

Promoting Socio Economic Rights of Older Persons workshop

- The identified challenges older persons face
- Opportunities to promote and improve the socio-economic rights of older persons
- Parliamentary interactions and opportunities
- Links and synergies with other actions
- Strengthening networks on older persons

The identified challenges older persons face

- The absence of an international covenant on older persons
- Poor implementation of the Older Persons Act
- Lack of clear understanding of provisions in current policies, practice and standards
- Problems with access to Foster care grants
- Budget to implement Act provinces under spend
- Living conditions in old age homes,
- NGO are not supported by the state, as opposed to other sectors
- Exploitation of care workers is relatively high

Challenges continue

- Main care givers
- Economic empowerment
- Deprivation among older persons,
- Poverty is higher among the elderly
- Elder abuse cases – do these ever get resolved?

Challenges continue

- New comprehensive social services act – priority – national welfare forum, funding, how org function in relation to the state
- Lack of awareness of the rights of older persons
- In order to achieve the MDG one would need to ratify the ICESCR which will then set the framework to achieve the MDGs
- Care for households affected by HIV and caring for children and those orphaned by HIV
- Older care givers and their needs,

Challenges cont

- Challenges specific to Rural areas
- Limited support
- Limited access to water and sanitation
- Few care givers benefit from child care grants, due to no birth certificates,
- Care givers develop – stressed,
- Inadequate access to health care services,
- Infection by the HI virus.
- Vulnerability?
- Housing and the role of municipalities and Human
- Food security

Summary of Challenges

- Lack of International Human Right Instrument
- Current legislation not implemented
- Existing policy and practice lacking
- Nutritional and dietary needs
- Quality of health care
- Housing: the role of Human Settlements
- Social and food security
- Psychological, mental and cognitive health

Opportunities : promoting socio-economic rights of older persons

- Opportunities to campaign for the ratification of ICESCR to provide for a broader human rights framework
- Campaign for the older persons' convention
- Campaign for the review of implementation the Older Persons Act, which would then request parliament to hold hearings around what needs to happen , to implement the act, and what the state plans to do with regards to this issue.

Opportunities cont

- Advocate for the department to commission research to provide empirical evidence
- Campaign for policies to insist that older persons be assisted first, e.g. Batho Pele principles, to have similar principles as part of government service delivery , at health care facilities, pension payment points, social development,

Parliamentary interactions and opportunities

- Campaign and lobby parliament to support the establishment of an older persons' convention
- Campaign for the review of implementation the Older Persons Act, which would then require Parliament to hold hearings around what needs to happen , to implement the act, and what the state plans to do with regards to this issue.

Parliamentary opportunities con

- Parliament to commission research for them to hold government accountable around the implementation of current legislation
- Older people and decision making Bill of those incapacitated to fast track the process since the 2004 report
- SA Law Reform Commission both elderly and persons with disability assisted capacity and decision making

Links and synergies with other actions

- STOP
- Gogo Getters
- Western Cape Older persons' Forum
- Ikamva La Bantu
- Dementia SA
- Action on Elder Abuse SA
- ACCVV national Counsel
- Abbeyfield SA
- Help Age International
- Litigation similar to Black Sash recent victory against the department of social development
- Use findings from existing studies such as the North West longitudinal study: lack of documents to claims grants

Strengthening networks on older persons

- Western cape based networks: STOP
- Nation wide networks
- Consultative meetings to map a way forward with regards to how to use the findings from this workshop and the networking opportunities granted by this workshop to further the cause for the socio economic rights of older persons.

Closing remarks

- Challenges are enormous in terms of access to services, administrative justice and information to elderly people
- Awareness of the human rights of the elderly
- The lack of awareness on documented studies on challenges especially in rural areas, farm areas and vulnerable communities
- Lack of implementation of existing Policy framework