Countering violence against older persons

Setting the scene: awareness, support and empowerment

Marie Beaulieu, Ph. D., FRSC
UNECE
Peaceful societies for all ages: preventing and addressing violence against older persons
Introduction

Violence

Elder abuse and neglect

Mistreatment of older persons

Abuse of older people
Abuse of older people: a hidden problem

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.

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 of older people is expected to increase given the rapidly ageing population of people aged 60 years & older.

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

1 billion in 2019
2.1 billion in 2050
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
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...

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