

PANELLISTS' BIO



**Open-ended Working Group on Ageing
third working session**
21-24 August 2012



Bem Angwe

Executive Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission (Nigeria)

Professor Bem Angwe is a Professor of Law and the Executive Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria.

Prior to this, he taught International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law at the University of Jos for 17 years. He had also served as an adviser to the Honourable Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice in Nigeria.



Najat El Mekkaoui

*Member at the National Council of Human Rights (Morocco)
In charge of social protection for older people*

Najat El Mekkaoui is Professor in Economics at the University of Paris Dauphine (France). She is a distinguished visiting fellow at Oxford University and research fellow at the Economic Research Forum.

She completed her PhD studies in Economics at the University of Paris Dauphine and her Masters degree in Economics and Finance at the University of Pantheon Sorbonne.

Her research is on ageing and social protection systems. She coordinates projects for national and international institutions on savings and development in Morocco, savings and ageing in Portugal, pension information systems and, employment and pension reforms in France.

She participated with the World Bank (Social Protection Department) in a project on pension systems in Morocco and in the MENA Region.

In 2011, she was nominated to the National Council of Human Rights in Morocco. At the National Council of Human Rights, she is on charge of ageing and social protection for older people in Morocco and she is involved with the working group on the "Development of International Relations, Partnerships and Cooperation".

Her current research programme is focused upon on social protection in developing countries, household accumulation, insurance decision and retirement saving.



K. R. Gangadharan

International Federation on Ageing

Dr. K. R. Gangadharan is the Director of Heritage Hospital and Chairman of Heritage Foundation in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India. Dr. Gangadharan's aim is to offer healthcare facilities to the elderly at with high quality service at affordable prices in India. He believes in introducing innovative programs that benefit society, and has done so with a focus on programs that offer respite to both families and caregivers.

Dr. Gangadharan is a member of the National Council of Older Persons, so appointed by the Government of India, through the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Additionally, Mr. Gangadharan serves as a member of the Andhra Pradesh State Advisory Council on Older Persons.

Heritage Hospital is the first private Indian hospital for the elderly that has grown in size since its establishment in 1994. The Hospitals' Heritage Eldercare Service is a leader in service provision for older people in India, offering a variety of service including home care, Dial A Driver, and Call A Doctor. A particularly unique initiative is the training of youth from poorer and disadvantaged households to offer bedside homecare assistance to the elderly. To date, over one thousand young people have participated in this program.



Athina-Eleni Georgantzi

Legal and Research Officer, AGE Platform Europe

A lawyer and a holder of two Masters degrees, on human rights (Université de Strasbourg) and on European social protection (KatholiekeUniversiteitLeuven),

Ms.Georgantzi is the legal and research officer at AGE Platform Europe, a European network of organizations that represent over 30 million older people in the continent. She has contributed with legal expertise to AGE work on age limits and barriers older persons face in access to financial services, anti-discrimination and fundamental rights.

She represents AGE on the Drafting Group of the Council of Europe on a non-binding instrument on older people's rights and contributes to the work towards a horizontal anti-discrimination directive. She has coordinated several AGE publications on older people's rights in the European Union, autonomy and independent living related to the fields of transport, accessibility, health and ICT and the involvement of older people in research activities.



Anne-Mette Kjær Hesselager

Head of Section, Law and International, Danish Ministry of Social Affairs and Integration

Anne-Mette Kjaer was born in 1980.

Anne-Mette Kjær Hesselager is Head of Section at the Division of Law and International at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Integration (Denmark).

Since 2008 she was responsible for the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Denmark as well as she was responsible for the campaign leading up to the election of Mr. Stig Langvad in the Committee of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She has also since 2008 been engaged in the work carried out in the Commission for Social Development and follows the work of the UN on the social field very closely.

Anne-Mette Kjær Hesselager has a Master in Political Science from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark as well as a Master in Strategic Studies from the University of Aberdeen, Great Britain.



Horst Krumbach

Nursing Home Administrator – Germany

Horst Krumbach, born in Germany in 1964, is the founder and CEO of the German nonprofit organization 'Generationsbruecke Deutschland,' which translates "Generation's Bridge Germany." Generationsbruecke enhances the quality of life for nursing home and assisted living elders and brings generations together in mutually rewarding relationships by honoring the human spirit and creating life-enriching volunteer opportunities.

Horst holds degrees both in banking and Roman Catholic theology. While working in a German nursing home Horst received a grant to study the work of Bessie's Hope, a Denver/Colorado based nonprofit organization in the United States. He was so inspired by their intergenerational concept that he adapted it to German standards and transferred it to the German nursing home he was running as administrator.

Following receipt of nationwide prestigious awards including personal appreciation of German chancellor Angela Merkel, which included newspaper and TV-coverage, more nursing homes and schools took interest in this programme which finally led to the establishment of "Generationsbruecke Deutschland." Presently their intergenerational concept has already been applied by sixteen partners in different German locations.



Claudia Martin

Co-Director of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

Claudia Martin is the Co-Director of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and Professorial Lecturer in Residence at American University Washington College of Law. She oversees the academic coordination of the Academy's prestigious human rights specialized summer programme, the Inter-American Moot Court Competition and the Annual Meeting on Human Rights. She also supervises the scholarly production of the Academy, including the Inter-American Human Rights Digest and the publication of books, articles and specialized reports.

Ms. Martin has several publications on international law, international and comparative human rights law and Inter-American human rights law. She has lectured extensively to lawyers, judges, and human rights professors around the world on the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Human Rights System.

Her many appointments include serving as a Member of the Editorial Board, Oxford Reports on International Law in Domestic Courts, Oxford University Press and Amsterdam Center for International Law; and as a Contributing editor to Oxford Reports on International Human Rights Law, Oxford University Press.



Amanda McRae

Disability Rights Researcher, Human Rights Watch

Amanda McRae is a disability rights researcher and former Western Balkans researcher and Finberg Fellow at Human Rights Watch.

She has focused her work on the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly mental and intellectual disabilities, and was author of the report "Once you Enter, You Never Leave: Deinstitutionalization of Persons with Intellectual or Mental Disabilities in Croatia," published by Human Rights Watch in September 2010.

McRae holds a Juris Doctor degree from Duke University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Carleton College.



Alejandro Morlachetti

Professor of Law

Alejandro Morlachetti holds a Master of Laws degree (LL.M) from Columbia University (New York, 1997) and a Law degree from the School of Law of the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina (1990). From 1998 he has worked as an independent consultant for several international organizations, including: UNICEF, UNDP, PAHO/WHO, UNFPA, ILO, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

He has been an advisor of several governments on how to integrate human rights and gender into national public policies and legislation, in particular related to social rights and strengthening the capacity of countries to develop and implement human rights based programmes and services and promoting the use of mechanisms of protection available in the UN human rights and Regional systems and the standards and decisions that have been issued by UN treaty bodies.

He is a Professor of Economic, Social and Cultural rights at the Human Rights Master Degree, University of La Plata, Argentina. He is a Visiting Professor of a Seminar on Public Policies with a Human Rights Perspective at the University of Concepcion, Chile and he is a Research Fellow (Migration & Human Rights Program - Centre of Human Rights) at the National University of Lanus, Argentina.



Louise Richardson

Vice- President AGE Platform Europe

Louise Richardson was born in Dublin and educated at University College Dublin. She lived in Great Britain and South America for many years before returning to Ireland to work in University College Dublin.

In 1998, she was appointed Director of the 1999 International Year of Older People in Ireland. She subsequently held posts as CEO of the Irish Hospice Foundation and CEO of the Older Women's Network.

Since 2003, she has been actively involved in AGE Platform Europe initially as the Irish representative on the Age Discrimination Expert Group, and then as a Council member.

She has held the position of Vice-President of AGE Platform Europe since 2008.

She is currently working as a consultant on ageing issues and is a frequent speaker at international conferences and events. She also works as an expert for the European Commission evaluating proposals and reviewing funded projects relating to ageing.



Susan Ryan

The Honorable Age Discrimination Commissioner - Australia

Susan Ryan was appointed as Australia's first Age Discrimination Commissioner on 30 July 2011 for a five year term.

Up until her appointment as Commissioner, Susan led two major community groups campaigning for an Australian Human Rights Act.

She has held a number of leadership positions in the superannuation industry, governance roles at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, and has been Womens Ambassador for ActionAid Australia.

From 1975 to 1988, Susan was Senator in the Australian Parliament, becoming the first woman to hold a Cabinet post in a federal Labor Government. She held senior portfolios in the Hawke Government as Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on the Status of Women and Special Minister of State.

She led several Ministerial delegations to international meetings including UNESCO in 1983.

As Education Minister, Susan saw school retention rates double and unprecedented growth in universities and TAFEs, Australia's vocational training colleges.

She pioneered extensive anti-discrimination and equal opportunity legislation, including the landmark Sex Discrimination Act 1984 and the Affirmative Action Act 1986.

She was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia for services to the Australian parliament in 1990.



Charlie Sabatino

Director ABA Commission on Law and Aging

Charles P. Sabatino, J.D., is the Director of the ABA Commission on Law and Aging where, since 1984, he has been responsible for research, project development, consultation, and education in areas of guardianship, health law, long term care, capacity issues, surrogate decision making, and legal services delivery for the elderly, including professional ethics.

Mr. Sabatino is a past NAELA president and a part time adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center where he teaches Law and Aging. He received his A.B. from Cornell University and J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and is a member of the Virginia and D.C. bars.