

organizers:



Health and Rights of Older Persons in Captivity



Side Event

U.N. 14th Open-ended Working Group on Ageing



On October 7th, 2023, an unprecedented number of older persons, predominantly women, were abducted from their homes in Southern Israel and taken hostage to Gaza by armed Hamas terrorists.

This first-ever incident of terrorists kidnapping elderly individuals, most over 70 years old, from their homes and beds highlights the unique vulnerabilities and experiences of older persons in hostage situations. It underscores the critical need for the international community to take urgent, coordinated action to prevent such atrocities and ensure the protection of older persons' rights.

This crime violates the fundamental human rights and dignity of the elderly, subjecting them to physical and psychological trauma, denial of essential healthcare access, and social isolation from families and communities. Taking elderly hostages warrants in-depth research, investigation, and learning to urgently inform the UN's Ageing agenda.

We invite the global community working towards a Convention on the Rights of Older Persons to learn, support and engage in this critical dialogue.

On-line Live

Register now

Wednesday

May
22th

13:00 | New York
19:00 | Geneva
20:00 | Jerusalem

Register now



Agenda



13:00 Welcome!



Co - Chairs:
Adv. Orit Rishpi - Lavi
WePower
Dr. Inon Schenker
Impact

13:15 The Unique Vulnerabilities of Older Persons in Captivity



Prof. Ella Cohn-Shwartz
Ben Gurion University of the Negev

13:30 TBC

13:45 Strengthening the International Legal and Operational Framework for the Protection of Older Persons



Prof. Irvin Cotler
Former Minister of Justice of Canada, Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights

14:00 "I am 78 years old and was kidnaped by Hamas. I was held hostage for 49 days and nights"



Margalit Moses
Kibbutz Nir Oz, Southern Israel

14:20 Closing remarks and a way forward



Dr. Cynthia Stuen
International Federation on Ageing