



United Nations General Assembly



Easy to read

Violence and other bad things that happen to older people

A report about what is happening to older people and what countries should do to make sure that older people get their human rights



Report of the Independent Expert Claudia Mahler on Violence against and abuse and neglect of older persons.



About this report

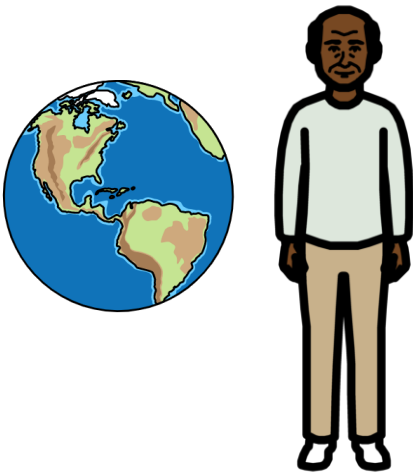
My name is Claudia Mahler.



I am working for the United Nations.

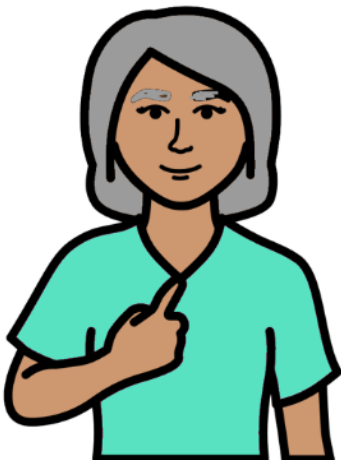
The United Nations is a group of countries that work together to make the world better and safer.

It is called the UN for short.



I am called an Independent Expert.

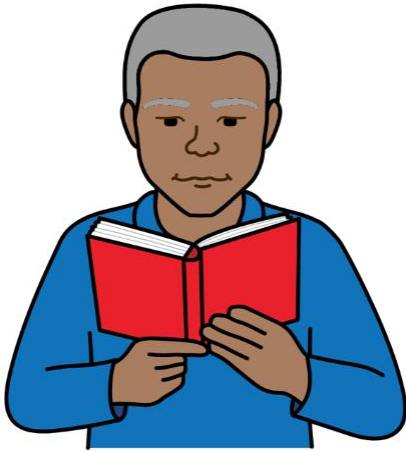
My job is to help to make sure that older people everywhere get their human rights.



Everyone has human rights.

Like the right to be safe and treated fairly.

Older people have the same human rights as everyone else.



My report is about:

- Violence and other bad things that happen to older people.
- What countries should do to make sure that older people get their human rights.



This report uses information from:

- My work and work from other experts.
- Information that countries and organizations gave me.



I have already done lots of work on the human rights of older people.

For example:

I have been to different countries to check what is happening to older people.



I have made lots of information about the rights of older people.

I have taken part in important meetings around the world.

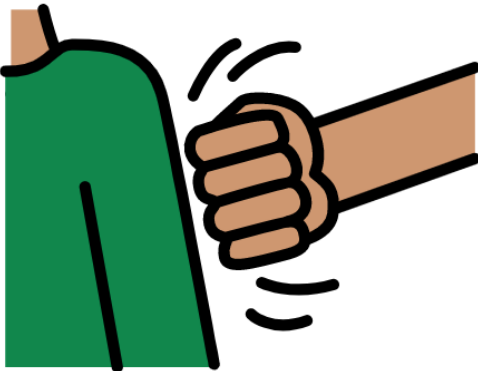
I have talked about how to make sure that older people get their human rights.

Violence and other bad things that happen to older people



There are more older people in the world now.

But many older people are hurt or treated badly by other people.



For example, people may hit or hurt older people on their bodies.

People may force older people to do sexual things that they do not want.



People may say or do mean things to older people.

For example, people may share ideas on the internet that could hurt older people.

Or people may say they will hurt older people just to make them scared.



People may take older people's money or houses without asking them first.



People may leave older people without the food, medicine or care they need.



People may give older people medicine when they do not need it.

This may be to control how older people behave and keep them quiet.

We will call all of these things **violence** that happens to older people.



More violence can happen to older people when there are big problems in the world.

Like wars, floods or illnesses like Covid-19.



Violence can often be worse for some groups of older people.

Like older people with disabilities and older women.



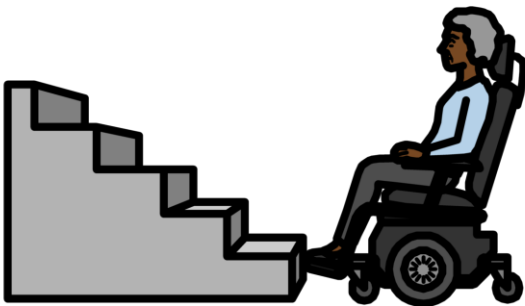
For example, older people with disabilities may need support from other people.

They may get support in homes that are far away from the community.



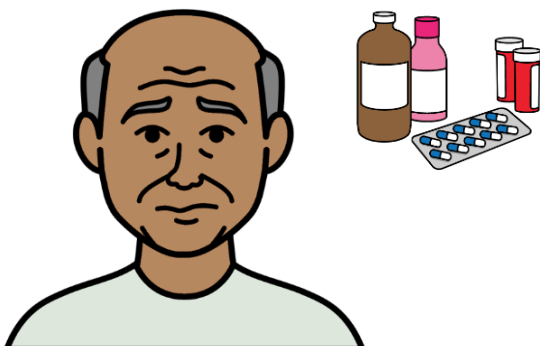
That can make it easier for people to hurt older people with disabilities.

And it can make it hard for older people with disabilities to say something if someone hurts them.



It can be hard for many older people to get the right support if someone hurts them.

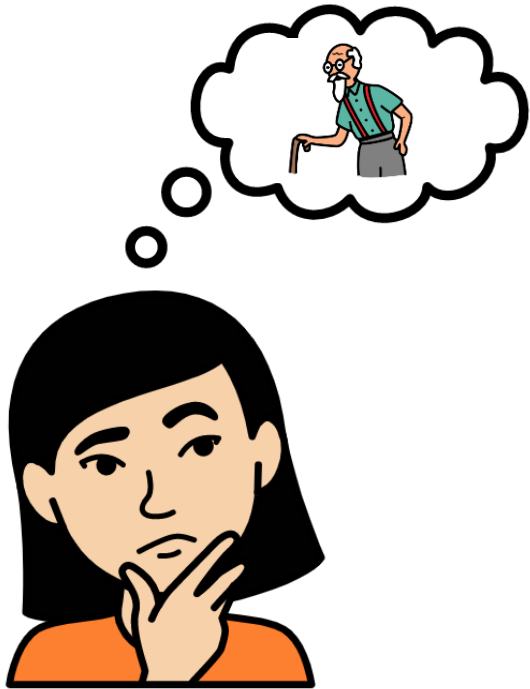
For example, support services may not work well for older people.



Older people may feel very upset or worried if someone hurts them.

Older people may also be in danger.

For example, people may stop older people from getting the medicine they need to keep well.



Why people may hurt older people

The main reason is that many people have wrong ideas about older people.

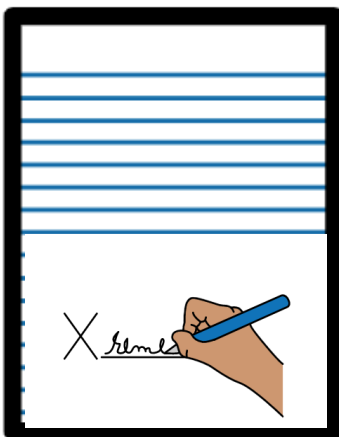
For example, they may think that older people are not important.

People may hurt older people or treat them badly because of these ideas.



What countries are doing about it

Countries have not done enough to stop violence and other bad things that happen to older people.



For example, there are laws in the world about human rights.

But there is no human rights law that only talks about the rights of older people.

That includes stopping violence and other bad things that happen to older people.



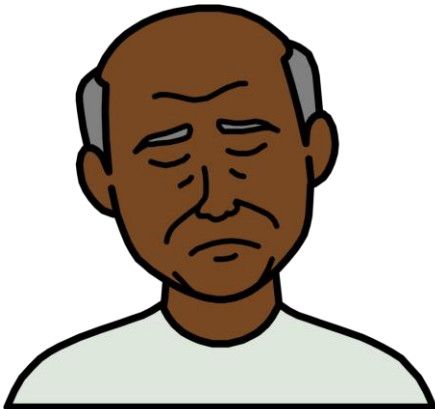
Many countries have not made good laws for their own countries about the rights of older people because of that.



Many countries have made laws and plans about stopping violence.

But the laws and plans may not say enough about older people and what they need.

And there may not be enough money or staff to make the plans work well.

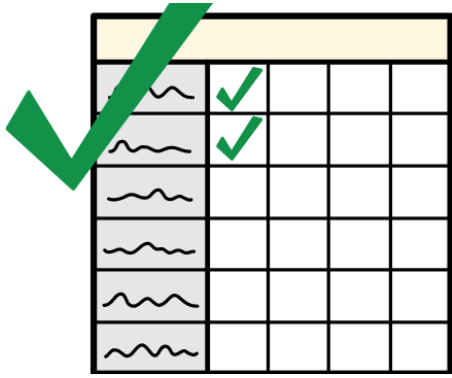


There is not enough information about violence that happens to different groups of older people.

And many older people may be too scared to speak up if someone hurts them.

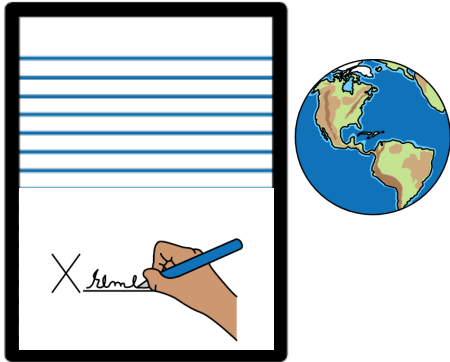


That means countries may not understand about violence that happens to older people and how to stop it.



What countries should do next.

The things below are for countries and some organizations to work on.



There should be a new law for the world just about the human rights of older people.

The law would make it clear that:

- Older people are just as important as other people.
- Countries need to stop violence that happens to older people.



Different groups of older people should help to make this new law.



Countries should do more to follow human rights laws in the world at the moment.

Older people should help to check how countries are doing to follow the laws.



Countries should make good laws and rules for their own countries about the human rights of older people.

That includes stopping all violence that happens to older people.

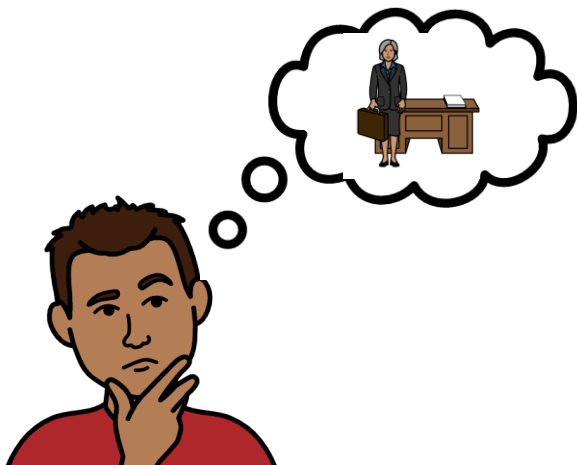


The laws should make sure that all groups of older people are treated fairly and get the support they need.



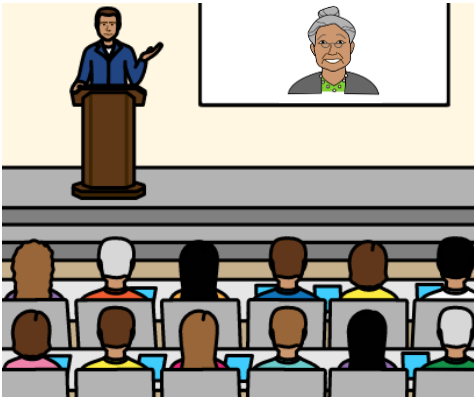
That means countries may need to change laws or make new laws.

Countries should also make sure that people follow the laws.



Many people have wrong ideas about older people.

Countries must help to change the way that people think about older people.



Countries should also tell more people about violence that can happen to older people and how to stop it.

This will help people to understand more about older people and treat them fairly.



Countries should get better information about violence that happens to different groups of older people.

This will help countries to make good laws and plans to keep older people safe.



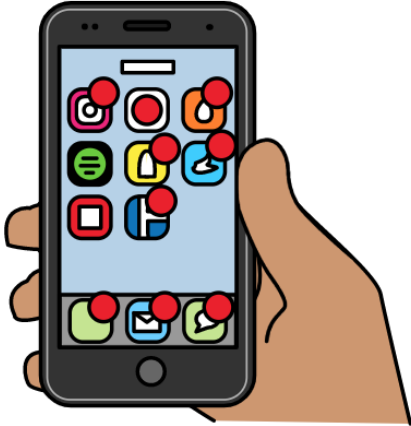
Countries should work to stop all types of violence that happens to older people.

For example, people may hurt older people in different ways at the same time.



Many older people live in homes for older people away from the community.

There should be checks to make sure that older people in these homes are safe.



Countries should work to stop people sharing wrong ideas about older people.

For example, in newspapers. Or on social media like X or TikTok.

Countries should work with different companies that share information to stop that.



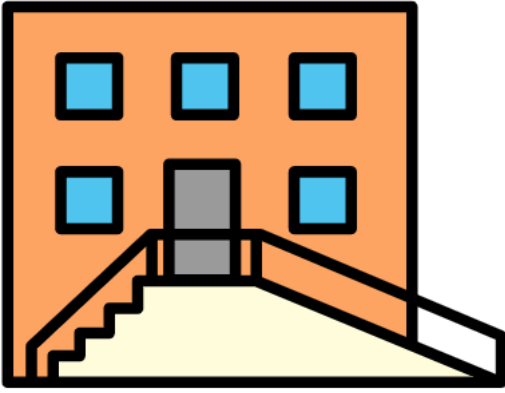
People who work with older people should get support, information and training about keeping older people safe.



For example, there should be better training and support for:

- People who work for the police and courts.
- Nurses and doctors.
- People who give older people care and support.
- People who work for banks and other places that deal with money.





There should be good support for older people who want to get away from violence.

For example, there should be safe places for older people to stay where they can get the right support.



Older people should also get extra money to live on their own if they need it.

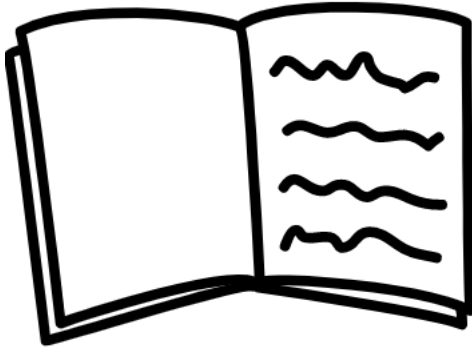


It should be easy for older people to get support from the police or courts if someone is violent to them.



For example, older people with disabilities may need support to say what happened to them.

All of these things will help to make sure that older people are safe and get their human rights.



This is an easy to read report. We use the words **older people** in this report.

This report has the main points from a bigger report.

The bigger report uses the words **older persons**.



The bigger report is on this website. It does not have easy words and pictures:

<https://tinyurl.com/Violence-older-persons>