



WEAAD 2024 DESA INPEA Virtual Joint Event 14 June 2024: Speaker Bios



Dr. Yongjie Yon is a Technical Officer on Ageing and Health in the Policy and Governance for Health Through the Life-Course unit at the WHO Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen, Denmark. Dr. Yon was a Doctoral Fellow with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and received his PhD in Gerontology from the University of Southern California, United States. He has published in leading academic journals on research relating to public health including ageism, elder abuse, child maltreatment, intergenerational relations, oral health, housing, road traffic injuries and health disparities. Prior to WHO, Dr. Yon worked for the Federal Government of Canada as a Policy Analyst on ageing policies.

Nataša Todorović, Elder Abuse Prevention Expert at Red Cross of Serbia, and President of the Gerontological Society of Serbia and INPEA Regional Representative for Europe.



Natasa Todorovic is a Psychologist, Master of Public Health and current PhD candidate at the Medical School of Belgrade University. Her primary work over the past two decades has focused on the effects of demographic ageing, in particular on elder abuse and different aspects of care (long-term care systems, informal caregivers). She is an active researcher looking into different ageing-related topics, with particular interest in violence against older persons and older women and accessibility of long-term care. She is active in advocacy for improved quality of life of older persons at global, regional and national level through her work in the Red Cross of Serbia, as well as through several international platforms.

Natasa Todorovic is the regional representative for Europe of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), the President of the Gerontological society of Serbia. She is co-leading the Care and Support Thematic Action Group for HelpAge International Healthy Ageing Platform. In 2018 she was

awarded the International Rosalie S. Wolf Award in Elder Abuse Prevention, by INPEA. In 2024 she received the Andjelka Milic award “For supporting the development of knowledge creation in the field of gender studies in Serbia (theory and research)”. She is a co-author of multiple scientific papers and conference proceedings as well as co-author of 20 publications.



Claudia Mahler, UN Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of all Human Rights by Older Persons

www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/ie-older...

Ms. Claudia Mahler (Austria) assumed her role as Independent Expert in May 2020. She is a senior researcher in the field of economic, social and cultural rights for the German Institute for Human Rights since 2010. She was also a visiting professor at the Alice Salomon Hochschule in 2020-2021



MONSIEUR SAFARI RUNIGA Junior,

Je suis Monsieur **SAFARI RUNIGA Junior**, Avocat au Barreau près la Cour d'Appel de Kisangani. Défenseur des droits de l'homme depuis plus de vingt ans militant dans des organisations de défense des droits de l'homme au sein de la Société Civile Congolaise. Bilingue et engagé, Monsieur SAFARI RUNIGA Junior milite pour le respect des droits des sans voix tant sur le plan national, régional qu'international. Actuellement, Je suis Conseiller chargé d'Etudes à la Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme de la République Démocratique du Congo depuis mars 2023.

Laura Mills, Age & Disability Researcher, Crisis Response, Amnesty International



Laura Mills is a researcher at Amnesty International focusing on at-risk groups during armed conflict and emergency situations, with a particular focus on older people and people with disabilities. At Amnesty International, she has documented human rights abuses during the conflicts in Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and most recently in Pakistan. From 2018 to 2021, she was a researcher at Human Rights Watch, working on civil and political rights, disability rights, older persons' rights, and health across several countries. From 2012 to 2018, she was based in Moscow, Russia and Kyiv, Ukraine, where she worked as a correspondent for The Associated Press and The Wall Street Journal.

Dorcas Shambi MWANDEMBO INPEA Intern and student at UMB, Boston, Mass USA



Ms MWANDEMBO Shambi Dorcas (she/her) is a PhD student at the School of Global Inclusion and Social Development (SGISD). Her research focuses on aging populations, particularly the intersectionality of ageism and discrimination faced by ethnic minority older adults in accessing healthcare services, including palliative care and informal long-term care (LTC).

Advocating for human rights in access to health services to the ethnic minority older adults in the US. She has been a volunteer at International Network of Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) since 2019 to date.

In Kenya, Shambi has experience in government programs for older adults, including long-term care (LTC), social protection, and establishing data for aging populations programs. In the US, her studies concentrate on the barriers to healthcare access and communication obstacles that ethnic minority older adults encounter when seeking for the available services they need.

Shambi holds a MS in Gerontology, Research and Policy, and a post-graduate certificate in Gender Leadership and Public Policy (GLPP) from UMass Boston. She also earned an MSc in Global Aging and Policy from the University of Southampton in the UK, a Master of Arts in International Public Policy (IPP) from the University of Tsukuba in Japan, and a Bachelor of Arts in Community Development from Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya.