The Honourable Joanne Thompson
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House of Commons
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Date: *Jan 18, 2025*

Subject: Resolution on the human rights of older persons at the 58th session of the Human Rights Council (HCR)

Dear Minister Thompson:

We wish to draw your attention to the Human Rights Council (HRC) of the United Nations (UN), which will hold its 58th session from 24th February to 4th April 2025 in Geneva. Ahead of the 58th session, we understand that the core group of Member States leading the work on the human rights of older persons at the HRC will present a draft procedural resolution for negotiation and possible adoption at the 58th session. This draft resolution will respond to the General Assembly resolution 78/324 that, among other things, urges relevant UN bodies, respecting the relevant mandate, to further consider the recommendations as adopted by the UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA) in its decision 14/1 (from para 28). We are expecting that the draft resolution will propose the creation of a new process to advance the dedicated discussions on the human rights of older persons by working on the content of a new international legally binding instrument.

We want a strong resolution to be adopted by consensus that will be an essential next step forward in building on the rich evidence base compiled by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the OEWGA that States, civil society organizations, National Human Rights Institutions and other stakeholders have actively contributed to over 14 years. We should also build on the strong evidence gathered by OHCHR following the HRC resolutions 48/3 and 54/13. It is vital that all of the resources invested in this work are not wasted.

The adoption of this resolution will enable the HRC to comply with General Assembly resolution 78/324 and fulfill the Council mandate to make concrete progress in strengthening the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons around the world.

We request your support and participation in these negotiations. We would also welcome your vocal support for the full, meaningful and effective participation of older people and civil society in any new process that is created.

Kathleen Jamieson
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cc:
The Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs
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The Honourable Arif Virani Minister of Justice
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An Active member of the Canadian Coalition Against Ageism a project of International Longevity Centre Canada

An active member of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People, a coalition of 400 civil society organisations worldwide working together to strengthen older people's rights globally.