



Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



International
Labour
Organization



UN Major Group for
Children and Youth
the space for children and youth in the United Nations



World Health
Organization

**60th Session of the Commission for Social Development
7-16th February 2022**

**Theme: Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods,
wellbeing and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger
in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda.**

**Concept Note for a
Virtual Side-Event on Youth and Ageism:**

Title: *Thriving Youth – From Ageism to Intergenerational Solidarity*

Date and time of the event: 14 February 2022, 08:30-9:45 New York time

1. Context

Addressing ageism and fostering collaboration across all groups is needed to advance the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, ensuring that no one is left behind. Ageism is defined by the World Health Organisation *as the stereotypes (how we think), prejudice (how we feel) and discrimination (how we act) directed towards others or oneself, based on age*. It is an insidious and often accepted health, human rights and development issue that affects both older and younger populations around the world. Importantly, ageism regularly co-exists with other forms of bias that numerous groups struggle with for the duration of their lives.

The UN Global report on ageism launched in March of 2021 highlights the many gaps that still exist with regards to ageism as it affects younger people. In this context, the objective of this virtual side event is to give focus to younger populations and their experiences of ageism, and to create a partnership across age groups to combat ageism.

As we enter into our third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, we see that young people are facing distinct age-related barriers in various spheres of their lives, including health, employment and politics. These age-related obstacles can deeply impact wellbeing and livelihoods not only during the youth years, but also in adulthood. Nurturing **just and equitable access to health (and especially mental health) services**, and **bridging existing inequalities in employment and opportunities for political engagement** are key elements in addressing ageism targeting all age groups.

For the COVID—19 recovery to be truly inclusive and sustainable, there is an undeniable need to identify and address the root causes of ageism as well as combat its multidimensional effects on all generations.

This side event is based on the key findings of the [Global report on ageism](#) as well as the [Ageism through the ages](#) initiative also lead by the World Health Organization.

2. Objectives of this side event

- Highlight the need for social and cultural awareness of ageism experienced by youth, with an opportunity for young people to share their own experiences of ageism, especially in relation to employment, health services and politics.

- Discuss innovative and best practices to tackle ageism with a focus on the three strategies that have proven to work: policy and law, educational activities and intergenerational interventions.

3. Topics covered during the side event

- *The nature and determinants of ageism*: Exploration of what ageism is, when it starts and who exhibits and experiences it.
- *How ageism is experienced by younger people*: Focus on the manifestations of ageism against younger people, including how it intersects with other forms of bias, and how it affects youth's access to health services (especially mental health services), employment and political opportunities.
- *The reduction of ageism*: Conversation on evidence-based strategies to address ageism.

4. Suggested agenda

8:30 – 8:35	<i>Welcoming</i> (and a few housekeeping issues) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator
8:35 – 8:45	<i>A first glimpse</i> : Ageism as experienced by youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 younger speakers (selected by MGCY)
8:45 – 9:00	<i>The nature and determinants of ageism</i> : Exploration of what ageism is, when it starts and who exhibits and experiences it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Vânia de la Fuente-Núñez, Technical Officer, Demographic Change & Healthy Ageing Unit, Department of Social Determinants of Health, Division of Healthier Populations, World Health Organization
9:00 – 9:15	<i>Ageism as experienced by younger people</i> : Focus on the manifestations of ageism against younger people, including how it intersects with other forms of bias, and how it affects youth's access to health services (especially mental health services), employment and political opportunities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 younger speakers (selected by MGCY)
9:15 – 9:40	<i>The reduction of ageism</i> : Intergenerational dialogue on evidence-based strategies to address ageism. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Kupferman, Chairperson, at Gray Panthers, NYC Network • Adriane Berg, Author, Broadcaster, Blogger, Speaker • 2 younger speakers (selected by MGCY) <p><i>Moderator</i>: discussion with audience</p>
9:40 – 9:45	<i>Closing</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs



International Labour Organization



Children and Youth
the space for children and youth in the United Nations



World Health Organization

5. **Participants:**

The participants will include Member States delegates present at the Commission for Social Development, representatives from youth organizations, representatives of NGOs, UN staff, and the general public. A very simple registration process will be organized to gather information on participants (for possible follow-up). Promotion of the side event will take place on the UN delegates platform, UN DESA and WHO's various internal and public platforms, as well as youth-led platforms such as MGCY.

6. **Possible outputs:**

- A platform for youth to share their voices, ideas, and concerns related to ageism
- An intergenerational dialogue between younger and older people, Member States and UN entities to help advance initiatives to address ageism across countries
- Possible issue brief/policy brief

7. **Partners:**

- DESA
- WHO
- ILO
- The Major Group on Children and Youth