



# 3rd World Congress of Age Friendly Cities and Communities

16-18 June 2026

Donostia / San Sebastián, Spain

## Pre-Congress Session on 15 June 2026

### Strengthening the links between Human Rights, Equity and Age-Friendly Environments (16:00-17:30)

**Organised by AGE Platform Europe (GNAFCC affiliate member)**

*in collaboration with: Ina Voelcker (BAGSO, GAROP), Silvia Perel-Levin (NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva, INPEA, GAROP), Manuel Veguin (IMSERSO) and Pamela Suero (Society and Ageing Research Lab (VUB), HOMeAGE network).*

#### Background

On 3 April 2025, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a landmark [resolution](#) to establish an intergovernmental working group to draft an international legally binding instrument, i.e. a UN convention on the human rights of older persons. This resolution represents a decisive step to strengthen and protect the rights of older persons worldwide.

This milestone represents the culmination of many years of advocacy and campaigning by older persons, civil society organizations, and other advocates. The extensive evidence gathered throughout this process, in particular at the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing, has clearly shown that the most effective remedy for the gaps and fragmentation within the international human rights framework is the establishment of a dedicated convention on the human rights of older persons.

**The UN convention on the rights of older persons and the global movement toward age-friendly cities and communities are deeply interconnected, both aiming to ensure the dignity, autonomy, and full participation of older persons in society.** It would provide the legal foundation necessary to ensure that age-friendly cities and communities are not just aspirational goals, but concrete realities for older persons worldwide. It would transform existing best practices and policies into binding obligations, fostering environments where older persons can enjoy equal rights and opportunities to flourish.

Beyond the rights to social and political participation, Age-Friendly Cities and Communities actually help protect and promote the right to health, the right to autonomy and independence, the right to housing, etc.

### Objectives:

- Contribute to the UN convention's drafting process, particularly in making sure that the lived realities of old age are adequately reflected in the proposed human rights framework.
- Provide a platform for discussion on the importance of the current momentum for older persons' rights, examine the role of the GNAFCC, its members and affiliates, and identify ways the network can support and participate in the process.
- Show how existing human rights frameworks have helped GNAFCC members and affiliates deliver on Age-friendly environments and vice versa.
- Discuss how to bridge human rights, equity and age-friendly environments, while these notions do not necessarily align.

### The detailed agenda will be made available soon

- Setting the scene
- How to contribute to the UN Intergovernmental Working Group on older persons? Interactive Panel
- Q&A with audience
- Concluding remarks

### Expected outcomes

- Raise awareness on the UN convention process
- Additional engagement in the drafting process of the UN convention via local organisations
- Take stock of the experience of age-friendly cities and communities to nurture the content of the convention

To register, click [here](#).

Contact persons: Julia Wadoux, [julia.wadoux@age-platform.eu](mailto:julia.wadoux@age-platform.eu) and Pamela Suero, [yudi.pamela.suero.samboy@vub.be](mailto:yudi.pamela.suero.samboy@vub.be)



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Transparency Register ID: 16549972091-86