

Concept Note

Identifying the Vital Roles that Civil Society Plays in Advocating for Human Rights.

In observance of

75th Anniversary of Universal Declaration on Human Rights and Human Rights Day

13 December 2023 1-3 pm at UN Church Center 777 First Ave, NY, NY

The NGO Committee on Human Rights and the NGO Committee on Ageing are pleased to present this program to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR). Much has happened over the last 75 years including the megatrend of population ageing and the recognition that the enjoyment of human rights begins at birth and continues to the end of life for ALL people. However not all persons are protected equally. Hence over time there has been added attention to rights of the child, rights of women, and rights of persons with disabilities to identify a few.

The two NGO Committees represent our members' lived experience. Our members bring grassroots/community-based issues that we identify in an inclusive and safe environment. Once identified we develop strategies to address these issues within the United Nations. These two NGO Committees will address the various strategies employed to highlight human rights across the life course.

The NGO Committee on Human Rights has an ongoing history of working closely with the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights. Through this collaboration, an understanding of the range of human rights mechanisms available including treating bodies, special mechanisms and the Universal Periodic Review process is facilitated. However, there is an ongoing challenge of submitting reports and follow-up on possible actions and recommendations.

The NGO Committee on Ageing recognizes that while the UN has adopted the Principles for Older Persons and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, neither offer legally binding protections for older persons. The Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing was established 14 years ago to look at possible gaps in human rights protections for older persons and much has been documented of the inadequacy to cover them in the UDHR.

The Office for the High Commissioner on Human Rights/NY office speaker will address the progress made in protection of human rights over its 75 years and areas that continue to need attention.

The United States as a member state has many active programs to serve its older population but recognizes there are gaps. The speaker has recently been an active member of the Core Working Group of the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing to look at the possible gaps in the protection of human rights for older persons and will provide his perspective on the role of NGOs to help inform the process.

We hope you join us for this important program to recognize the vital role that NGOs contribute to human rights across the life course.

Speakers from:

NGO Committee on Ageing

NGO Committee on Human Rights

Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights-NY office

Member state: United States Administration on Community Living, HHS