



Input

Ina Voelcker

The human rights of older people: What is BAGSO doing?

Erasmus+ project: Learning, teaching and training event

Dublin, 18th of November 2022

About BAGSO (1)

Umbrella association of around 120 member organisations

- Social associations
- Senior citizens' organisations of political parties and trade unions
- Self-help organisations and advocacy groups
- Associations of disability organisations and patient organisations
- Christian organisations
- Sports associations

Together they represent many millions of older people



About BAGSO (2): What it stands for

- Self-determined and healthy ageing in social security
- Differentiated images of old age
- Active and engaged life in old age
- Protection in case of illness, dependency, poverty or loneliness
- Opportunities to be involved and participate in decision-making without being discriminated due to age
- Solidarity between generations

About BAGSO (3): How it works

- Representation in political processes and boards of civil society organisations
- Elaboration of positions and statements
- Dialogue with political authorities
- Conferences, meetings and workshops
- Pilot projects for good living in old age
- Publications and public relations

About BAGSO (4): Projects

- Im Alter IN FORM (In old age IN FORM)
- Network office "Local alliances for people with dementia"
- Secretariat for International Policy on Ageing
- DigitalPakt Alter
- Service centre "Digitalisation and education for older persons"
- Digital Compass
- German Senior Citizens' Day
- EU projects (SenGuide, euPrevent PROFILE and Safeguarding older persons' legal and human rights...)

About BAGSO (5): Key demands 2022

→ Providing opportunities for participation of older persons in all municipalities

Consultations, coming together and promotion of engagement

Providing municipalities with appropriate financial means

→ Take older persons along in the digitalisation process

Digital learning locations in all municipalities

The right of living without the Internet



About BAGSO (6): Key demands 2022

→ Strengthening the rights of older persons

Expanding article 3 of the German Basic Law with the inclusion of "age" as a characteristic

Adoption of a UN convention on the rights of older persons

→ Reforming the care system

Wage replacement benefits for family caregivers similar to parental allowance

Improving the quality of inpatient care



Our international work: Secretariat for International Policy on Ageing



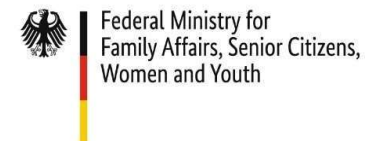
- Representing the voice of civil society in international processes
- Expressing the call for a UN convention on the rights of older persons on national and international level
- Promoting bilateral und multilateral exchanges



→ Striving to strengthen the rights of older persons worldwide

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Our work on the human rights of older persons (1)

- Our belief: Every person, independent of his/her age, must be able to fully participate in society, in Germany and elsewhere.
- Areas of particular interest to BAGSO:
 - Digitalisation and education
 - Social care and healthcare
 - Consumer rights protection

National actions

- Member of the Council of the German Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency, e.g. participation in consultation on discrimination during the COVID-19 pandemic highlighting the impact of the then ongoing debate about triage for older people, the reactivation of negative images of ageing and the limitation of fundamental rights of people in institutionalised care.
- Participation in other political debates through letters to Ministries, press releases and statements in consultations, e.g. on a draft law about triage or on a law providing for a energy flat rate, initially excluding pensioners.

International framework (1)

- **Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)** – set of non-binding recommendations to States, adopted by United Nations in 2002.

Goals of include: “full realisation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all older persons” (para 12(a))

Broad affirmation: “The promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms ... Combatting discrimination based on age and promoting the dignity of older persons...” (para 13)

Since then, implementation, review and appraisal (every 5 years) including Ministerial Conferences and reporting at all levels.

International framework (2)

Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing of the United Nations (OEWG-A) set up in 2010/11, “for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons by considering the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and identifying possible gaps and how best to address them, including by considering, as appropriate, the feasibility of further instruments and measures, and requests the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support within existing resources for the duration of its mandate.”

Meets once a year (week before Easter) in New York. Participation of Member States, NGOs, national human rights institutes and UN organizations.

International framework (3)

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) –

secretariat for all mechanisms and technical agency on human rights, e.g. secretariat to the Human Rights Council (HRC) and UN Treaty Bodies (e.g. the Convention of the Right of People With Disabilities).

Independent Expert on the human rights of older persons (special procedure)

Important, substantial resolution on the human rights of older persons by Human Right Council in September 2021 with concrete language concerning ageism and age discrimination, and actions, such as a report on normative standards and obligations and a multi-stakeholder meeting which took place in August 2022

What is BAGSO doing?

- Events about the human rights of older people, e.g. this year during a ministerial conference on MIPAA in Rome and at national level
- Publications (statements, briefings etc.)
<https://www.bagso.de/english/publications-in-english/>
- National advocacy (letters, meetings with politicians and Ministries)
- Joining forces with international organisations and networks:
AGE Platform Europe and the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People

What civil society organisations and citizens can do?



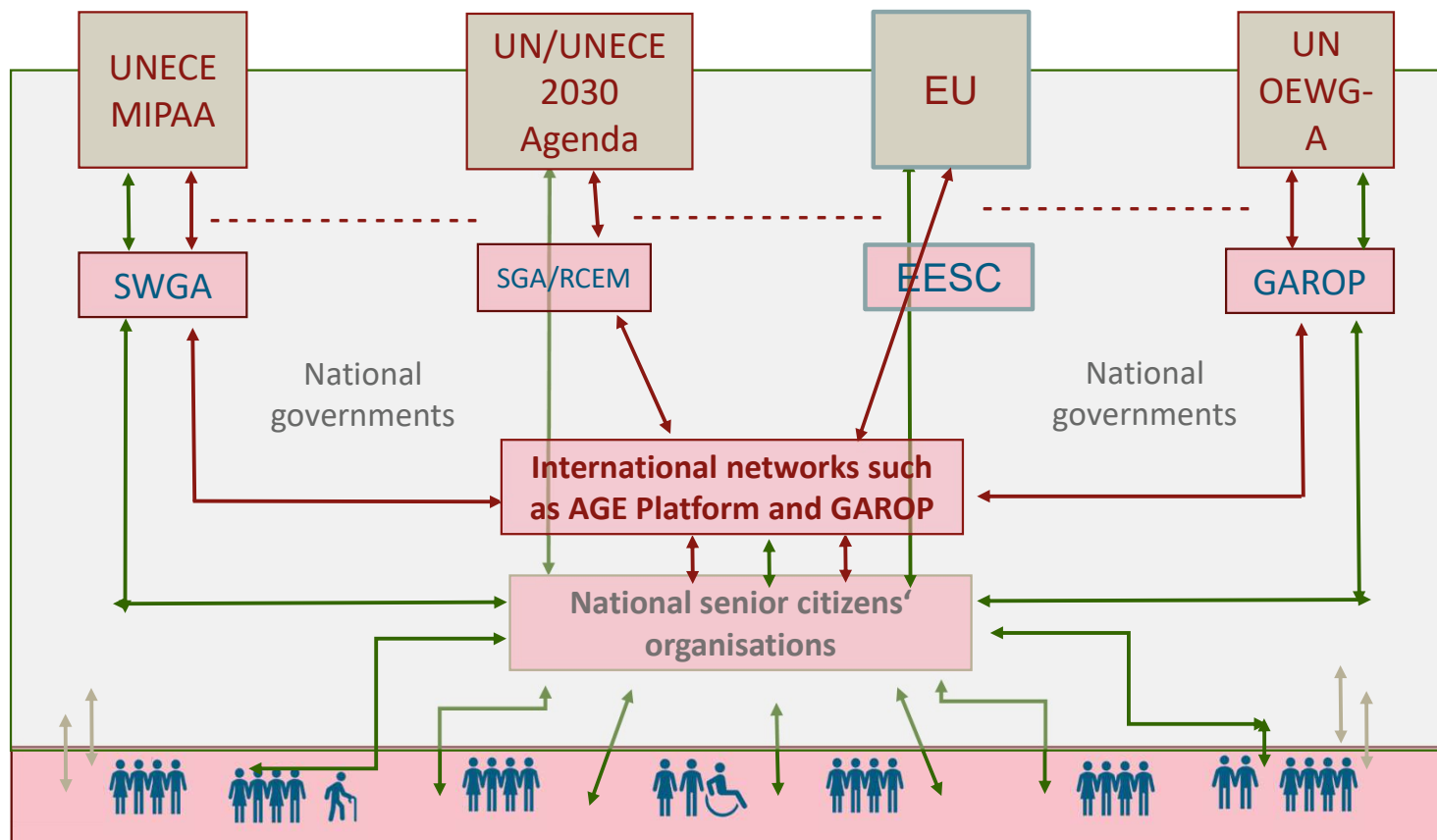
- Join discussions at United Nations by seeking accreditation for the OEWG-A and participating (also online) in the sessions via UNWebTV
- Join the movement by becoming a member of the Global Alliance (GAROP) which brings together over 400 organisations from across the world
- Providing written inputs to the calls for inputs by the Independent Expert for her reports to the UN-General Assembly and the HRC
- Following and supporting the global AgeWithRights campaign on Twitter #agewithrights

What civil society organisations and citizens can do?



- Cite reports and resolutions of human rights mechanisms referring to older people's human rights
- Lobby governments to include older people in human rights reporting and engage in the discussions about the human rights of older people
- Interact with other (national) civil society organisations, including human rights organisations, to make them aware of older people's human rights and discussions at international level

Overview of civil society participation



Resources

- BAGSO position papers and briefing on human rights of older people, <https://www.bagso.de/english/publications-in-english/>
- OEWG-A, <https://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/>
- Independent Expert, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/ie-older-persons>
- EU Council Conclusions on the human rights of older people, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/10/12/improving-the-well-being-of-older-persons-in-the-era-of-digitalisation-council-adopts-conclusions/>
- AGE Platform Europe, <https://www.age-platform.eu/publication-type/age-publications>
- GAROP, e.g. for advocacy tools <https://rightsofolderpeople.org/garop-advocacy-tools/>

Kontakt



**Thank you very much for your
attention.**

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