



Commissioner for Older People
for Northern Ireland

UN Convention on Older People: Issues and Challenges


Evelyn Hoy – Chief Executive COPNI




COPNI Legislation

The Commissioner for Older People (NI) Act 2011 – due regard to...

UN Principles for Older Persons (1991):

- Independence,
 - Participation,
 - Care,
 - Self-Fulfilment
 - Dignity
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Ageism, Stereotyping and Discrimination

- Older people are costly – not true, not fair.
 - Arbitrary age discrimination
 - Slow pace of AGFS legislation
 - Services designed and delivered without the input of older people
 - Not involving users in regulation and inspection of services.
 - Transition between service programmes in care.
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Global Considerations

- Who is old?
- Is old the same no matter what age?
- Ageing isn't just about health
- Existing HR instruments - don't specify age



Convention tests


- Improve accountability
- Combat Ageism
- Protect Older People
- Safeguard the rights of Older People



Challenges for Implementation

- What rights to Include?
- Avoiding Duplication of existing rights.
- Setting the appropriate agenda for change
 - *raising awareness through education and information sharing.*

COPNI - Case Study

- Older Person aged 100; resident at Care Home
 - Family member of the older person has raised a number of complaints regarding care of their relative
 - COPNI attended meeting and helped to agree plan of action to protect interests of the older person
 - Following further complaints from family member the Older Person has tenancy terminated with 7 days notice.
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Conclusion

- Working towards a UN Convention.
 - Promoting the Interests and Rights of Older People.
 - Protecting and Valuing our Older People.
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