

# 1ST OCTOBER – INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS



The world's population structure has changed drastically in the last few decades and life expectancy has increased globally. In 2019, 703 million people were aged 65 or over. In the coming three decades, the number of elderly people is expected to more than double worldwide, amounting to over 1.5 billion people by 2050.

These days, older people mostly enjoy reasonable health and remain capable and independent for longer. But as the world's elderly population grows, the coexistence of generations becomes imminent. Self-care will take on an increasingly important role in the future, as it will in social life and in the fields of economy and work in general. Since the elderly population is increasing each year, 32 years ago, the General Assembly of the United Nations declared 1st October as the **International Day of Older Persons (UNIDOP)** in order to raise awareness about the elderly and the problems they often face. This day is marked every year with a different theme related to the life, activities and needs of the elderly. This year's main theme on International Day of Elderly Persons will be: **The Resilience and Contributions of Older Women.**

Older women make important contributions to their political, civic, economic, social and cultural lives, yet their contributions and experiences are often shunned. Age and gender discrimination creates new and exacerbates existing inequalities, including many negative stereotypes. Inequalities have also intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic, with worsening of socio-economic, environmental, health and climate effects on the lives of senior citizens, especially women, who make up the vast majority of the older population.



The theme of the International Day of Older Persons 2022 thus serves as a symbol and reminder of the important role older women play in overcoming global challenges and contributing to finding solutions, aided by their resilience and steadfastness.



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Recognising the contributions of older women as indispensable and making sure their voices are heard, as well as encouraging their perspectives and needs, are critical factors in creating meaningful policies to improve the integrated response to local, national and global challenges and disasters, which is why UNIDOP 2022 is a call to action and an opportunity to promote the voices of older women and demonstrate their resilience and contributions to society. Moreover, it is an opportunity to promote policy dialogues that will improve the protection of human rights of older persons and to recognise their contributions to sustainable development.

Objectives of UNIDOP2022:



- To highlight the resilience of older women in the face of environmental, social, economic and lifelong inequalities
- To raise awareness of the importance of improved world-wide data collection, disaggregated by age and gender
- To call on member states, UN entities, UN Women, and civil society to include older women in the center of all policies, ensuring gender equality as described in the Secretary-General's report, Our Common Agenda

Read more in [here](#).

#internationaldayofolderpersons #UNIDOP #UNIDOP2022



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