



PLENARY SESSION EIGHT	
Event Code: LEE22-00523 World Mental Health Congress London Mental Health a Global Priority, London, UK 28/06/2022-01/07/2022	
Your details (as you want them listed in the programme)	Debanjan Banerjee 1. Consultant Geriatric Psychiatrist, APOLLO GLENEAGLES Multispecialty Hospitals, Kolkata, India 2. Vice-Chair, Advocacy and Public Awareness Committee, International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA)
Date and time of your plenary session	Thursday 30 June 2022 14:30-16:10hrs Overall Session Theme: Dignity and rights
Duration	20 mins
Proposed title (please complete)	The urgent need for a UN Convention to mitigate human rights violations of older adults
Learning Objectives (please complete)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To understand the basis and risks of human rights crisis in older persons• To appreciate the need for an international (UN) Convention to promote and protect the rights of older people• To carry out necessary roles as mental health/social work professionals to support and implement such a Convention for dignity-based healthcare in older persons
Abstract (max 500 words)	<p>Global population is aging rapidly. Based on the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates, the number of older persons (age above 60 years) is expected to double by 2050. Older persons around the world, particularly those living with mental health conditions, physical or psychosocial disabilities are at an increasing risk of marginalization and abuse. Decades of societal ageism, mentalism and ableism are at the root of this ‘human rights crisis’, the crevices of which have been widened further by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The United Nations (UN) has declared 2021-2030 as the Decade of Healthy Aging with actions focused on creating age-friendly environment, combatting ageism and integrated care for older persons. This calls for inclusion, diversity and equality in healthcare and policy interventions for older persons. A clear, comprehensive and cogent international legally binding framework is urgently necessary to promote and protect the rights of older people. Such a provision is unfortunately lacking at present. This framework needs to be sensitive to the changing population demographics, address specific human rights challenges faced by older people and ensure that they enjoy the full benefits of longevity. A UN Convention can be an apt step in this regard, which is being supported by multiple global associations working in the field of older adults’ healthcare. However, inertia to turn this Convention into a reality exists at various levels.</p> <p>This discussion focuses on the background of human rights crisis in older people, highlights the need for a UN Convention to protect these rights and outlines the possible benefits of such a Convention. The role of mental health professionals in supporting and implementing such an international framework is also discussed.</p>

	<p>This session is indeed a “<i>Call for Action</i>” to act collectively in order to fulfil our ethical, moral and legal responsibility to current and future generations of older persons by adopting a rights and dignity-based approach for their health and social care.</p>
<p>Key references or resources (maximum five)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Peisah C, de Mendonça Lima C, Verbeek H, Rabheru K. IPA and WPA-SOAP joint statement on the rights of older persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities. <i>International Psychogeriatrics</i>. 2021 May 12:1-5. 2. Banerjee D, Rabheru K, Ivbijaro G, de Mendonca Lima CA. Dignity of Older Persons With Mental Health Conditions: Why Should Clinicians Care?. <i>Frontiers in Psychiatry</i>. 2021;12. 3. World Health Organization. Global Report on Ageism. 18th March 2021. https://www.who.int/teams/social-determinants-of-health/demographic-change-and-healthy-ageing/combating-ageism/global-report-on-ageism 4. Sciubba JD. Explaining campaign timing and support for a UN Convention on the Rights of Older People. <i>The International Journal of Human Rights</i>. 2014 Jul 4;18(4-5):462-78. 5. Banerjee D, Rabheru K, de Mendonca Lima CA, Ivbijaro G. Role of dignity in mental healthcare: impact on ageism and human rights of older persons. <i>The American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry</i>. 2021 Oct 1;29(10):1000-8.