

CORV feedback

MIPAA+20 : Where are we now?

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CORV SXM: Fraternal greeting

Personal experience

- person over **70 years** of age,
- trade unionist with a career as a trade union leader of **46 years**,
- ▶ leader in national, Caribbean and Latin American organizations of retired pensioners and Senior Citizens for the **last 20 years**

CORV representative

- representative of the English Caribbean in the CORV Coordination
- ▶ CORV Ambassador to International Organizations for **10 years**
- ▶ **ADI representative and AAC co-coordinator**

CORV process for input

REPORT CARIBBEAN REGION

- ▶ Virtual meeting subregion Anguilla, Saint Martin, Sint Maarten
- ▶ Feb 2022
- ▶ **Status of seniors rights**
- ▶ No equal rights
- ▶ Which realization level
- ▶ Right to adequate standard of living
- ▶ Change equality paradigm

INFORME LUZ + POLITICAL STATEMENT

- ▶ **Estado de los Derechos Humanos en America Latina y el Caribe**: Resultados del Encuentro Latinoamericano y Caribeno de personas mayores y sus organizaciones sobre protagonismo politico en perspectiva de derechos humanos.
- ▶ **15 rights considered of Interamerican Convention**
- ▶ 400 older persons
- ▶ 19 countries

**Caribbean
MIAPAA+20
Report
not human rights
based**

OCT 2022

Ageing and the **Rights of Older Persons** in Latin America and the Caribbean

San José Charter on the
Rights of Older Persons 2012

the most significant of the regional agreements

- ▶ emphasized the **rights-based approach** and
- ▶ actions designed **to increase protection for the rights of older persons.**

Other international agreements

- ▶ Montevideo Consensus,
- ▶ the decade of healthy aging,
- ▶ Agenda 2030
- ▶ **Inter-American Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons**

CORV: progress in human rights on paper and no compliance

Madrid International Action Plan +20

- problems or challenges identified at that time are still valid

lack of commitment on the part of the States to assume the challenges of demographic change,

- not a legally binding instrument.
- No independent mechanisms for verification and enforceability of the human rights of older persons.

Other international agreements

limitations in its implementation have increased.

to date we have **little compliance**

social justice on paper promoted by experts and agencies that **offer a more prosperous and equitable world**

CORV: To international organizations

challenges

- ▶ Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing +20
- ▶ Montevideo Consensus +9
- ▶ **Inter-American Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Older Persons** +7
- ▶ merely bureaucratic reports of governments that adhere diplomatically but do not take the necessary steps within their countries to make them fully binding

opportunities

- ▶ Turn a deaf ear to the bureaucratic reports of governments
- ▶ continue to **promote these instruments in favor of a life with dignity** for older persons and
- ▶ act more effectively to **implement and enforce them**.

CORV: Policies on the elderly not a priority

challenges

- ▶ The complex problems that affect our well-being have not been addressed as a cross-cutting issue that **requires a generalized medium- and long-term strategy.**
- ▶ In most countries there is a **lack of coordination between the actions** carried out by institutions at the different local, regional and national levels and the different spheres of action.

Focus of policies

continue to be of

- ▶ a welfare and dispersed nature
- ▶ **no real focus on human rights.**

CORV: Neoliberalism not a human rights approach

Focus of Neoliberalism

only on demographic and epidemiological effects of aging,

- ▶ Aging is a burden for the public in terms of spending on health, pensions and long-term care,
- ▶ justifies to structure actions to transfer increasing costs to the elderly of today and the future.
- ▶ State transfers its social responsibilities to others [to individuals or to the family and the third sector, (the market)] so that they assume the costs of aging

See also conclusions and recommendations in the Caribbean MIPAA+20 report

Human rights based approach
elderly are **bearers of rights**

- ▶ valuable contributors to the development of countries

=> address the needs, social problems and contributions

CORV: **respect our human rights!**

Pluricultural & multilingual

- ▶ made up of Afro-descendants, indigenous peoples, mestizo population,
- ▶ integration of new and varied local ethnic groups,
- ▶ we are an expression of the diversity of people and
- ▶ belong to diverse communities, with pluricultural richness.
- ▶ our form of expression is multilingual,

urgent need

- ▶ to **improve our living conditions**
- ▶ through **respect for our human rights**
- ▶ and the **full exercise, without discrimination or exclusion** of the same.
- ▶ to establish a prompt and differentiated attention to the elderly,
- ▶ according to their diverse needs and local specificity

Indepent expert Rights Older Persons: Full realization of human rights!

article 25 Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- ▶ we have the right to an **adequate standard of living**
- ▶ its realization in Western European countries is higher than in South America and the Caribbean.
- ▶ Measured by Human Development Index

art 2 same declaration

- ▶ we are entitled to an equal standard of living **without any discrimination.**
- ▶ The realization of our right to an adequate standard of living is still discriminatory:
- ▶ in the territory of our European states a higher standard of living defined as adequate, than we do here in the Caribbean.

CORV: Ageism = Discrimination of elderly

Stereotypes and prejudice

Different and discriminatory treatment of the elderly prevails,

- ▶ based on stereotypes and prejudice against them,
- ▶ which undermine their social role and capabilities.

=> This makes the elderly invisible,

- ▶ exposes them to abuse and mistreatment,
- ▶ limits their well-being and autonomy,
- ▶ also ignores the important contributions they make.

Age discrimination

evident in different social spheres:

- ▶ employment,
- ▶ transportation,
- ▶ health system,
- ▶ social networks
- ▶ the financial system,
- ▶ Social and political participation
- ▶ in the family environment itself.

CORV: Increasing poverty and vulnerability structural discrimination

Poverty – unemployment –
employment at very
advanced age

- ▶ the **greatest inequality**,
- ▶ **high levels of poverty** among the elderly,
- ▶ many must continue working at very advanced ages
 - ▶ due to the **low coverage of provisional systems**
 - ▶ The elderly work in precarious conditions and **without social benefits**,
- ▶ **high unemployment and labor informality.**

health systems

with health systems in crisis

- ▶ insufficient or no capacity of the State to support the demand for care.
- ▶ and unprepared to meet our needs in conditions of food and nutritional insecurity

CORV: Still no Equal Rights

Many references to violations of **the right to non-discrimination** or the right to equality in the realization of human rights.

- ▶ **74 years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, we have not yet realized all our human rights on an equal basis.
- ▶ **56 years after the UN adopted**
 - ▶ **the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and**
 - ▶ **the International Covenant on Economic Social Cultural Rights**
- ▶ we do not have equal rights .
- ▶ ***Caribbean MIPAA+20 report does not describe issues as discrimination but as differences in achievements***

CORV: Geopolitical Discrimination

Independent states

- ▶ former colonial territories are now independent countries: states
- ▶ The **realization of right to an adequate standard of living is still not equal as in Europe**
- ▶ *Omission tMIAPAA+20 Report: Caribbean Migration to territories under jurisdiction of EU states [Anguilla, Saint Martin North, Sint Maarten South] and US territories*

European territories

- ▶ not independent countries territories under the jurisdiction of European states
- ▶ still under neoliberalism in its colonial and neocolonial form.
- ▶ The **realization of our right to an adequate standard of living is still discriminatory**
- ▶ *So we fight for the realization of all our human rights at the same level as the level realized in the overseas part of our states in Europe*

Dream: **all rights in all the Antilles equal as in Europe**

- ▶ If we are fighting for the same adequate standard of living as the elderly have in the territories of our European states,
- ▶ would not you want to achieve the same level of quality of life as the inhabitants of the States in Western Europe?
- ▶ So why not claim and fight for this same adequate standard of living for all of us in Latin America and the Caribbean?
- ▶ ***Caribbean MIPAA+20 report describe differences between countries and territories, but does not make reference to an equal human rights realization level to be realized!***

Change equality paradigm

Why is there this difference in realization in the adequate standard of living in Latin America and the Caribbean compared to Europe?

- ▶ Why this inequality in the level of achievement and
- ▶ why do not we fight for the same adequate level for all human beings in the world?

Well, I propose a paradigm shift in equality:

- ▶ instead of fighting and claiming the right to **equality within each of our states,**
- ▶ propose fighting and claiming the right to an adequate standard of living **equal to the level achieved in Europe.**

**Differences: no
discrimination?**

OCTOBER 2022

Right to Social security

Gaps = discriminatory realization

significant progress ?

- ▶ Older persons are a key focus of attention for social policy and social protection,
- ▶ many countries have adopted national policies on ageing and/or established national councils.
- ▶ Contributory pensions are providing higher real incomes
- ▶ and cover an increasing proportion of older persons

But significant gaps

- ▶ **coverage rates vary** significantly across countries.
- ▶ Non-contributory pensions generally only provide a **minimal level of income** to older persons, **below the national poverty line** in most cases,
- ▶ in some countries **significant numbers of older persons with no pension income**

Social pensions recommendations **does not realize equal realization for all**

Non-contributory age pensions

- ▶ Ensure that these complement other pillars of the pension system
- ▶ And guarantee a minimum pension income to all older persons;
- ▶ Expand the coverage
- ▶ and progressively increase the level of non-contributory age pensions to provide an adequate standard of living;

Cost of Living Adjustments

- ▶ Pay greater attention to the need to increase pensions in response to increases in the cost of living
- ▶ and implement regular and systematic cost-of-living adjustments to pensions;

National Reform recommendations does not address redistribution of colonial wealth

Pension reform

- ▶ Monitor the sustainability of national insurance schemes
- ▶ consider the need for parametric reforms such as
 - ▶ increases to pension contribution rates,
 - ▶ the rate at which entitlements are accrued,
 - ▶ and retirement ages;

Reform informal economy

- ▶ Promote formalization of the informal economy through sector-specific interventions
- ▶ to bring more workers under the umbrella of social insurance, so that when these workers reach retirement age, they will be entitled to a contributory pension;
- ▶ Promote flexible retirement for formal sector workers and support for older persons working in the informal sector,
- ▶ so that they can continue to be economically active, without negatively affecting pension entitlements, for as long as they want to work and are able to do so.

National Participation Recommendation

**does not refer to DE-colonial thinking ,
redistribution of wealth and reoperations**

Policies and legislation

- ▶ Ensure that policies and laws for ageing and older persons are fit for purpose and
- ▶ consider the need for new, updated or supplementary policies;

Participation in decision making

- ▶ Renew links between governments and organizations of older persons
- ▶ expand opportunities for older persons to participate in decision-making;

CORV: Participation of older persons

challenges

- ▶ While participation is insistently mentioned in all documents and recognized as a fundamental human right in its public political and social dimensions
- ▶ States have a double discourse
- ▶ access to leaders and grassroots organizations in key decision-making spaces is limited and hindered

opportunities

- ▶ time to initiate a broad political debate with a vision of the future,
- ▶ with the active participation and formal integration of the elderly.
- ▶ It is up to the State to establish transparent and effective mechanisms to institutionalize the participation of older persons

active social participation recommendation **without reoperations and redistribution of wealth**

housing

Strengthen housing support programmes for older persons,

- ▶ particularly those offering grants for home maintenance and adaptation;

Promote the development of affordable housing options for older persons

- ▶ that facilitate the provision of different forms of care, such as assisted living facilities or continuing care retirement communities;

transportation

- ▶ Expand the provision of concessionary public transport
- ▶ develop affordable personal transport options tailored to older persons;

facilitate engagement recommendation without indicating realization level as in EU

programs

- ▶ Develop programmes to facilitate in social, educational, recreational, sporting, cultural and civic engagement in their communities,

Target most marginalized

- ▶ with particular attention to those belonging to the most marginalized groups;

Right to Health realization

Gaps = structural discrimination

Progress ?

- ▶ in addressing commitments to advance the health and well-being of older persons
- ▶ In primary health care especially,
- ▶ older persons have free access to health care services
- ▶ And home care programmes have been developed in many countries.

Critical gaps

- ▶ many, if not all, Caribbean countries still need to address **critical gaps in health service delivery.**

Care needs recommendations without addressing brain drain causes?

Palliative care

- ▶ Promote the development of palliative care services to ensure that older persons with terminal illnesses die with dignity and free of pain;

Train health care personnel

- ▶ Train health care personnel specifically in the areas of
 - ▶ geriatrics
 - ▶ gerontology,
 - ▶ palliative care
 - ▶ care of older persons with cognitive impairments including Alzheimer's disease and related dementias

Long-term care needs

root cause in colonial development

Shortage of trained health and care personnel

- ▶ most Caribbean countries do not currently have sufficient national capacity to meet the rising need for high-quality, long-term care as societies age.
- ▶ There remains a critical shortage of specially trained health and care personnel to meet the needs of older persons.

Legislation for care providers

- ▶ Adopt legislative measures to regulate, monitor and enforce best practice standards among long term residential care and day care providers

Critical health challenges **omitted structural development of deficiencies**

COVID19 & NCD's

- ▶ The devastating impact of the pandemic on those with certain chronic health conditions reinforces the need for renewed attention to lifestyle-related NCDs

COVID19 Vaccine hesitancy

- ▶ while vaccine hesitancy emerged as major problem which undermined the Caribbean's response to COVID-19.

CORV: COVID19 Pandemic

exposed structural deficiencies

Bright side

- ▶ some governments have made declarations and proposals that tried to protect us,

Dark side we were preferred victims

due to the deficiencies faced by the health systems and the absence of true State policies. **Elderly have been:**

- ▶ **denied their rights during the pandemic**
- ▶ suffered deprivation of access to health services, violence and abuse.
- ▶ **inadequately treated,**

=> all of which has contributed to maximizing the effects of the disease on the elderly,.

Recommendations

financing is not seen as reoperations?

Universal health care

Promote universalization of the right to health for older persons

- ▶ through measures to strengthen public health care or national health insurance schemes
- ▶ and reduce reliance on out-of-pocket expenditure

Address NCD's

- ▶ Integrate the treatment and management of non/communicable diseases and their risk factors into the primary health care system and
- ▶ ensure that medication for a wide range of NCDs is available through public health systems;

NCD's Risk reduction **demand CARICOM reoperations realization**

Adopt policies, strategies and programmes to address NCD risk factors such as

- ▶ obesity,
- ▶ tobacco and
- ▶ alcohol consumption,
- ▶ physical inactivity

through policies to promote physical activity

- ▶ in schools
- ▶ workplaces and
- ▶ communities;
- ▶ dedicated taxes on alcohol, tobacco and sugar-sweetened drinks;
- ▶ food labelling regulations to promote healthy eating;
- ▶ health information campaigns;

CORV: Pandemic exposed neoliberalism

pandemic

pandemic exposed the worst evil that we suffer in the region

- ▶ that not only has us as victims,
- ▶ but the great poor majorities of our peoples

neo liberalism

- ▶ spread through our territory in recent decades
- ▶ today dominates imposing
- ▶ the most criminal policies adjustments,
- ▶ looting
- ▶ inequality
- ▶ making unscrupulous business with our health and life.

Right to social welfare policies and programmes **which realization level not made explicit**

Progress?

- ▶ social welfare policies and programmes for older persons developed and expanded

Active aging

financial barriers to active ageing reduced by:

- ▶ introducing reduced (or even free) public transport for older persons,
- ▶ creating activity centres
- ▶ organizing social and community events for older persons.

Elder abuse

structural abuse not referred to

No progress, but worsening

one of the most pressing areas of concern

- ▶ There is emerging empirical evidence of **an increase in abuse** during the COVID-19 pandemic (Chang and Levy, 2021)
- ▶ and reports of **a growing problem** in the Caribbean (Newsday, 2021).

response

Governments have responded by

- ▶ seeking to increase public awareness
- ▶ of **ageism and**
- ▶ **all forms of abuse** against older persons.

Recommendation to address elder abuse **not addressing structural development abuse**

legislative

- ▶ for the protection of victims
- ▶ and the punishment of abusers
- ▶ Implement legislation to address elder abuse,
- ▶ including the creation of formal mechanisms for reporting and investigation,

Training

to help them prevent, recognise, and report abuse

- ▶ Provide training and guidelines for
- ▶ health care workers,
- ▶ social workers,
- ▶ care workers and
- ▶ caregivers.

CORV: Increasing Social and political exclusion

Family dependency

- ▶ elderly living predominantly with their children and other family members.
- ▶ limited capacity of families to care for older adults, with dependency,

Feminization of age

- ▶ with greater repercussions of **inequality of older women** due to the feminization of old age,
- ▶ In short, **severe deprivation of social services and rights**, without social security systems

CORV: Digitalization => social exclusion

Inaccessible technology

widespread use in many public and private spheres

⇒ Divides among elderly

⇒ increases situations of

- ▶ discrimination
- ▶ isolation
- ▶ loss of well-being

consequences

large contingents of elderly unable

- ▶ to make use of services
- ▶ or even claim their rights on equal terms
- ▶ making it impossible to achieve their status as citizens with full enjoyment of their rights

Recommendation for social inclusion in Caribbean or global society?

ICT training

- ▶ provide ICT training for older persons to enhance digital and social inclusion;

Stakeholder engagement

Engage with stakeholders such as :

- ▶ telecommunications industry,
- ▶ educational institutions,
- ▶ NGOs
- ▶ community organizations

Social exclusion vs inclusion to restore status quo?

Pandemic & Natural disasters

- ▶ The pandemic also highlighted how many older persons experience a daily double jeopardy of physical and digital social exclusion (Seifert, Cotton, and Xie, 2021).
- ▶ The increased frequency and severity of natural disasters and their impact on older persons is also an urgent concern.

recommendation

- ▶ Make special provision for older persons in disaster risk management plans, including priority, preferential assistance for older persons in disaster response, and recognising the contribution that older persons can make to disaster preparation;
- ▶ Develop and maintain voluntary registers of vulnerable persons, including vulnerable older adults, to facilitate the provision of support and protection, in the event of a disaster;

CORV: effects of climate change

effects

- ▶ increased risks of disasters

affecting in multiple dimensions the development of

- ▶ the economy
- ▶ agriculture
- ▶ integral health
- ▶ water
- ▶ social and productive infrastructure

repercussions

- ▶ on the population
- ▶ especially the elderly
- ⇒ necessary that governments promote actions that
- ▶ limit effects of climate change
- ▶ develop resilience to face adverse situations with positive results.

CORV: To government authorities.

Disaster promotion and attention

- ▶ To institute integrated risk management at all levels,
- ▶ Taking into account that most countries in the region are highly vulnerable,
- ▶ involving the elderly in plans and projects that involve educational actions for disaster promotion and attention.

Emergency response and care

- ▶ it is important that older people are informed and trained in emergency response and care,
- ▶ as well as ensuring that they are part of climate change strategies for environmental justice.

What next?

- ▶ Report human rights violations
- ▶ Eliminate Human rights deficit
- ▶ Redistribution of wealth and resources
- ▶ Reparations for colonialism and slavery

“Aqui y Ahora”

“Here and Now”

CORV :

SINCE 2017 YPACARAI