# OWN EUROPE

# OLDER WOMEN'S NETWORK, EUROPE

**22-06-15 Statement to the** MIPAA 2022 **Joint Forum of Civil Society and Scientific Research in Rome on behalf of Older Women's Networks of Italy and Europe – delivered by Francesca Ciuffa**

Whilst recognising that the clear policy directions of Development, Health and the Enabling environment within MIPPA has helped tackle many issues since it was first launched 20 years ago, with some governments developing strategies and policies to address these issues, much remains to be done to ensure the rights of older women and men are fully respected and that all benefit from progress made. This will require short and long term measures to meet the new challenges and urgent needs faced by older persons due to the on-going pandemic and geopolitical situation in Europe, as recognised in the Ministerial Final Declaration, and clear linkages with the promises to older women and men made by UN Member States with the adoption in 2015 of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals .

A promise has been made to Leave No One Behind. This means older persons cannot and must not be left behind, including the oldest old. We call on governments and policy makers to be true to this promise and take strong action to combat age discrimination and ageism in their policies. We call for sufficient resources to:

- mitigate female poverty in older age as a long due recognition of the huge contribution to society made by women all along their life, including in crisis time as today, through long hours of poorly paid jobs, voluntary work and unpaid care which put them at a higher risk of poverty in older age. Ensure a life course and intersectional approach to poverty mitigation, considering the specific risks to migrant older women, LGBTI individuals, widows and so forth.

- ensure access to accessible and affordable health and long-term care, including preventative and rehabilitative services for all, in all care settings, including care at home or, if wished, in long-term care residential settings. Too many older women cannot afford the health and long-term care services their condition requires, and with unregulated care settings face a higher risk of neglect and abuse.

- promote available and affordable life-long learning opportunities in older age, particularly in relation to new technologies, to enable older women to remain connected to a rapidly changing IT world, be supported to contribute for longer, have greater independence and be alert to the potential of fraud. Equally ensure access to services for those who do not have, or cannot use IT.

- provide accessible services to monitor, prevent and adequately deal with elder abuse in the home, in residential/nursing care and in the community.
Ensure proper protection to older victims of abuse and gender based violence, assess and prevent femicide of older women, offering appropriate refuge accommodation as necessary to victims of all ages.

- ensure a life course and intersectional approach to employment and pension provision , including the regular collection of and disaggregation of data on age, gender, disability, sexual orientation and ethnicity relating to later life/older age to monitor the impact of intersectionality of age, gender  and other forms of discrimination, and the different ways that women and men live their lives, in order to develop services that meet the needs of all.

While recognising that the MIPPA is not a human rights document it can be used by policy makers as a monitoring tool to measure their policies' contributions toward the sustainable development goals and universal commitment to respect human rights for all and to leave no one behind. This is of particular and increasing importance to the millions of older women and men across the world who risk being marginalised and excluded through/due to lack of attention to their human rights and incomplete data which misses out older ages in monitoring of global, regional and national frameworks provided by the 2030 Agenda and human rights agreements.