

**Cuarta Conferencia Regional Intergubernamental sobre
Envejecimiento y Derechos de las Personals Mayores
American Latina y el Caribe.
Asuncion 27 Juneo de 2017**

The International Network for the Prevention on Elder Abuse (INPEA).

Oral Statement

Susan B. Somers,

Madam President, Excellencies, Honored Experts and my colleagues in Civil Society

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the International Network for the Prevention on Elder Abuse (INPEA).

Madam President:

Elder Abuse is an “age old” and an “old age” problem which continues to be a taboo even today.

Elder Abuse in all its forms must not be tolerated

Elder abuse is largely an older women’s issue

Culture and tradition is no excuse for elder abuse

Ageism underlies all elder abuse as older persons themselves revealed in Missing Voices, (WHO/INPEA 2002)

Ageing can bring an “additional risk of abuse, neglect and violence due to increased dependence on others, social isolation and frailty.”, according to “ A Global Response to Elder Abuse and Neglect, (WHO 2008)

We note that INPEA together with other Civil Society Organizations, such as HelpAge, Intl and the International Longevity Centers, both globally and in the Latin American/Caribbean Region have been working for 30 years to end elder abuse.

Last year, however, WHO reports “Abuse of older persons is on the Rise – 1 in 6 affected

“http://who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2017/abuse-older-people/en/?utm_source=WHO+List&utm_campaign=6e1d0b240f-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_05_26&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_823e9e35c1-6e1d0b240f-266306105)

We believed the contribution of the Political Declaration and MIPAA would bring a significant change to the understanding and awareness of the Human Rights of Older Persons.

However, Fifteen years later we still find Older Persons subjected to Elder Abuse. Neglect and Violence in all areas of life

Madam President:

THE PROMISE of MIPAA HAS BEEN BROKEN!

Abuse, Neglect and Violence continues to be perpetrated within the family, in the community, in institutions by the state and transnational spheres within societies themselves.(Four main spheres in Report of SP VAW, Manjoo CSW 56 Session 2012)

We note with appreciation and congratulate the important adoption of the 1st Regional BINDING instrument to protect and promote the Human Rights of Older Person in the Intra-American Region.

However, all Member States of this region MUST act again to ratify. to prove to the world the serious nature of this instrument.

Your neighbors are watching!

Your neighbors to the North have asked "Is there political will?"

WE have answered "Yes!" Our friends in Latin America care about older persons rights not just for older persons in the region but globally.

Importantly, between now and the 8th OEWGA all MS should take every possible opportunity to ensure the outcome is a mandate to begin the drafting process for a new international convention on the human rights for the older persons.

We must "leave no one - of any age - behind."

Thank you,