



Age Action statement to Open Ended Working Group on Ageing
30th July – 1st August 2014

Founded in 1992 Age Action is a non-government organisation that campaigns for better policies and services for older people and works to empower older people to live full lives as actively engaged citizens and to promote and protect their rights to comprehensive high quality services according to their changing needs. We also work on global ageing and draw attention to issues older people face in developing countries in Ireland.

We in Age Action have been following the progression of the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing since its inception in 2010 and thank the Working Group, Member States and contributors for their work to date. We support the drafting of a Convention on the Rights of Older People and think a new Convention, should Ireland ratify it, would help bridge gaps in protection of the rights of older people in Ireland in areas such as elder abuse, dementia, older people in nursing homes, protection of the family, employment & pensions, social security & the right to adequate standard of living and health.¹

As the global population ages and projections show that this will continue Age Action also supports the drafting of a new Convention to ensure there is protection for the rights of this growing cohort of people worldwide. We need a common minimum standard set of rights for older people that Governments can sign up to. These would not necessarily be new rights, but the articulation of how each human right specifically applies to older people and what measures Governments must take to comply with it.

In addition a new Convention would provide a welcome cultural shift in how older people in Ireland and globally are perceived. Ageism is too prevalent and older adults are often seen as a burden rather than the bearers of rights who have helped build the infrastructure of their respective societies and economics, and continue to contribute even when they are no longer in employment. A new Convention would help increase the visibility of older people and move towards older people being viewed as rights holders rather than recipients of charity or welfare.

We thus urge Member States, including Ireland, in this upcoming session from 30th July – 1st August 2014 to move towards the drafting of a Convention in order to adequately address the protection of the rights of older people.

¹ Please see Age Action's submission to the OEWG 2014 [here](#) for more details on these issues.