



European Network of  
National Human Rights Institutions

# Human Rights of Older Persons and Long-Term Care: ENNHRI Project

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# Outline

- ▶ Overview of ENNHRI
- ▶ HRBA to Elder Abuse
- ▶ HRBA to LTC/ Human Rights of OP and LTC: the Project
- ▶ Project's Findings
- ▶ How to improve the situation?  
Project's Conclusions
- ▶ Next Steps- Your input



# ENNHRI- European Network of National Human Rights Institutions

## ► NHRIs

- State funded bodies, independent of Government, broad mandate to promote and protect human rights
- Accredited by reference to UN Paris Principles (1993)

## ► ENNHRI: 40 NHRIs from wider Europe:

- Capacity building, accreditation, joint statements on common issues, engages collectively with international and regional Human Rights mechanisms

# The Human Rights of Older Persons and LTC Project- Background

## :: Ageing in Europe

- ▶ EU-28: 95m persons aged 65+, of which 28% are 80+
- ▶ Population aged 65+ set to double by 2060

## :: LTC in Europe

- ▶ 5%-20% use formal services, 1.8% GDP

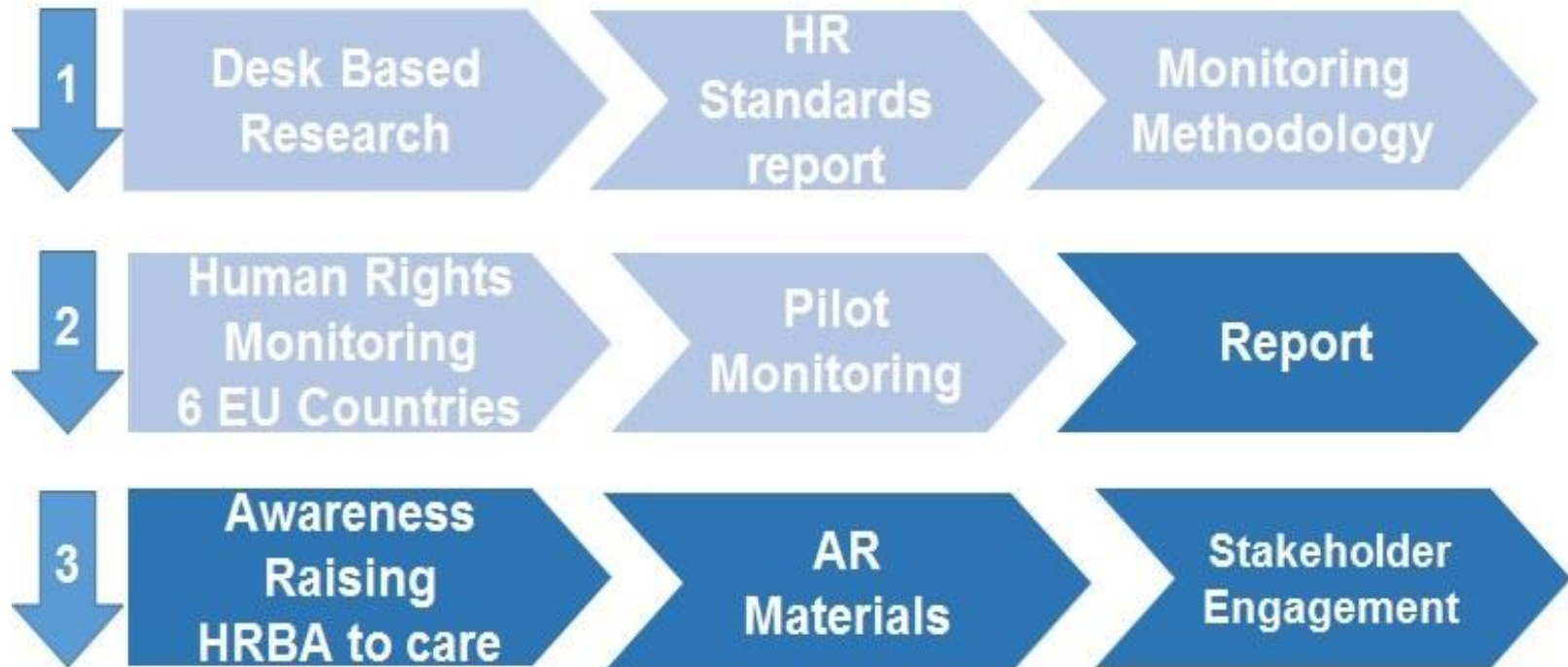


- ▶ Supply-demand imbalance

# ENNHRI - Human Rights of Older Persons & Long-Term Care

1. **Desk-based research:** Identify the HR standards relevant to LTC
2. **Describe the HR situation** of LTC in Europe
3. **Raise awareness of HRBA** to all stakeholders; strengthen role of NHRIs; make older persons aware of their human rights.

# Project's Stages





# Human Rights of Older Persons and LTC

## **1. Human Rights Standards:**

- 15 treaties
- 12 core rights

## **2. Concerning practices vs encouraging innovative**

## **3. Care workers rights and working conditions**

## **4. Gender**

## **5. Lack of prioritisation and investment**

# Human Rights of Older Persons and LTC

## :: Recommendations ::

**Overarching recommendation**

 **integrate a human rights-based approach to the design and delivery of long-term care.**



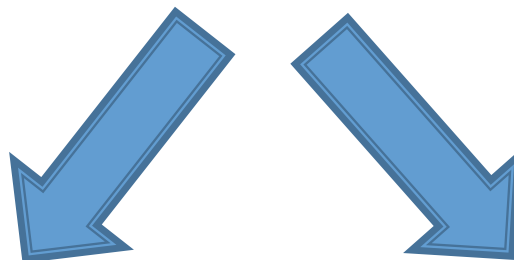
# Human Rights of Older Persons and LTC

## ► Recommendations

- participation of older persons in the design and delivery of long-term care;
- Adequate access to justice and effective remedy
- Invest in LTC -> invest in our future society
- Facilitate continuous monitoring of the HR situation of older persons
- Awareness Raising and training on HR of older persons and LTC

# Towards a new Convention on the rights of older persons?

## Two track approach



**Strengthening the implementation of current standards**

**Supporting the need of a specific Convention on the Rights of Older Persons**

# Human Rights Based Approach to Elder Abuse in LTC

- ▶ Violence vs Abuse
- ▶ Human rights + elder abuse prevention = Human Rights-Based Approach
- ▶ **Lack of a HRBA** to LTC and care services increase risk of mistreatment
- ▶ Existing **age discrimination** leads to elder abuse in LTC settings.

# How can a HRBA reduce elder abuse and improve the life of the elder

- ▶ It helps to develop a **better organisational culture**
- ▶ Better **relations between staff and residents**
- ▶ Better self-reported **quality of care for residents**
- ▶ **Reduction in staff stress and anxiety**
- ▶ Helps **make human rights more accessible** and clear to staff and service users
- ▶ Helps **staff make decisions in a rights-respecting manner**

# A Human-Rights Based Approach to LTC

Model of care



- ▶ Empower **rights-holders**
- ▶ Increase accountability of **duty bearers** in respecting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of the elder.



**PANEL principles**



# Applying a HRBA in LTC: PANEL Principles

- ▶ 5 principles:
  - **P**articipation
  - **A**ccountability of duty-bearers to rights-holders
  - **N**on-discrimination and equality
  - **E**mpowerment of rights holders
  - **L**egality



# What does a HRBA look like in practice?



*What we need is a radical reinterpretation of longevity that makes elders (and their needs) central to our collective pursuit of well-being.*

- Bill Thomas, Founder of the Green House Model



# Supporting a HRBA: European & National Policies

- ▶ Recognition of HR obligations:
  - Adequate funding for services (within available resources)
  - Equal access to healthcare/LTC services
  - Choice of LTC services
  - Facilitation of access to justice for care recipients
  - Protection and promotion of staff rights
  - Monitoring of compliance with HR standards
- ▶ Education and Training Initiatives
- ▶ Empowerment of older people to realise their rights
- ▶ Strengthening social protection mechanisms
- ▶ Diversity vs accessibility, affordability and quality of LTC

# Awareness Raising and Stakeholder Engagement

Overall communication of the project is to raise awareness of

- :: Human rights of older persons in LTC
- :: Current human rights situation of older persons in LTC and overview of concerns facing LTC in the EU
- :: A human rights based approach to LTC

amongst      > older people in receipt or seeking LTC  
                         > care providers/ policy makers  
                         > stakeholders

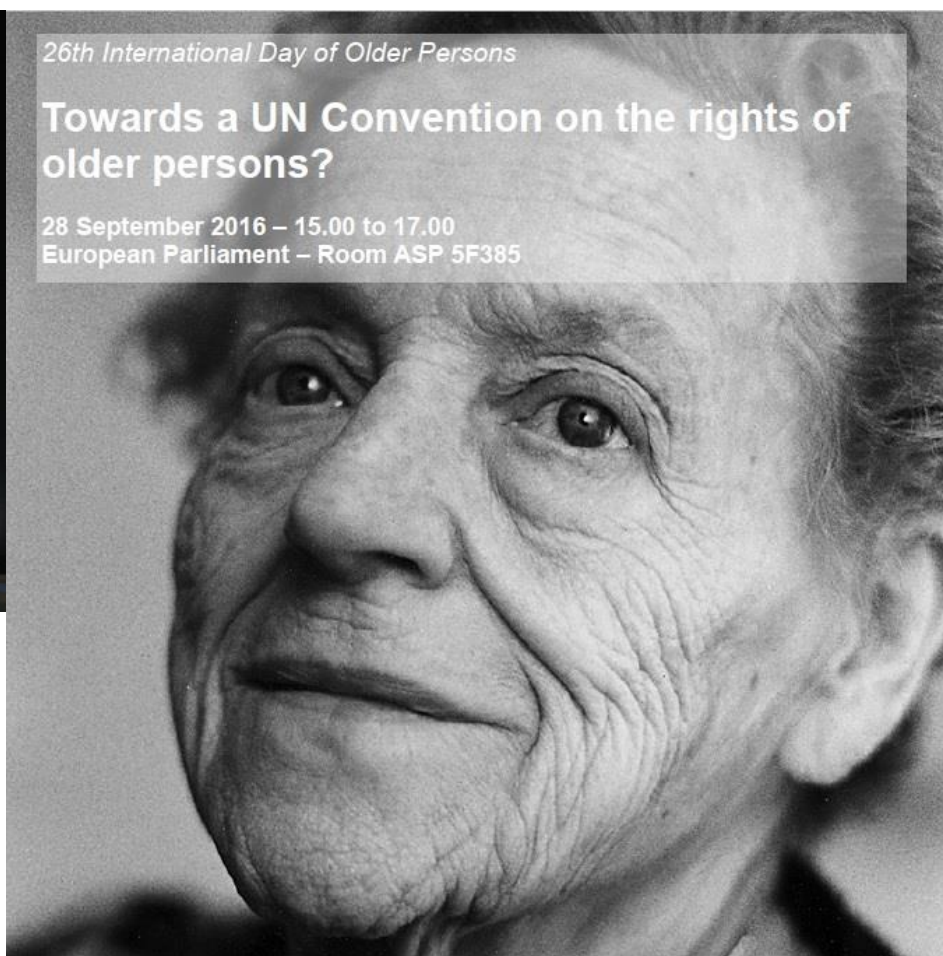
# Engagement

- ▶ Intergroup of Ageing at the EP
- ▶ Side event in Geneva – CRPD
- ▶ Co-organisation of 2 key events:
  - **June 2016 AGE Platform Europe + EC**  
*Elder Abuse*
  - **September 2016 EP + MEPs**  
*Towards a New Convention*

Later on this year...

- ▶ Social Protection Committee
- ▶ UN OEWG on Ageing

# Engagement



# Good LTC is possible!



*‘The institution operates a self-help group for the relatives of residents with dementia where they can support each other, can share their experiences and can acquire useful information in connection with the care of the residents’. Pilot Group National Report*



# Thank you

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**#rights4elders**

<http://ennhri.org/rights4elders>



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