

Press Release

October 1st, 2012

Santo Domingo. The International Longevity Center DR and the Dominican Network for Dignity in Old Age proclaimed during an activity in the National Pantheon, the need for the Dominican authorities to look at the situation of the older adult in the country.

Dr Rosy Pereyra, President of ILC-DR and Coordinator of the Dominican Network for Dignity in Old Age, said that the older Dominican had identified a set of demands relevant for their survival and they were: the imperious necessity of a non-contributory pension for the over 60 because over 80% of them did not work in the formal sector and therefore never contributed to any pension fund, the second demand was access to health and prescription drugs that was contemplated in the law that creates the Social Security System but is not being implemented and finally they demanded to pay attention to elderly abuse and ill treatment whose increment in the society has become worrisome. Dr Pereyra also said it was necessary to comply with the law so that the older Dominican does not have to depend on public charity or political clientele.

She emphasized that due to the lack of education, high rate of illiteracy, and marginality in which most of the older population lives, poverty is very common and the government and civil society must take actions to change that panorama. She also said that education, health, and protection were human rights for all individuals but it seemed that older people do not have rights and that is why took the opportunity to request to the Dominican Government to take an active participation in the efforts being made by different institutions and countries towards the celebration of a Convention For Human Rights at the UN since that will be a binding document that may represent a change in member state's attitude for the compromise they assume because we all deserve a more inclusive and just society for all ages.

