



Older Persons and Crises: Rights and Challenges Conference

University of Helsinki 20.-21.3.2025

(Pieni Juhlasali / Small Hall, Main Building, Fabianinkatu 33, Helsinki)

Patron: **President Tarja Halonen**

Thursday 20.3.2025

8.30-9.00 Registration of participants

9.00-10.30 Opening Ceremony

Chair: Academician Martti Koskeniemi

Opening address:

Environment, Climate Change and Crisis - Generational Aspects

Pekka Haavisto Member of Finnish Parliament

Rector Sari Lindblom

Keynotes

Lessons learned: Covid -19 pandemic and protection of older people

Hanna Nohynek WHO SAGE chair, Chief Physician, Department of Health Security in the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare

Global Coalition for Social Justice

Helmut Schwarzer Head of the Public Finance, Actuarial and Statistical Services Unit, Social Protection Department, ILO

Human rights and older people

Claudia Mahler UN Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons

10.30- 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 -13.00 First plenary session

Chair: **Päivi Topo** Finnish Ombudsman for Older People

Older People in Armed Conflict

Laura Mills Amnesty International

Climate change and its health implications

Petteri Taalas Professor, Director General of the Finnish Meteorological Institute

Forced migration and protection of older refugees

Annu Lehtinen Executive Director, Finnish Refugee Council

Rights of Older People

Anna Mäki-Petäjä-Leinonen Professor, University of Eastern Finland

13.00 -15.00 Lunch Break

15.00 -18.00 Working Groups, first session

WG I: Wars and Conflicts (auditorium F3020, entrance from Fabianinkatu 33)

Introduction:

Kati Juva co-president, IPPNW

Chair:

Thomas Gammeltoft-Hansen, Professor, Director of the Centre of Excellence on Global Mobility Law, University of Copenhagen

Presentations:

1. The war in Ukraine and the ambivalent figure of 'Babushka': Intersectional nation-building and the (de-)legitimisation of war on YouTube
Marja Lönnroth, Satu Venäläinen, Rusten Menard, Teemu Pauha & Inga Jasinskaja-Lahti
2. Protecting the Rights of Older Persons in Situations of Risk & Humanitarian Emergencies
Natalie Baird & Dug Cubie
3. The Impact of Healthcare Destruction on Elderly Populations in Conflict Zones
Al-Abdulla Orwa, Parkki Jan & Kallström Agneta
4. Social and institutional (mis)trust among older refugees
Eveliina Lyytinen, Senior Research Fellow, Migration Institute of Finland

WG II: Environment, Climate Change & COVID-19 (auditorium U4078, entrance from Unioninkatu 34, Senate Square)

Chair: **Ilkka Taipale** Leo Mechelin Foundation

Introduction:

From Displacement to Dignity: Ensuring Rights for Older people in Ukraine's Journey Towards EU membership

Verity McGivern HelpAge International

Presentations:

1. The role of living environment in crises
Ira Verma, Laura Arpiainen, Kristjana Adalgeirsdottir
2. Environmental Attitudes and (In)Actions Through Time: Older Adults' Perspectives in Italy and Sweden
Federica Previtali, Malin Bäckman, Virpi Timonen
3. Older people in human rights climate change litigation: engaging with the questions raised by the Klimaseniorinnen case
Maisy Bentley
4. Restrictions on Older People During Covid-19 Pandemic: Teachings from the Crises
Johanna Hautakorpi, Doctoral researcher, University of Turku, Faculty of Law
5. Older adults evaluating the legitimacy of recommendations and restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic in Finland
Mervi Issakainen, Iina Järvinen, Anna Mäki-Petäjä-Leinonen & Kaijus Ervasti
6. Rapid response of Liikkuva resurssikeskus during the COVID-19 pandemic
Helena Norokallio, Pilvi Heiskanen
7. Older persons on the margins: loneliness and deprivation in a Swiss community
Yang Li and Dario Spini

WG III: International Convention on the Rights of Older Persons? (auditorium U4080*, entrance from Unioninkatu 34, Senate Square; *Change on Friday: auditorium F3003, entrance from Fabianinkatu 33)

Chair: **Kaijus Ervasti** professor, University of Eastern Finland

Introduction:

Krista Oinonen Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Presentations:

1. Sustainable continence care in times of crises and conflicts – what does it require from crisis preparedness?
Tiina Vaittinen, Researcher, CEO, The GoodMess
2. Towards better aging: Do more years lead to meaningful life?
Toini Harra, Dr Soc.Sc, Lic.Phil., Principal Lecturer in Metropolia UAS, Anna Kaipainen, M.Rehabilitation, Specialist in Metropolia UAS, Johanna Niemi, M.Soc.Sc, Specialist in Metropolia UAS
3. Older People in Prison, Law and Human Rights
*Helen Codd, Professor Emerita of Law & Social Justice, University of Central Lancashire, UK
Director of Seahorse Criminal Justice and Trustee of RECOOP*
4. Lost in the Bermuda Triangle – the Rights of Older People with Cognitive Disability
*Henna Nikumaa (presenting), Anna Mäki-Petäjä-Leinonen, Eeva Nykänen
University of Eastern Finland, Law School*
5. Cultural rights of older people - International Centre for Creative ageing (ICCA)
Raisa Karttunen, Producer - KAAPELI, Director- Creative Ageing festival Armas
6. Legal rights and access to justice for older immigrants and immigrants with dementia seeking care and support
Alex Berg, Doctoral Researcher in Welfare Law, UEF Law School

19.00-20.00 Evening reception by the City of Helsinki

Helsinki City Hall, Banquet Hall (Pohjoisesplanadi 11-13)

[Friday 21.3.2025](#)

10.00 -12.00 Working Groups, second session

12.00-14.00 Lunch Break

14.00 -16.00 Second plenary session

Chair: Academician Martti Koskeniemi

Care for older people in times of crisis

Teppo Kröger professor, University of Jyväskylä

Older Persons in Emergency Situations

Heidrun Mollenkopf President, AGE Platform Europe

International Convention on the Rights of Older Persons

Nena Georgantzi Human Rights Manager, AGE Platform Europe

14.45-15.30 Reports of the WGs

15.30-16.00 General Discussion

16.00-17.00 Closing Ceremony

Musical performance by *Galante* and *All 4 Voices* choirs (*Helsingin Konservatorion nuoret laulajat*)

Sustainable Development and Older People

President Tarja Halonen

17.00 -18.00 Evening Reception (foyer Sirén, Main Building, University of Helsinki)

Saturday 22.3.2025 NGOs presentations and activities (in Finnish)

Helsinki Congress Paasitorni (Paasivuorenkatu 5 A)

10.30 Suomen YK-liitto

Vanhempien ihmisten aseman vahvistaminen kansainvälisessä keskustelussa erityisesti YK:n korkean tason poliittisen foorumin keskusteluissa sekä YK:n sosiaalisen kehityksen huippukokouksessa vuonna 2025

10.45 Armas-festivaali

Taiteen ja kulttuurin merkitys ikääntyneiden elämässä, kulttuurioikeuksista sekä kansainvälisestä yhteistyöstä

11.00 Kaatuneitten Omaisten Liitto ry

Kuinka sotaorvot reagoivat nykyiseen turvallisuustilanteeseen: tunnetaakan esiintulo 80 vuotta omien kokemusten jälkeen

11.15 Turun Lähimmäispalveluyhdistys ry

Liikkuva resurssikeskus-toiminnan esittely

11.30 Eläkkeensaajien Keskusliitto EKL ry

Eläkeläisjärjestöstä kriisinsietokykyä

11.45 Kulttuuri- ja taidealan keskusjärjestö KULTA ry

Voimauttava puheenvuoro kulttuurimurtojen ja kukkahattutätien puolesta

12.00 Arabikansojen ystävyysseura ry

Vanhat ihmiset Libanonin pakolaisleireissä

12.15 Ilmastoisovanhemmat

Isovanhemmat ilmastokriisiä selättämässä

12.30 Vanhus- ja lähimmäispalvelun liitto VALLI ry

VALLI ry edistämässä ikääntyvien ja vanhojen ihmisten oikeutta osallistua ja tulla kuulluksi paikalliselta tasolta valtakunnalliselle tasolle ja kohti YK:n sosiaalisen kehityksen huippukokousta

12.45 Jade yhteisö ry

Vieraskielisten ikääntyvien osallisuus

Mukana myös

Kirkon Ulkomaanapu

Ainala ry

Fingo ry:n utopiatyöpaja aulatilassa