A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO LONG-TERM CARE (LTC) IN EUROPE

As the population aged 65+ in Europe is set to double by 2060, there is increasing demand on LTC, including in residential settings. However, until now, there has been minimal attention to the respect of human rights for this important group within our society.

EUNHRIs are working to promote and protect the human rights of older persons in LTC and make them central to future LTC policy developments through a human rights-based approach (HRBA).

A HRBA MEANS:

- Putting the principles and standards of human rights at the centre of service planning, policy and practice.
- Empowering care users to participate in decisions and determine how to maintain their autonomy, dignity and quality of life.
- Enabling care providers to respect those rights.

A HRBA IS BASED ON 5 PRINCIPLES:

- Participation
- Accountability
- Non-discrimination and equality
- Empowerment
- Legality

THE PROJECT

EUNHRIs is conducting an EU-funded project to improve the human rights of older persons in LTC by:
- Monitoring and describing the human rights situation in LTC in Europe.
- Increasing awareness of the human rights of older persons in, or seeking LTC.
- Strengthening the capacity of NHRIs to monitor and support human rights policies for older persons.

MONITORING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN LTC IN EUROPE

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) from Belgium, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania and Romania have monitored residential LTC in their countries to build a picture of how human rights are taken into account when planning and delivering services.

The monitoring teams have reviewed legislation and policies, interviewed older persons, care workers, service providers and policy makers to understand fully the human rights situation of older persons in LTC.

INCREASING AWARENESS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS IN OR SEEKING LTC

The project is raising older persons’ awareness of their rights and promoting the voice of older persons in the development and delivery of their LTC.

There is limited awareness or understanding of human rights by LTC managers, staff and policy makers. EUNHRi is developing resources on the human rights standards relevant to LTC and how to put it into practice through a human rights-based approach.

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF NHRIS TO MONITOR AND SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES FOR OLDER PERSONS

A toolkit will provide guidance for NHRIs in monitoring LTC settings. It will guide NHRIs on how best to collect which information at the national level to promote and protect the human rights of older persons in LTC.