
Ageism and the Poverty of Older Persons

Oct 5, 2023 (Thu) 13:00-16:00

Organizers: National Human Rights Commission of Korea, ASEM Global Ageing Center

Background

Older persons have been deprived of their dignified life in old ages. The vulnerability has aggravated amid the covid-19 and climate crisis. Korea has had the highest poverty and suicide rates around the globe. Older persons abuse has been growing every year. Likewise, there are mounting human rights issues related to older persons that we have to address promptly. We have to ensure older persons could lead a dignified life in old ages and not to lose the dignity in the process toward death. Especially, for older persons inevitably put into a vulnerable situation, we will look for ways to publicly discuss and set human rights agenda spanning overall issues accordingly.

Objectives

1. To propose ways to protect and enhance the human rights of older persons in super aged society
2. To publicly discuss social agendas such as definition, and age and retirement criteria of older persons
3. To seek for ways to identify and improve the current welfare policies on older persons and to take human rights-based approaches
4. To encourage government engagement in the movement on the human rights of older persons in international society



Main Agenda

Many of older persons in Korea cannot help but maintaining their economic activity for their livelihood. It appears that many of older persons at 65 or over engage in economic activities to make ends meet even though they do not want to.

In terms of poverty, employment, and suicide rate among older persons, Korea has topped among the OECD member nations, which lays bare the reality in which there are many older people struggling in making a living unless they work even in old age.

Therefore, we have to recognize the grave reality that failing to address poverty among older persons could lead to irreversible consequences such as rising suicide rate beyond just economic difficulties. In this regard, we have to promptly strength social safety net for older persons in poverty especially not able to figure out any other possible alternative. In this regard, the 13th Talking about the Human Rights of Older Persons will discuss and look for ways of protecting the human rights and improving the life of older persons who have to inevitably work in poverty under the theme of ageism and elderly poverty.

