDEZ, European diplomat/official of Spanish nationality, now Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Korea, previously EU Ambassador in Malaysia from 2016–2020, Head of Division for India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh since September 2012 at the European External Action Service of the European Union, in charge of managing and coordinating the European Union’s overall relations with these South Asian countries as well as with the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

From 2008 to September 2012, posted in Hong Kong, representing the EU as the Head of the Office of the European Union accredited to Hong Kong and Macao SARs.

From September 2005–2008, she worked as Deputy Head of Mission at the EU Delegation in Seoul (Republic of Korea) in charge of EU political relations and economic cooperation activities with the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

Prior to this, Ms Castillo was responsible, in Brussels, for the European Commission’s overall relations with the Korean Peninsula, including both Republic of Korea and DPRK (2000–2005).

An extensive career in the European Commission also included posting as:

- Desk Officer for relations with Russia (1996–2000) in charge of implementing the European political and economic relations with Russia;
- Legal Advisor and manager of research programmes in the field of exchanges and mobility of EU scientists and research networks (1990–1996);
- Legal Advisor in charge of thematic human rights issues, with publications on the right of children under European law in the *European Law Review* (1989).

Ms Castillo completed postgraduate studies in European law, economics and international relations with two masters, one at the College of Europe (Bruges, Belgium) and a second at the Institute of European Studies (Strasbourg, France) following a degree in law from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain).

Her mother tongue is Spanish but she is fluent in English and French, with good knowledge of German and Dutch and passive knowledge of Portuguese and Italian. She has some notions of Mandarin and Korean from her postings abroad.

Ms Castillo was decorated with the *Cruz de Oficial de la Orden del Mérito Civil* by the King of Spain on 24 June 2008 for strengthening relations between the EU and the Korean Peninsula.

About Role-players



About Role-players

Keynote Address



Claudia MAHLER

Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons

Claudia MAHLER (Austria) has been working for the German Institute for Human Rights as a senior researcher in the field of economic, social and cultural rights since 2010. She is also a visiting professor at the Alice Salomon Hochschule. From 2001 to 2009, Ms. Mahler conducted research at the Human Rights Centre of the University of Potsdam where her main fields were in human rights education, minority rights and the law of asylum. In 2000, she was appointed as Vice President of the Human Rights Commission for Tyrol and Vorarlberg. She has also worked as a lecturer in the field of human rights law and as a consultant to OHCHR in Geneva. From 1997–2001, she held the position of an assistant at the Leopold–Franzens–University Innsbruck, Austria in the field of Criminal Law and Criminal Procedures. Ms. Mahler received her doctoral degree in 2000.

Moderator, Joint Presentation of Background Paper by Main Rapporteurs



Rolf RING

Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

Rolf RING is the Deputy Director and Head of the Department for Administration and Finance. Prior to joining the Institute, he worked as a Project Co-ordinator for the Swedish Red Cross and served as an assistant to the Chair in International Law at the Faculty of Law, Lund University. Mr. Ring has experience in designing, managing and monitoring international programmes as well as evaluations. He holds an LL.M. from Lund University.

About Role-players

Main Rapporteur



Titti MATTSSON

Professor in Public Law, Lund University

Titti MATTSSON is professor and Dean of Research at the Faculty of Law at Lund University. A theme of Mattsson's research is the governance of welfare state issues from national as well as transnational perspectives. Within this theme, her research addresses legal, social and ethical issues regarding various public-law activities, such as health and community care for disabled persons and the older persons' rights. She holds the title of Docent in Social Law as well as in Social work. Mattsson has extensive experience of interdisciplinary and comparative research collaborations with researchers in law, social work and medical ethics, nationally as well as internationally. Her publication list includes a large variety of monographs, anthologies, book chapters and articles in international and national journals. She is the editor of the European Journal of Health Law. Other ongoing research-related activities include being Board member of the Swedish National Agency for Health and Care Analysis. She regularly participates as an expert at the National Board for Medical and Social Evaluation and as an evaluator of research projects / research environments in the Nordic countries and the EU. Her expertise in national research politics stems many years back. Mattsson is the coordinator for Norma Elder Law Research Group (www.jur.lu.se/elderlaw) at the Faculty of Law. The research group is one of Europe's leading research environment in its field, and includes many research projects with an elder law perspective. She is one of the coordinators for ELAN, the European Law and Ageing Research Network, which includes researchers from 14 European countries.

About Role-players

Main Rapporteur



Andrew BYRNES

Professor of Law, University of New South Wales

Andrew BYRNES is Emeritus Professor of International Law and Human Rights at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, having previously served on the law faculties at the Universities of Sydney, Hong Kong and the Australian National University. He is an associate investigator of the Ageing Futures Institute at UNSW and a research associate of the Australian Human Rights Institute at UNSW where he is Director of a new established project The human rights of older persons in international and national law.

His work includes publications on women's human rights, gender and human rights, national human rights institutions, economic and social rights, peoples' tribunals and international law, and the incorporation of human rights in domestic law. He has served as an external legal adviser to the Australian Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights, was involved in the drafting of the CEDAW Optional Protocol and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and is working with the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions as an adviser in the current UN General Assembly discussions on a possible new international instrument on the human rights of older persons. He has also acted as a consultant to the United Nations on aspects of international human rights law including the rights of older persons.

About Role-players

Moderator, Moderated Panel Discussion



Kyunghee CHUNG

Member of AGAC Expert Group

Former Senior Research Fellow, Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs (KIHASA)

Kyunghee CHUNG is a former senior research fellow, Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs. Dr. Chung served as vice-president of Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs. And currently, council member, the President's National Economic Advisory Council (NEAC). She holds a B.A. and M.A. in sociology from Yonsei University and obtained a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel. She conducted researches on ageing and elderly welfare policies. And she served as an advisor at the Presidential Council of Lower Fertility and Population Ageing.

Panelist, Moderated Panel Discussion



Eun-Ha NAMKUNG

Associate Research Fellow, Center for Research on Aging Society of Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs (KIHASA)

Eun-Ha NAMKUNG is an Associate Research Fellow in the Center for Research on Aging Society, Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs (KIHASA). Dr. Namkung holds a B.A. from Ewha Womans University, M.S.W. from Washington University in St. Louis (USA), and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA) in the areas of social welfare and gerontology. She was a postdoctoral research fellow at the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy, Brandeis University (USA) in 2018-2020. Her research interests include the health and well-being of older and disabled adults and services for family caregivers. Her research has been funded by her institutes, national research foundations, and the U.S. federal agencies including Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Her work has been published in multiple international peer-reviewed journals such as *Social Science & Medicine* and *the Gerontologist*. Her current research projects include, but not limited to, "Social Determinants of Health in Older Adults: Focused on Community Policies and Resources".

About Role-players

Panelist, Moderated Panel Discussion



Hana BECKER

First Secretary of Political Affairs, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

Hana BECKER is a German diplomat. She joined the Federal Foreign Service in 2016. After serving at the Directorate-General for Culture and Communication and, subsequently, the Political Directorate, she was posted to South Korea in July 2020. She is currently serving as Head of the Press Section and as Political Affairs Officer at the German Embassy in Seoul.

Panelist, Moderated Panel Discussion



Nina MONRAD BOEL

Counsellor of Health, Embassy of Denmark in Korea

- Medical Doctor. Health counsellor at the Danish Embassy in Korea, supporting government-to-government collaboration in the health care sector.
- Prior work experience as a Medical Doctor from the Danish Defense, from the primary sector and as well as from Danish hospitals, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, DIGNITY (Danish Institute against Torture), Department of Political Science at the University of Copenhagen and University of Southern Denmark.
- Master of Science in Medicine and Bachelor of Science in Political Science, both from the University of Copenhagen – including research exchanges and programs at London School of Economics and Political Science, Harvard Medical School, University of Oxford, Université de Rennes II and Université Paris-Sorbonne.
- Chair of Amnesty International Denmark 2011–2017. Member of the Council for Human Rights (Danish Institute for Human Rights) 2011–2017.

About Role-players

Discussant, Moderated Panel Discussion



Dongwoo LEE

Deputy Director, Social Human Rights Division, National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK)

Dongwoo LEE is a Deputy Director at the National Human Rights Commission of Korea. He holds a B.A. in Sociology, M.A. in Social Policy and obtained a Ph.D. in Comparative Social Policy from the Korea University. He is currently in charge of human rights of older persons at the Social Human Rights Division, and previously worked at the International Human Rights Division. As a human rights officer at the National Human Rights Institution, he drafted a report on recommendations to the government on the protection and promotion of human rights for the older persons living alone and with dementia. He also made recommendations for improvements to strengthen the government responsibility for caring for older persons. He played a role in raising awareness about the importance of a human rights-based approach for older persons by organizing the ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons, and established a draft Strategic Plan GANHRI Working Group on Ageing. In addition, he published “Exploring multiple discrimination against older women” etc. and his research interests include effective measures to protect the dignified life and rights of older persons in socially vulnerable groups in disaster situation such as COVID-19 and climate crisis.

Discussant, Moderated Panel Discussion



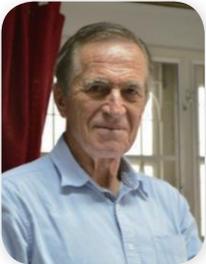
Nena GEORGANTZI

Policy Coordinator Human Rights & Non-Discrimination, AGE Platform Europe

Nena GEORGANTZI coordinates policy and advocacy on human rights and non-discrimination at AGE Platform Europe, an EU network, which aims to voice and promote the rights of older persons. Her PhD thesis was a comparative empirical study on the meaning of human rights in old age and the value of a new UN treaty. She has participated in the drafting of the Council of Europe recommendation on the rights of older persons and has consulted the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. She is actively involved in the political process around a new UN convention on the rights of older persons and has served as Deputy Chair of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older Persons.

About Role-players

Discussant, Moderated Panel Discussion



Eduardo KLIEN

Regional Director, HelpAge International Asia Pacific

University studies in political science and international economics in the Netherlands and the USA. MSc in Economics at El Colegio de Mexico. Over 30 years experience in social and economic development, working with academia, governments and international organisations.

As an academic, Eduardo has been a lecturer in international economics at the University of Mexico and in 1997 was appointed as Research Fellow in the International Development Center (QEH) of the University of Oxford. In 2007 appointed as Research Fellow of the Oxford Institute of Ageing of the University of Oxford. He has led on programmes, studies and research on population ageing in Asia.

Eduardo has performed in senior roles in international organisations in Latin America and Africa. For the last 20 years Eduardo has been in Asia, holding different directive positions in Laos, Vietnam and regionally. Currently, he is the Regional Director for Asia Pacific for HelpAge International, overseeing programmes and partnerships throughout Asia and the Pacific. In the scope of his work is promotion of social and economic adaptation to the changing demographic structures and to population ageing. Eduardo has taken part, and frequently led, in several international conferences on the subject. These include policy development, knowledge and research on population ageing, community-based programmes and supporting the voice of older people and their organisations towards ensuring that current and future older people can lead dignified, active, healthy and secure lives.

Welcome Remarks

Eun-Hee CHI

Executive Director, ASEM Global Ageing Center (AGAC)



Welcome Remarks



Eun-Hee CHI

Executive Director, ASEM Global Ageing Center (AGAC)

Distinguished guests,
Experts of ASEM partners who are joining us online,
I thank all of you for your participation in the 20th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights.

ASEM Global Ageing Center is an institution tasked with protecting and promoting the human rights of older persons of ASEM partners, and it is a great pleasure for us to be hosting the Seminar in Seoul this time under the theme of the “Human Rights of Older Persons”.

Allow me to express my sincere gratitude to those who have enabled this meaningful opportunity.
Executive Director of the Asia–Europe Foundation, H.E. Toru Morikawa,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Chung Eui–yong,
Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, Madame Choi Young–ae,
Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Korea, H.E. María Castillo Fernández.

And the UN Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, Dr. Claudia Mahler,
Professor Titti Mattsson,
Professor Andrew Byrnes,
You have my deepest appreciation for serving as our keynote speaker and main rapporteurs.

This is the first time the Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights Series addresses “Human Rights of Older Persons” and also the first time the Seminar is held online.

In this regard, there are many firsts and difficulties in preparing for this seminar. But given that the “human rights of older persons” are urgent issues particularly in this period of the pandemic, the seminar is timely indeed for ASEM partners who are experiencing population ageing and COVID–19 pandemic at the same time.

The pandemic has reminded us that although the virus does not discriminate, its damages are disproportionate. It has also shown that the lives of older persons are the most affected.

Not only has COVID–19 threatened the health and lives of older persons, but also has exacerbated ageism across our society, stigmatizing them further as weak and vulnerable, a burden to society.

Welcome Remarks

But such violation of older persons' rights is not newly emerged by COVID-19. The pandemic is simply uncovering ageism that has been deeply rooted in our society.

In 2015, the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older Persons (GAROP) conducted a survey on ageism in 50 countries. Around 2,000 older persons who took the survey responded that they were excluded from social or policy priority, ignored, avoided or disrespected, subject to various forms of violence or abuse, even forced eviction, neglect, or abandonment.

So far, there have been numerous discussions on older persons' rights in the international society, including the adoption of the UN Principles for Older Persons in 1991, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in 2002, the sessions of the UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing that is being held every year for a decade since 2011, and the GANHRI Working Group on Ageing since 2016.

These efforts notwithstanding, even to this day in 2021, older persons' diversity and rights are neither respected nor seen as a policy priority. And older persons' contribution to and their role in our society are not fully recognized.

One of the reasons ageism and age discrimination are still prevalent and even worsening during the pandemic era can be found in the absence of an international convention on older persons.

Where there are conventions on the rights of women, children, people with disabilities, and migrant workers, the lack of one for older persons implies that age-based discrimination is legitimate and even socially accepted.

In this context, our discussions devoted to the rights of older persons for the next three days will be an important opportunity for us to build collective understanding and seek mutual cooperation for our role to protect and promote older persons in the absence of a legally binding instrument. Because words alone are not enough. It is now time to act.

I look forward to your insights and ideas on what we can do to protect and promote the human rights of older persons. I once again welcome and thank all the participants and distinguished guests for your contribution and participation in the 20th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights.

Congratulatory Remarks on behalf of the host

Young-ae CHOI

Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK)



Congratulatory Remarks on behalf of the host



Young-ae CHOI

Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK)

Greetings from Seoul!

I am Young-ae Choi, Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea.

I would like to extend my congratulations on the opening of the 20th Informal Asia-Europe Meeting Seminar on Human rights. And as Chair of the Working Group on Ageing of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, I am very pleased to participate in such an important human rights seminar.

The Informal Asia-Europe Meeting Seminar on Human rights has been held over the past 20 years and this is the first time that the seminar focuses on the topic of the rights of older persons.

This year's topic clearly shows that ageing and older people's rights are one of the most pressing human rights issues of our time that can no longer be ignored.

In this regard, I would like to thank the ASEM Global Ageing Center and the Asia-Europe Foundation for their hard work to organize and host the seminar.

Ageing is one of the most critical human rights issues we all face. Despite awareness-raising efforts and other activities of the UN General Assembly, UN Secretary-General and related organizations, ageing remains one of the key challenges facing humanity.

In particular, the spread of COVID-19 aggravates the situation of older persons who are already vulnerable both physically and economically.

Accordingly, the National Human Rights Commission of Korea is taking swift action to protect the rights of vulnerable groups during the pandemic. Recognizing particular vulnerabilities of older persons in the pandemic situation, the Commission is making it a top priority to protect basic rights of older persons such as the right to life and is stepping up efforts in this regard at the national and international levels.

Last year, the Commission distributed international guidance on COVID-19 and human rights to domestic organizations in a prompt manner to prevent human rights violations in times of COVID-19, while sharing our activities related to COVID-19 with the international community.

Congratulatory Remarks on behalf of the host

According to documents submitted to the UN General Assembly, older persons are faced with four key challenges of discrimination, poverty, violence and lack of concrete policies or support. These challenges are directly linked to issues we discuss today.

I hope this seminar offers an opportunity for experts and participants from different backgrounds to put their heads together and find a solution to these challenges and look forward to substantial results from the upcoming session of the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing this year based on the outcome of today's discussion.

Lastly, I would like to ask all of you to support the ASEM Global Ageing Center in its endeavor to protect and promote the rights of older persons as a global hub located in Korea to advance older persons' rights.

I thank you once again for your participation and wish you and your family good health.

Thank you.



Presentation Material

Moderated Panel Discussion:

“The Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of Older Persons in the Post-COVID-19 Era”

Eun-Ha NAMKUNG

Associate Research Fellow, Center for Research on Aging Society of
Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs (KIHASA)



The Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of Older Persons in the Post-COVID-19 Era: Focused on Korean Older Persons

Eun-Ha Namkung, Ph.D.
(Center for Research on Aging Society
Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs)



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- I COVID-19 and its Impacts on Older Koreans
- II Human Rights of Older Persons and COVID-19
- III Policy and Practice Implications for Post-COVID-19 Era

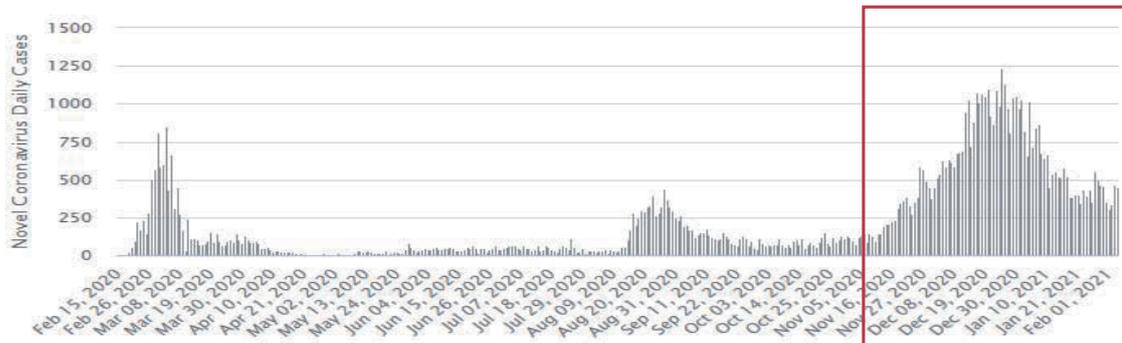


COVID-19 in Korea and Beyond

The above picture capture from the Korean-English Glossary for Korea's Response to COVID-19 (July 2020), Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

COVID-19 Pandemic is Ongoing

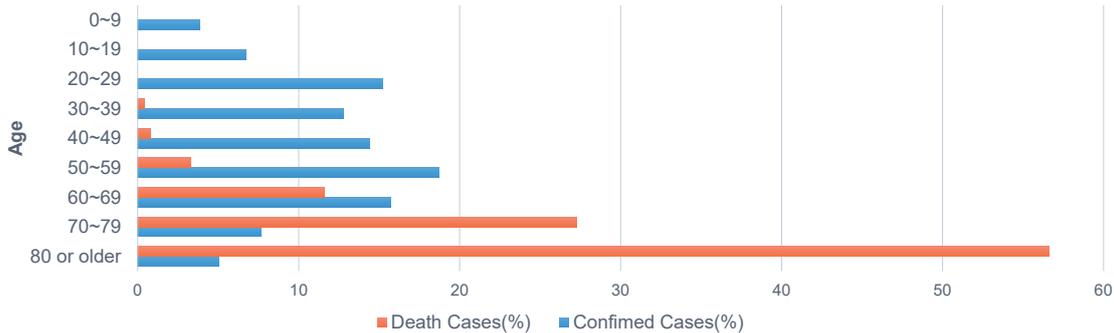
- As of February 5, 2021, the number of cases rose to 105,436,036 persons, and 2,294,862 persons lost their lives globally due to COVID-19 infection
 - In Korea, 80,131 persons infected (86th highest), 1,459 persons lost their lives



Source: "Daily New Cases in Korea" from <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/south-korea>

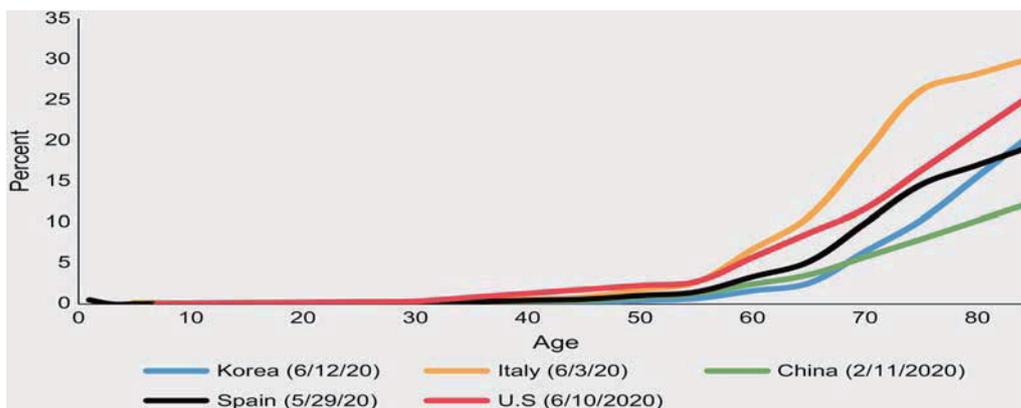
COVID-19 and Older Adults

- % of infected cases and deaths are heavily concentrated to very old age
 - Deceased cases of persons age 80+ account for 57% of total deceased cases
 - About **3 deceased cases out of 10 confirmed cases** in age 80+ group in Korea



Source: Coronavirus Disease-19, Republic of Korea Latest Updates (as of Feb. 5th, 2021) from http://ncov.mohw.go.kr/bdBoardList_Real.do?brdId=1&brdGubun=11&ncvContSeq=&contSeq=&board_id=&gubun=

Deaths (% dying) among confirmed COVID-19 cases by age in Six Different Countries



Source: Crimmins E.M. (2020). Age-related Vulnerability to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Biological, Contextual, and Policy-Related Factors. *Public Policy Aging Rep* 30(4), Pages 142–146, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ppar/praa023>

Higher Risks to Older Persons Not Only on their Health but on their Rights and Well-being

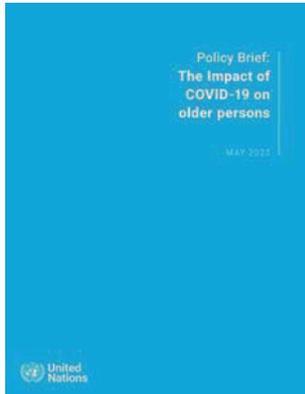


“ The world marks the 30th anniversary of the International Day of Older Persons as we reckon with the disproportionate and severe impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought on older persons around the world – not only on their health, but on their rights and well-being.

– UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Treats to the Rights of Older Persons in the Pandemic Era

COVID-19 Related Risks in Older Persons



Source:
<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/policy-brief-impact-covid-19-older-persons-may-2020>

Life and Death

- Higher risk of mortality and severe disease following infection
- Age discrimination in health care and beyond

Vulnerability and Neglect

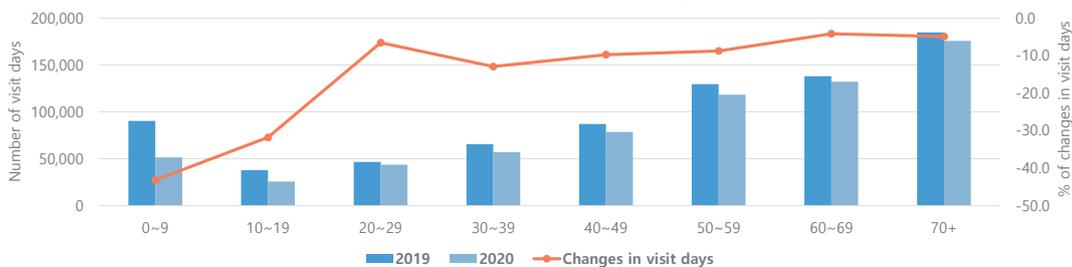
- Need a particular attention to vulnerable groups of older persons (e.g., long-term care residents, older caregivers)

Social and Economic Well-being

- Loneliness, social/emotional isolation
- Decreases in income and increases in unemployment rates

Health and Health Care during the Pandemic

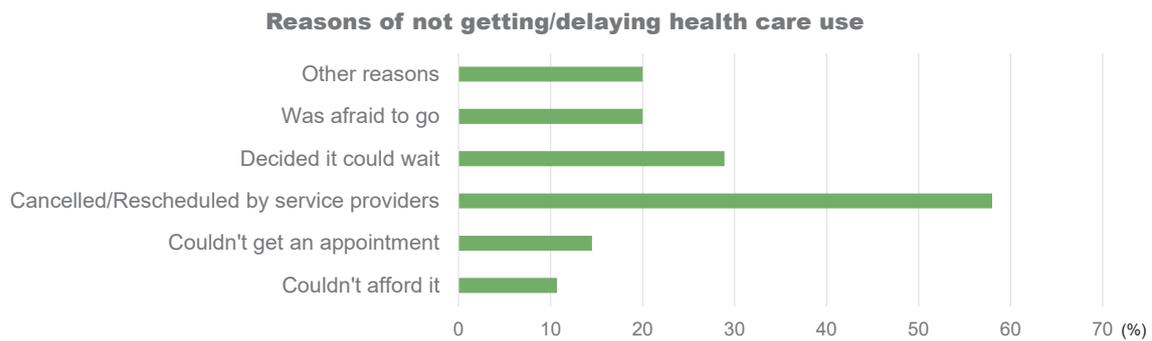
- Older persons may be more susceptible to the infection due to pre-existing health conditions
 - 73% of older Koreans aged 65+ reported having 2+ chronic conditions (2017 National Survey of Older Adults, KIHASA)
- 70% of older Koreans reported that they are reluctant or hesitant to visit hospitals/clinics due to the fear of COVID-19 (Goyang Research Institute, 2020 July)
 - However, they have greater needs of using healthcare services



Source: Health Insurance Review & Assessment Services (Jan 7, 2021) <https://www.hira.or.kr/bbsDummy.do?pgmid=HIRAA020045030000&brdScnBltno=4&brdBltNo=2409&pageIndex=1>

Rising Unmet Healthcare Needs in the Pandemic Era

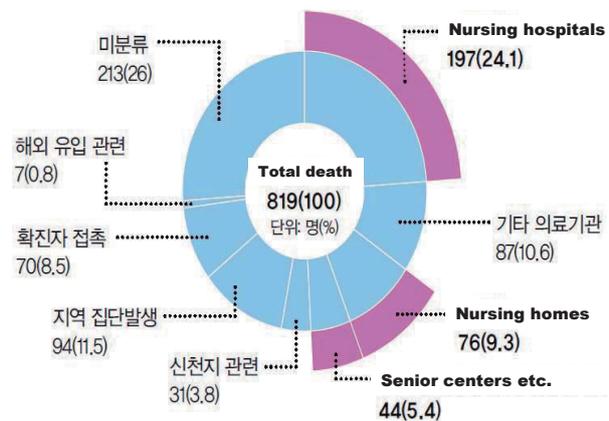
- In older Americans aged 50+, 30% reported delaying or not getting the needed medical/dental care since March 2020



Source: Health and Retirement Survey 2020 Covid-19 Module. Based on the author's analysis.

Long-Term Care Residents and COVID-19

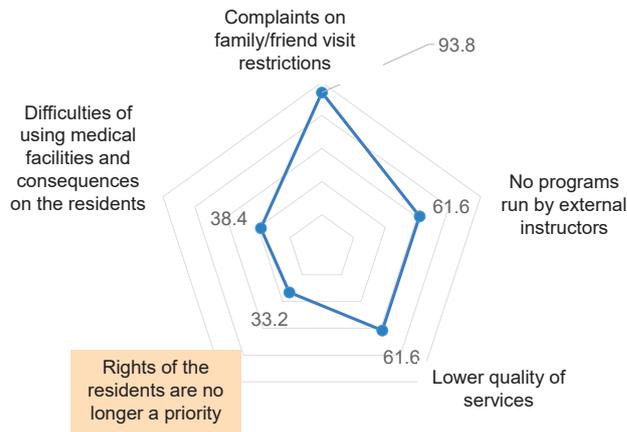
- Long-term care residents have multiple risk factors of the infection(-related death)
 - Cognitive/physical disabilities and multiple underlying diseases, close contact with staff and other residents, and living in confined spaces ¹
- Clusters of infection occasionally occurred in the facilities
 - About 35% of deceased cases are related to elder care facilities (as of Dec. 28, 2020)



Source: http://www.hani.co.kr/arti/society/society_general/976995.html

1. Panagiotou OA, Kosar CM, White EM, et al. Risk Factors Associated With All-Cause 30-Day Mortality in Nursing Home Residents With COVID-19. *JAMA Intern Med.* Published online January 04, 2021. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2020.7968

Challenges on the Services and the Rights of the Residents during the Pandemic Era

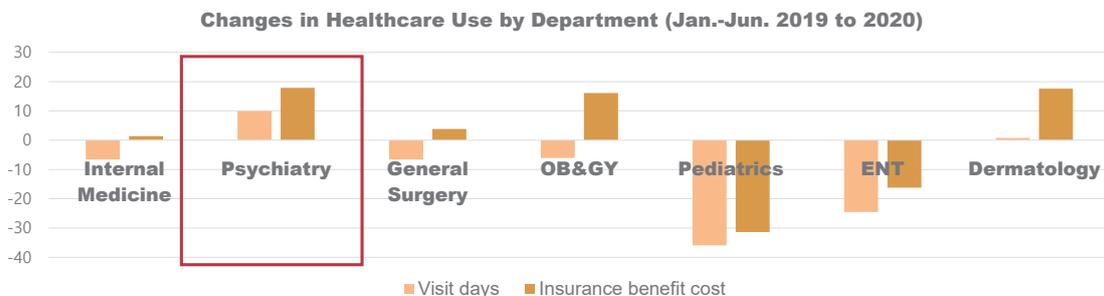


- The main challenges of the nursing homes include the violation of the rights of the residents by providing inadequate, lower quality services and restricting family visits

Sources: Survey on Changes in Care Environment of the Long-term Care Facilities During the Pandemic (2020). KIHASA.

Mental Health During the Pandemic

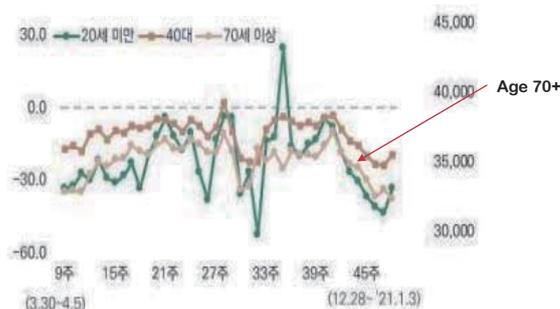
- Increased mental health problems for all age groups
 - Social/emotional isolation, stress, hypochondriasis(worries about one's health), depressive symptoms, anxiety, insomnia
 - Increased use of mental health-related medical services during the pandemic



Source: Health Insurance Review & Assessment Services (Jan 7, 2021) <https://www.hira.or.kr/bbsDummy.do?pgmid=HIRAA020045030000&brdScnBltno=4&brdBltNo=2409&pageIndex=1>

Older Koreans May be More Vulnerable..

- Decreased out-of-home activities and isolation are most evident among older adults
- Older Koreans showed relatively poor mental health even before the pandemic



Source: Health Insurance Review & Assessment Services (Jan 7, 2021) <https://www.hira.or.kr/bbsDummy.do?pgmid=HIRAA020045030000&brdScnBitNo=4&brdBitNo=2409&pageIndex=1>

The highest suicide rate among OECD countries for 30's and 70's+



Greater Challenges for Older Persons Living Alone

- About 25% of older Koreans age 65+ live alone¹
 - 33% of older women
- Older persons who are living alone are likely to receive less emotional support from families, have limited social network, and show more depressive symptoms¹
 - 30% of older adults living alone reported severe depressive symptoms during the pandemic (June 2020)²

1. 2017 National Survey of Older Adults, KIHASA
2. Gwangmyung Senior Welfare Center (June, 2020). Survey of older adults living alone. <http://www.incheonilbo.com/news/articleView.html?idxno=1064730>

Economic Hardship During the Pandemic

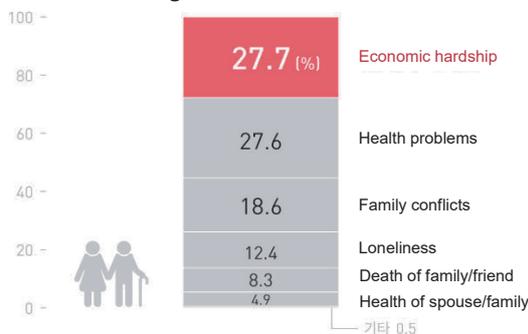
- Increased unemployment rates and decreased employment rates among adults aged 55-79 (May, 2020)



Source: <http://www.bokjitime.com/news/articleView.html?idxno=23570> (based on the survey by Statistics Korea)

Greater Economic Hardship of Older Koreans before the Pandemic

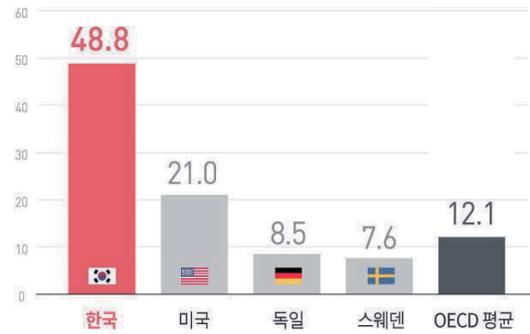
Main Reasons of Suicidal Ideas of Older Adults age 65+



자료 한국 보건사회연구원 대상 자살을 생각해 본 노인 673명 인포그래픽 권세라

KBS

% of Older Persons who Lives under the 50% of the Median income



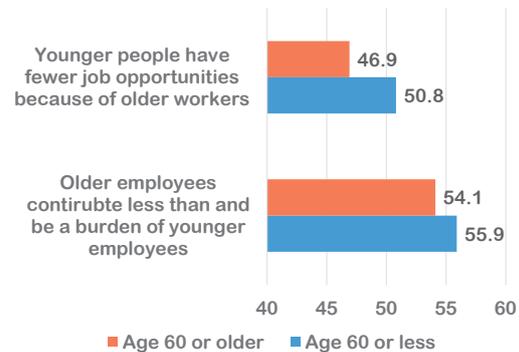
자료 OECD Society at a Glance 2016 인포그래픽 강준희

KBS

Source: <https://news.kbs.co.kr/news/view.do?ncd=4292513> based on the survey by KIHASA (left) and OECD Society at a Glance 2016 (right)

Ageism and Age Discrimination during the Pandemic

- Age discrimination in decisions on medical care, triage, and public health policies
 - Indefinite isolation for older adults, esp. long-term care residents, is widely accepted
- Rising intergenerational division and devaluation of older persons
 - #boomerRemover, #grandmakiller
 - Name-calling, blame, and “so-be-it” reactions toward age vulnerability are common in public media ¹
- Age discrimination in workplace



Source: 2020 Low-Fertility and Population Ageing National Survey, KIHASA

1. Lichtenstein, B. (2020). From “Coffin Dodger” to “Boomer Remover”: Outbreaks of Ageism in Three Countries With Divergent Approaches to Coronavirus Control, *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*, gbaa102, <https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbaa102>



Strategies Promoting the Rights of Older Persons in the Post-Pandemic Era

Tackle Ageism in Healthcare System & Beyond

- Acknowledge that older population is not homogeneous and chronological age is not the only criterion for healthcare decision making process
- Develop public health protocols to protect the public AND the dignity and rights of older adults (long-term care residents) in cases of future emergency situations
- Promote intergenerational solidarity with public education and policies



Improve Long-term Care Services and Policies to Better Serve the Residents and Caregivers

- Develop monitoring system for long-term care residents and services
 - Health and well-being of the residents (e.g., mental illnesses, abuse, violence)
 - Staffing, operation, medical/social resource
- Address the pre-existing systematic problems in the long-term care
 - Inadequate staff
 - Inadequate monitoring and surveillance efforts at the national, regional levels

Pay Attention to At-Risk Older Persons

- Ensure the well-being and health of older persons living alone or in isolation
 - Provide regular visits, check-ups, meal delivery services, etc.
 - Use technologies (e.g. AI, smart home, robot)
- Need support for family caregivers
 - Develop policies to protect their employment rights and physical/emotional well-being



Support Social Inclusion and Mental Health of Older Persons

- Increase older persons' access to digital technologies
 - In the mean time, governments/service providers should communicate via various outlets beyond digital media
- Provide emotional support for older persons who are isolated, at-risk of mental health problems
- Promote the inclusion of older persons in the community



Picture source: <https://journal.kiso.or.kr/?p=10065>

Ensure the Economic Well-being in Later Life

- Tackle age discrimination in workplace
- Ensure the lifelong education/work opportunities; increase civic engagement
- Strengthen the Social Security system and other policies to ensure the various sources of income after retirement

Thank you for your attention

Presentation Material

Moderated Panel Discussion:

“The Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of Older Persons in the Post-COVID-19 Era”

Hana BECKER

First Secretary of Political Affairs, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany





Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Seoul



Panel Discussion
22 February 2021

The 20th Informal
ASEM Seminar on
Human Rights -
Human Rights of
Older Persons

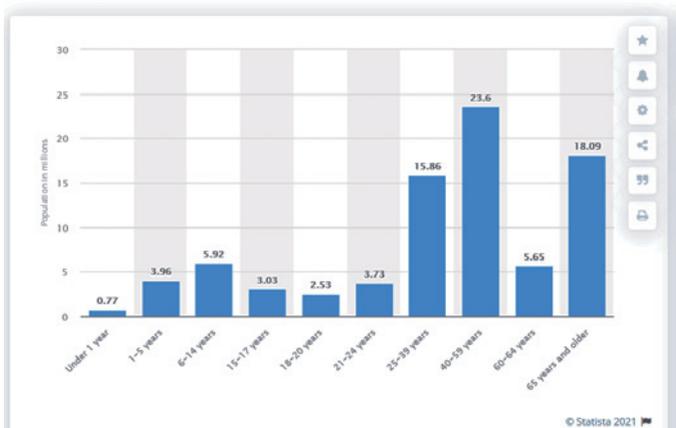
“Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of Older Persons in the post-COVID Era” - Focus Country: Germany -

Hana Becker, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany



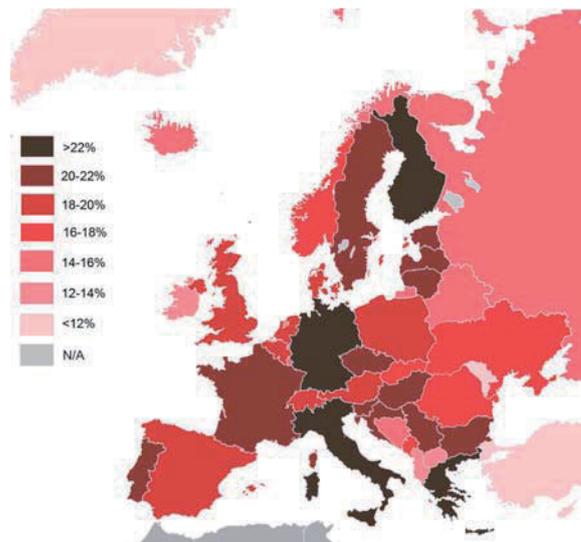
Germany

Population of Germany as of December 31, 2019, by age group
(in millions)

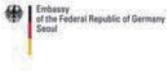


© Statista 2021
<https://www.statista.com/statistics/454349/population-by-age-group-germany/>

Europe population over 65 – in 2020

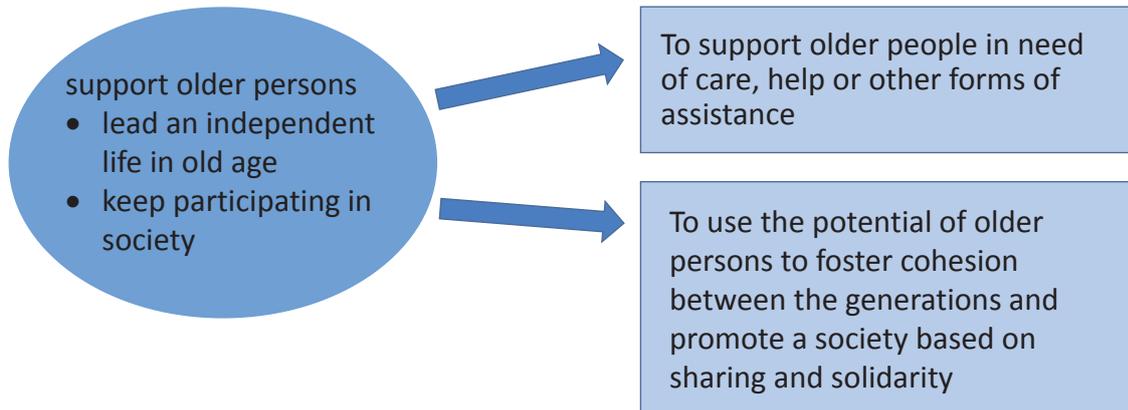


Based on data from the CIA World Factbook. Image retrieved from [Wikimedia Commons](#)



Germany's policy-making for senior citizens

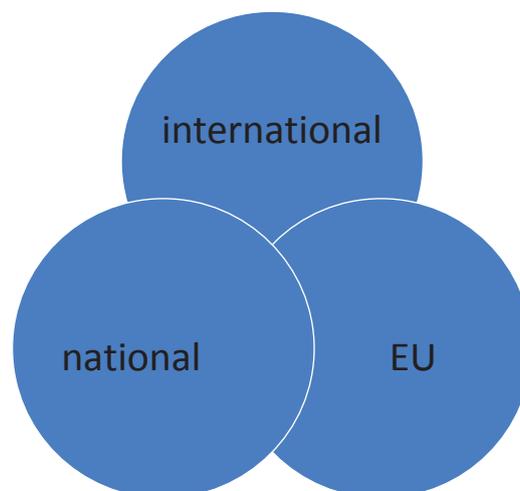
Two priority goals:



3



Activities of the German Federal Government



4



Activities of the German Federal Government I *-national-*

- **Promoting intergenerational equity and peaceful coexistence of all generations**
 - „Demografiewerkstatt Kommunen“ (Municipality Workshop on Demography)
 - Federal Programme "Multi-generational Centre"
 - "Living in Old Age" (shared housing, age-appropriate home conversions, ambient-assisted homes, local support schemes)
- **Supporting Non-statutory Welfare Organisations and Senior Citizens' Organisations** which support the Federal Government's policies, helping to shape Germany as a welfare state and enabling **social inclusion**
- **National Dementia Strategy**

5



Activities of the German Federal Government II *-national-*

- **Reconciliation of family, care and work**
 - strengthening legal grounds to make it easier for employees to take care of close relatives in need of long-term care
 - Independent Advisory Committee for the Reconciliation of Care and Work
- **Vocational training and education in nursing care**
 - Care Professions Reform Act (January 2020)
 - Concerted Action for Nursing, Vocational Training Initiative for the Care Sector
- **(Digital) education**

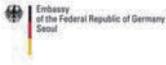


© picture alliance / dpa | Stephanie Pillick

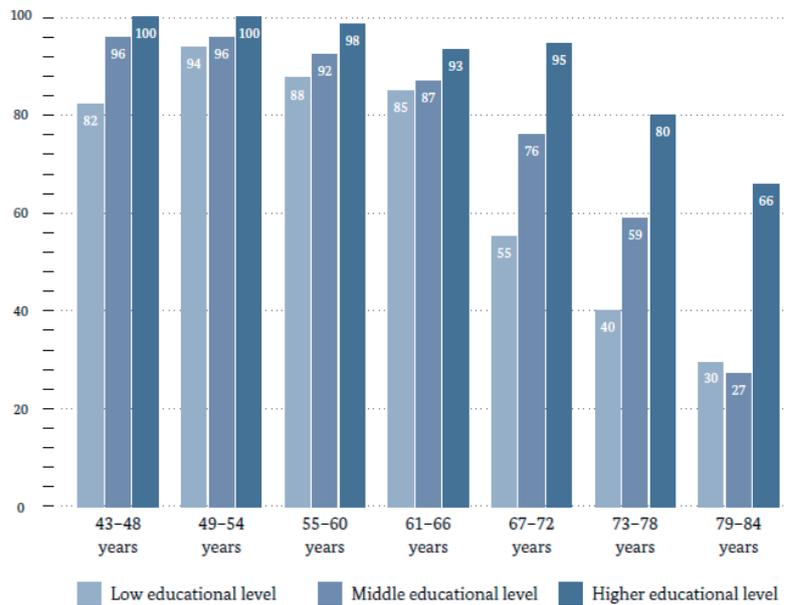


© picture alliance / Zoonar | Robert Kneschke

6



Proportion of people with access to the internet by age group and education (2017, in percent)



Source: Huxhola, O. and Otte K. (2019): Zugang zum Internet und Nutzung des Internets in der zweiten Lebenshälfte (Access to the internet and use of the internet in the second half of life). DZA Aktuell, Berlin: Deutsches Zentrum für Altersfragen (German Centre of Gerontology). Based on data from: DEAS 2017, weights, (n = 5246). Retrieved from: Federal Government's Eighth Age Report "Older People and Digitisation", https://www.achter-altersbericht.de/fileadmin/altersbericht/pdf/BMFSFJ-2021-01199_21x21_Senioren_eng_v7_BF_.pdf (13.02.2021)

(Digital) Education in Old Age



© picture alliance / Zoonar | Robert Kneschke

- New information and communication technologies (ICT)
 - ➔ **new development opportunities for older persons**
- New media skills and literacy in the digital technologies prerequisite for social participation in the **digital society**
- Promotion of **digital access and training**; including in the care sector
- Involvement of **older persons as co-developers of ICT**
- **Key improvement measures:** putting sufficient service structures in place at local levels; ensuring that flexible structures are established and affording older persons active opportunities for participation and design



Activities of the German Federal Government III *-national: digitalization and education-*

- **Service center “Digitalization and Education for Older Persons”** as nationwide support structure at the Federal Association of Senior Citizens' Organizations (BAGSO)
- **Advisory council on “Digitalization and Education for Older Persons”**
- **Federal Government's Eighth Age Report “Older People and Digitization”¹**
- **Project “Digital Angel”** - offers personal contact and digital support and knowledge to older persons

¹https://www.achter-altersbericht.de/fileadmin/altersbericht/pdf/BMFESF1-2020-01199_21x21_Senioren_eng_v7_BF_.pdf

9



Activities of the German Federal Government IV *-EU: digitalization and education-*



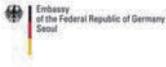
Germany's Presidency of the Council of the EU 2020:

- **Joint online conference together with AGE Platform Europe and BAGSO** (the German civil society organization of senior citizens):
“Strengthening Older People’s Rights in Times of Digitalization – Lessons learned from COVID-19”²
- **Council Conclusions** on Human Rights, Participation and Well-Being of Older Persons in the Era of Digitalization³

²https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9IGvSCLQroWG6sbYoXeZSOxbm..._60

³<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-11717-2020-REV-2/en/pdf>

10



International Policy for Senior Citizens

United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG-A)

On Agenda since 2017:

- Discrimination in old age
- Violence, abuse and neglect in old age
- Right to long-term care and palliative care
- Right to autonomy and self determination
- Education, training, lifelong learning and capacity-building
- Social protection and social security

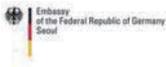
Second United Nations International Plan of Action on Ageing

adopted in Madrid in 2002 ([Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing - MIPAA](#))

[Ministerial Declaration](#) adopted by the 56 Member States at last UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Lisbon in 2017:

- Recognising the Potential of Older Persons
- Encouraging Longer Working Life and Ability to Work
- Ensuring Ageing with Dignity

11

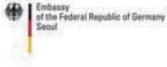


To conclude

- **“Human rights have no expiry date** and are not tied to a person’s age”⁴
- Exit strategies from the pandemic must **ensure that all people can participate** in cultural, economic and social life and no group is advantaged or disadvantaged.
- **Life-long learning** is a major guarantor of active and healthy ageing and social participation; **Literacy in the digital technologies** is a prerequisite for social participation in the digital society.
- **Technology must benefit the people** - however, technology can never replace face-to-face human contact.
- **International cooperation** is becoming increasingly important in view of the growing percentage of older persons worldwide. Germany therefore actively advocates for older persons in an international context.

⁴ Documentation of the Online Conference “Strengthening Older People’s Rights in Times of Digitalisation”, Lessons learned from Covid-19 28–29 September 2020, available: <https://www.bmfsfj.de/blob/162666/en-documentation-eu-ageing2020-data.pdf> (retrieved 13.02.2021)

12



Thank you for your attention!

Presentation Material

Moderated Panel Discussion:

“The Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of Older Persons in the Post-COVID-19 Era”

Nina MONRAD BOEL

Counsellor of Health, Embassy of Denmark in Korea





MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
 OF DENMARK

COVID-19 AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PEOPLE

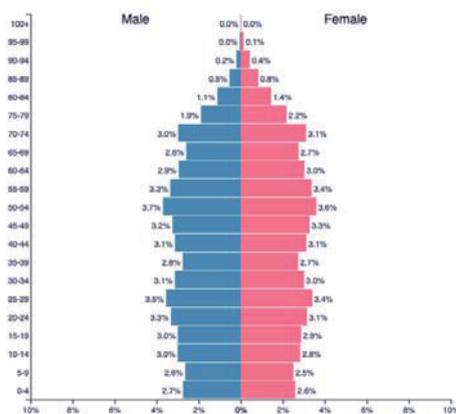
A DANISH PERSPECTIVE

Nina Monrad Boel, MD, Health Counsellor at the Embassy of Denmark to Korea

DENMARK

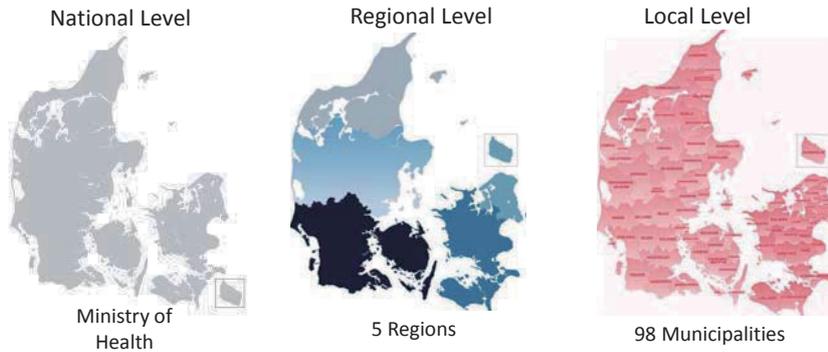
Demography
 5.8 million people

Fertility rate: 1.8
Life Expectancy: 81.4
 Females: 83.3
 Males: 79.5



THE DANISH HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Tax funded healthcare → free at the point of delivery incl. treatment for COVID-19

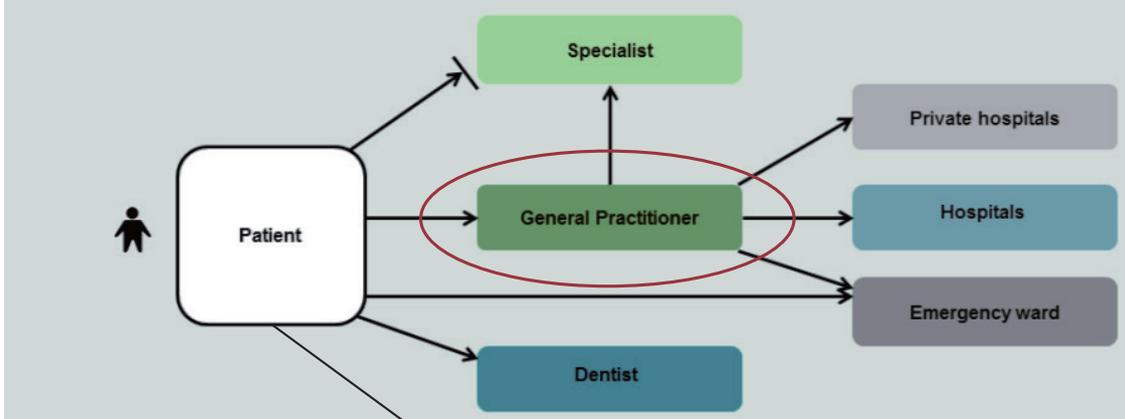


The Embassy of Denmark in Korea

3

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AS GATEKEEPERS

Access structure of the Danish healthcare system



Covid-19 testing

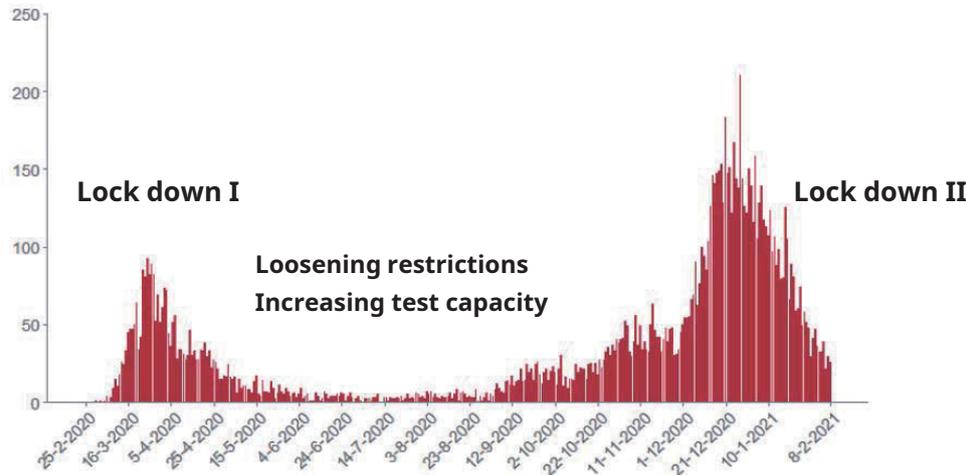


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4

GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO COVID-19

Hospitalisations according to date



The Embassy of Denmark in Korea

5

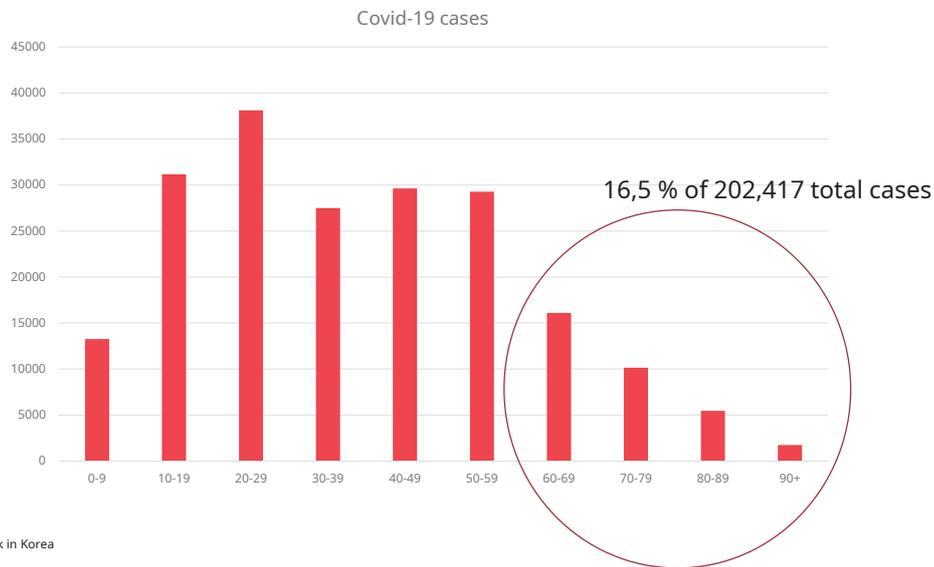
GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO COVID-19, FEBRUARY 2021

- Second 'lock-down'
- Further restrictions due to the fear of the mutated virus
- The level of risk has been raised from 4 to 5, the highest
- All stores, entertainment venues, cultural institutions, restaurants and cafes are closed (except grocery stores and pharmacies)
- All schools and universities are closed (except primary school)
- All workers but essential staff are sent home / advised to work from home
- People are advised to stay at home and not see friends nor family
- Assembly ban: Reduced from 10 to 5 people
- Social distancing rules in public spaces: Increased from one to two meters

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6

CASES OF COVID-19 SINCE MARCH ACCORDING TO AGE (FEBRUARY 10, 2021)



The Embassy of Denmark in Korea

7

"CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC IN THE EU

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS: WITH A FOCUS ON OLDER PEOPLE"

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

- The rights to life and the rights to health
- Five specific challenges facing older persons during the pandemic in the EU:
 1. **Systematic testing for COVID-19**
 2. **Hospital triage**
 3. **Specific restrictive measures affecting older people**
 4. **Social isolation**
 5. **Access to wider healthcare**

The Embassy of Denmark in Korea

8

1. SYSTEMATIC TESTING FOR COVID-19

“CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC IN THE EU - FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS: WITH A FOCUS ON OLDER PEOPLE” European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

- High rates of deaths in nursing homes in all of Europe
- Human rights bodies and NGOs in the EU has called on establishing regular testing prioritizing staff and residents at care homes
- Some EU countries introduced national strategies for systematic testing, while Denmark primarily has relied on regional coordination
- Until June, Denmark only tested staff and residents in care homes when a case was detected
- Regular testing of staff at nursing homes is now required, and residents moving into nursing homes or returning from hospital are also being tested

2. DISCRIMINATION CONCERNS IN HOSPITAL TRIAGE

“CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC IN THE EU - FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS: WITH A FOCUS ON OLDER PEOPLE” European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

- Tremendous pressure on national health systems and medical staff facing difficult choices about prioritizing treatment in light of scarce resources
- Most EU countries did not stipulate age as a decisive criterion and issued national guidelines stressing the importance of equal access to healthcare
- A few exceptions in EU countries have been reported focusing on a patient's age as a key criterion when prioritizing life-saving treatment
- Some EU countries also reported that older people in residential care struggled to access healthcare and treatment in hospitals

3. SPECIFIC RESTRICTING MEASURES AFFECTING OLDER PEOPLE

“CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC IN THE EU - FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS: WITH A FOCUS ON OLDER PEOPLE” European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

- At the onset of the pandemic, many EU countries put in place specific restrictive measures – or recommendations – targeting older persons
- In Denmark: No restrictions specifically targeting the older people
- However, Denmark introduced initiatives to meet older persons’ basic needs like all other EU countries e.g. help with grocery shopping, technology, illness, quarantine, getting to the doctor etc.
- Continued isolation restrictions of older people, while not mandatory, could raise concerns about discrimination if they apply for an indefinite period

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4. SOCIAL ISOLATION

“CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC IN THE EU - FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS: WITH A FOCUS ON OLDER PEOPLE” European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

- Physical distancing requirements has posed particular challenges to older persons, many of whom live alone and may face digital challenges
- Complete lockdown of nursing homes: Banning of visits
- Deprivation of the individual right to freedom and to deciding over your own home and family relations due to COVID-19 safety measures
- While many countries in Europe have made restrictions on nursing homes, most countries have made exceptions making it possible for relatives to visit
- Quality of life in a HR perspective: Adding years to life or life to years?

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12

5. ACCESS TO WIDER HEALTHCARE SERVICES

“CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC IN THE EU - FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS: WITH A FOCUS ON OLDER PEOPLE” European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

- The challenge of ensuring access to health services and medical treatment while treating patients with COVID-19 and containing the outbreak
- Online consultations with general practitioners in Denmark
- Regular care and treatment at hospitals postponed → greater impact on the elderly that have medical conditions requiring treatment
- No visitors allowed at hospitals
- Home-care services significantly reduced
- Older people with dementia has suffered from reduced basic services in addition to the fact that they have a higher risk of contracting covid-19

The Embassy of Denmark in Korea

13

INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT THE ELDERLY IN LOCK-DOWN

- Initiatives to help the elderly with grocery shopping and medication
- Guidance and psychological support
- Digital visits and phone service specifically targeted older persons e.g. “Phone friends”

Ældre Sagen



INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT THE ELDERLY IN LOCK-DOWN

- Several initiatives to improve older people's digital skills, so they can stay in touch with their family
- Materials for relatives and professionals about COVID-19 and people with dementia
- Hotline services to support people with dementia, their caregivers and families

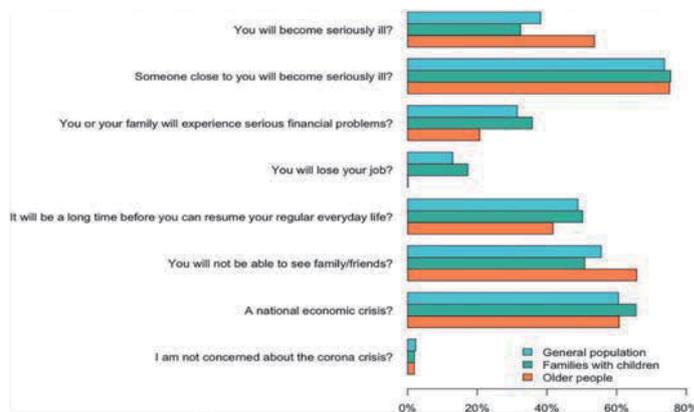


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15

EXPERIENCES OF LOCKDOWN AMONGST THE ELDERLY

“Standing together – at a distance: Documenting changes in mental-health indicators in Denmark during the COVID-19 pandemic”,
 Clotworthy A, Dissing A.S., Nguyen T-L, et al.



The Embassy of Denmark in Korea

16

EXPERIENCES OF LOCKDOWN AMONGST THE ELDERLY

“Standing together – at a distance: Documenting changes in mental-health indicators in Denmark during the COVID-19 pandemic”,
Clotworthy A, Dissing A.S., Nguyen T-L, et al.

- On average, the elderly (65-85) reported feeling less lonely than did younger people
- Elderly people living at home showed good coping and mental resilience, using their network and the opportunities/technologies available to them
- Low degree of financial insecurity because of the Danish pension system – more worries for the young at risk of losing their job/main sources of income
- However, the experience in nursing homes have probably been different

THE RIGHT TO HEALTH – VACCINATION IN DENMARK

Three main objectives of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Denmark:

1. Minimising death and severe illness due to COVID-19.
2. Minimising the spread of infection and epidemic control.
3. Ensuring key societal functions.

PRIORITIZING VACCINATIONS IN DENMARK

1. Residents in nursing homes, etc.
2. People aged ≥ 65 years who receive personal care at home
3. People aged ≥ 85 years.
4. Personnel in healthcare who are at particular risk of infection or has been identified as performing a critical function
5. Selected persons with conditions and diseases that result in a significantly increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.
6. Selected relatives of persons at significantly increased risk.
7. People aged 80-84.
8. People aged 75-79.
9. People aged 65-74.
10. People under 65 years of age at risk of severe illness
11. Staff in other sectors critical to the functioning of society.
12. The remaining population

HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE ELDERLY IN THE FUTURE I

- Cooperation between local authorities, civil society organisations, volunteers, and the private sector.
- As societies reopen, it is more important than ever to keep a focus on the elderly for whom the passage to the 'new normal' will be slower and more difficult
- Anchoring responses to the pandemic in the recognition that equal treatment is a right, regardless of age, will ensure that older people can live full lives in dignity and respect



HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE ELDERLY IN THE FUTURE II

Denmark will continue to:

- Include the elderly in decision making
- Prioritize vaccination of the elderly and the vulnerable
- Use initiatives to support older people during the lockdown periods
- Support older people with dementia and their relatives
- Make online consultations with general practitioners
- Test the health staff and staff at nursing homes regularly
- Improve older people's digital skills, so they can stay in touch with relatives online



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION**

**PLEASE BE IN CONTACT:
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Nina Monrad Boel, MD, Health Counsellor at the Embassy of Denmark to Korea

Closing Remarks on behalf of the host

Hye-kyung LEE

Chairwoman, ASEM Global Ageing Center's Board of Directors
Professor Emeritus, Yonsei University



Closing Remarks on behalf of the host



Hye-kyung LEE

Chairwoman, ASEM Global Ageing Center's Board of Directors

Professor Emeritus, Yonsei University

Ladies and gentlemen, it is now the time to bring an end to the 20th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights under the topic of the Human Rights of Older Persons. First of all, I would like to sincerely thank all the participants, speakers, rapporteurs, moderators, the working group discussion panelists, and government officials, academic experts, and civil society activists from ASEM partners of all regions. I do appreciate your tremendous contributions to make this Seminar a great success.

My special gratitude goes to our co-organizers, especially to the Asia-Europe Foundation which has served as an official Secretariat of Seminar Series ever since the year 2000, as well as the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, and the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Philippines Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. My deep appreciation is also to be extended to our co-hosts, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, and the ASEM Global Ageing Center for their unsparing efforts to make this important Seminar possible.

This Seminar which was planned to be held at Gyeongju, one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in Korea last year, was inevitably delayed and moved to online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Though we have missed beautiful venue and close face-to-face dialogue, this hybrid online Seminar has been an invaluable opportunity for us to connect hundreds of world-leading experts on ageing, to confirm the significantly heightened risks and vulnerabilities that older persons face to their lives and dignity throughout the world. And we have fully concurred that the needs are urgent more than ever for domestic, regional, and international actions to promote and protect the human rights of older persons to improve their living conditions.

This Seminar marks the very first and very timely endeavor in the history of the ASEM Human Rights Seminar taking the topic of the human rights of older persons. Pandemic affects all of us. But it has and will have the greatest impact on those already experiencing poverty, poor health, exclusion, and discrimination. It has been proved that older persons are the group affected largest in number and hit hardest in severity. It is nothing but a consequence and a reflection of their weak social, economic, and legal positions in their societies. This pandemic is indeed a wake-up call to these gaps and violations of the human rights of older persons who are equally entitled to the enjoyment of their civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights as listed in the major international human rights treaties.

Closing Remarks on behalf of the host

During the Working Group Discussions, four thematic sub-topics have been dealt with, regarding the older persons' right to autonomy and independence, their right to social protection, their right to non-discrimination, and their right to education and training. Notwithstanding extreme diversities of older persons in their characteristics and great differences in their economic, social, cultural contexts between ASEM partners, we have shared major issues and current status of older persons as a way to build collective understanding and to jointly seek and devise measures to promote and protect the human rights of older persons. Apparently, those rights are interrelated. Required are a holistic vision and inclusive and flexible framework of the human rights of older persons. And the urgency was shared and highlighted to work together across communities, organizations, and countries from the perspective of older persons as holders of human rights.

This Seminar marks, I believe, a very important step forward in the whole stream of ever-increasing efforts to facilitate international cooperation to promote and protect the human rights of older persons. And I am confident that the role of the ASEM Global Ageing Center will become even more important in the years to come as an internationally specialized institute for the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons in bringing various actors from ASEM partners together for this common goal.

Once again, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the organizers of this wonderful event and all participants for engaging in informed and committed discussions. I truly hope and believe that the Seminar will be a valuable addition to the global endeavor to make global society more equitable and freer from discrimination for all.

Thank you very much for your attention.





INFORMAL ASEM SEMINAR ON
Human Rights



Asia-Europe Meeting

20th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights

Human Rights of Older Persons



AGAC 아셈노인인권정책센터
ASEM Global Ageing Center


National
Human Rights
Commission of Korea


외교부
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



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the People's Republic of China



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