



Countering violence against older persons

Setting the scene: awareness, support and empowerment



Chaire de recherche sur la maltraitance
envers les personnes âgées
Research Chair on Mistreatment of Older Adults

Shared Knowledge



Marie Beaulieu, Ph. D., FRSC

UNECE

Peaceful societies for all ages:
preventing and addressing violence against older persons



Violence





Decade
of healthy
ageing

Abuse of older people: a hidden problem



Every year, 1 in 6 people aged 60 years & older experience some form of abuse.



2 in 3 staff in institutions such as nursing homes have committed abuse in the past year.



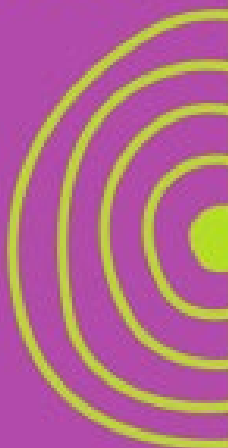
RATES OF ABUSE have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.



ABUSE leads to severe physical & mental health, financial & social consequences.



Abuse of older people is expected TO INCREASE given the rapidly ageing population of people aged 60 years & older.



5 Priorities to tackle abuse of older people

- **Combat ageism** as it is a major reason why the abuse of older people receives so little attention.
- **Generate more and better data** to raise awareness of the problem.
- **Develop and scale up cost-effective solutions** to stop abuse of older people.
- **Make an investment case** focusing on how addressing the problem is money well spent.
- **Raise funds** as more resources are needed to tackle the problem.



Prevention

Intervention

Detection

Follow-up

A series of strategies

- Public policies, laws and services
- Actions to counter ageism
- Social integration, social participation or social connectiveness
- General awareness
- Training



prevention



Who should be trained?



- All older persons and any person that may be in contact with an older person
- Health care providers and social services providers (physicians, nurses, social workers, personal service workers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dentists, and others)
- Law enforcement (police, civil and criminal law prosecutors, judges)
- Services for victims (including NGOs)
- Volunteers



Why should we train?

- Barriers to disclosure and reporting
- We only see what we know



What should be the content of training?



- Ageism (to change how we think, feel, act towards age and ageing)
 - Definition, types and forms of violence and neglect
 - Risk factors
 - Identification of abuse (indicators, tools, ...)
 - Role in countering abuse (by type of practitioner)
 - Promising practices
 - Rights of older persons
 - Laws, policies
 - Available services, where to go – Mandatory response
 - Partnership approaches (intersectoral work)
- Initial training or ongoing education
 - Public
 - Duration of training

Violence against...

| Targeted group | Main approach |
|---------------------------|--|
| Children | Protection |
| Intimate partner violence | Empowerment |
| Older persons | A balance between empowerment and protection |





Thank you!



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Please visit our website:

www.maltraitancedesaines.com