

REPORT
World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2010
“My World...Your World... Our World – Free of Elder Abuse

On 14 June 2010, HumanaS network, with the Red Cross of Serbia as a host, organised a round table discussion entitled „My world... your world... our world... world without elder abuse“, as part of marking the World Elder Abuse Day, 15 June. This discussion was made possible thanks to the financial support provided by World Health Organization. This date has been marked in Serbia for the last four years.

The event was, on behalf of HumanaS opened by Prof. Dragan Radovanovic, MD, Phd, the President of the Red Cross of Serbia. After him, Melita Vujnovic MDof WHO talked about the influence of socio-economic determinants on health.

The Red Cross of Serbia and HumanaS network, along with the older beneficiaries and volunteers of their programmes have participated in the global advocacy campaign for the new United Nations’ convention. The text of the advocacy campaign, entitled “Strengthening older people’s rights- TOWARDS A UN CONVENTION” has been translated to Serbian and presented to the decision makers in Serbia. On the round table discussion, the document was presented by Natasha Todorovic of the Red Cross of Serbia/ HumanaS.



Dr Nevena Petru_i_ presented a set of recommendations made for the government of Serbia to reduce discrimination towards older people. The recommendations had been produced by Prof. Petrisic, Phd based on the analysis of the relevant national, regional and global legislation (the analysis can be found on the HumanaS home page: www.humanas.rs). There are two sets of recommendations: one referring to the improvements of relevant legislation and the other referring to the implementation of the National Strategy of Ageing 2006-2015. It is necessary to improve the legal framework that will provide better protection to older people from family violence by redefining the third form of violence in families as defined by the article 194, paragraph 3 of the Criminal Law of Serbia to cover older and/ or vulnerable persons. This change would enable adequate legal action in cases of violence towards older people or other family members who are members of vulnerable groups. This would also contribute to prevention of violence towards older people that is at the moment on the rise.

Nadezda Sataric talked about discrimination and neglect of older people among refugees and internally displaced persons living in collective centres and their many hardships.

Early in 2010, HumanaS network did a survey related to social exclusion of older people in Serbia – in line with the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The survey covered eight communities in Serbia, with 142 people above 65 years of age (92 women and 50 men). The interviewees were all beneficiaries of HumanaS programmes for support to older people. Out of 142, 70 live in cities, one in a suburb and 71 in the countryside. 12.7% of the interviewees do not have access to running water in their homes, 2.8% do not have electricity, 21.8% do not have bathrooms in their homes and 22.5% do not have toilets in their homes. As for the access to the community services, 22.5% of them have had problems accessing health care services and 16.8% in accessing social welfare.



The round table discussion had 35 participants and was well covered by the media (printed, television and radio). UNHCR and UNFPA representatives were also present at the discussion.

Starting 15 June, the Red Cross volunteers have distributed leaflets meant to sensitize the public to elder abuse across Serbia.

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