

ACTIVITY REPORT – Geneva
Annual report November 2014 - October 2015

All our activities fall under the category of advocacy and policy. Silvia is chairperson of the Geneva NGO Committee on Ageing, representing ILC GA. Ursula is co-secretary representing INPEA.

HUMAN RIGHTS

29th session of the Human Rights Council, 15 June-3 July,

To mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, we organised a side event on 15 June. The event “*Falling Between the Cracks*” focused on abuse and violence against older women. It was co-sponsored by OHCHR, UNFPA, INPEA, ILC GA, HelpAge International and nine Member States: Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Israel, Mozambique, Slovenia, Spain and USA. Silvia was a panellist. The report is available at: <http://ageingcommitteegeneva.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Falling-Between-the-Cracks-Side-Event-Report3.pdf>

We provided language on older women to the HRC resolution on violence against women proposed by Canada.

30th session of the Human Rights Council, 14 September-2 October

On 16 September the Independent Expert (IE) presented her reports. Silvia delivered an oral statement on behalf of ILC GA prepared with the kind help of Louise Plouffe (ILC Canada). The statement is online at the HRC extranet: https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/30thSession/OralStatements/ILC%20Global%20Alliance_ID_Olderpersons.pdf

Silvia moderated a side event organised by Austria in cooperation with the office of the IE and the NGO Committee on Ageing and ILC GA “*The human rights of older persons: best practices in the implementation of existing laws*”
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/OlderPersons/IE/Pages/Bestpractices.aspx>

Meeting with the High Commissioner for Human Rights

The High Commissioner responded favourably to Silvia’s request. We met him on 22 July. He expressed his commitment to promote the rights of older persons within the work of his office and in the field.

United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights

Silvia participated in the 2014 forum in December 2014 and will participate again this year on 16-18 November. We are exploring a possible session on business and the Human Rights of Older Persons at the 2016 forum.
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Forum/Pages/2015ForumBHR.aspx>

WHO

Silvia attended the *First WHO Ministerial Conference on Global Action Against Dementia* on 16-17 March 2015 and prepared an oral statement on behalf of the NGO Committee on Ageing:
http://www.who.int/mental_health/neurology/dementia/NSA_NGO_committee_on_ageing.pdf?ua=1

ILC GA representatives in Geneva
Silvia Perel-Levin and Ursula Barter-Hemmerich

Silvia was a reviewer of the first draft and participated in the consultation on the *World Report on Ageing and Health* that was launched on 30 September:
<http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/world-report-2015/en/>

Silvia was invited by WHO to participate in the regional European and global consultations on the global plan of action on violence prevention in Copenhagen on 11-12 May and in Geneva on 3 June.

Silvia attended the World Health Assembly 18-26 May, thanks to Alzheimers International that enjoys official relations with WHO.

Silvia has been invited to the consultation on the global strategy and action plan on ageing in Geneva 29-30 October 2015.

UNECE

Silvia and Ursula attended the annual Working Group on Ageing on 20-21 November 2014 and will attend the 2015 session on 19-20 November.

We organised a round table on older women at the NGO Forum that preceded the UNECE regional revision of Beijing +20 on November 2014: <http://beijing20.ngocsw-geneva.ch>

OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON AGEING, NY

Silvia participated at the OPWG in NY thanks to the financial support of Age International.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS (IDOP) 1 October 2015

We co-organised a special event at the UN with UNECE, ILO, UNFPA and WHO:
<http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/population/2015/unece-will-celebrate-international-day-of-older-persons-on-1-october-with-thematic-panel-and-exhibition/doc.html>

FORUM - OCAPROCE INTERNATIONAL

Ursula was a panellist on older women at the 7th International forum of NGOs on the economic, social and cultural rights of women on 9 September.

NGO COMMITTEE on AGEING, Geneva

The new website of the committee was launched on 29 April: www.ageingcommitteegeneva.org

ACTIVITIES BEYOND THE UN City of Geneva

Silvia was the guest of honour of the Mayor of Geneva and the keynote speaker on how to fight social isolation of older persons at a special event on 22 September: <http://www.ville-geneve.ch/actualites/detail/article/1442849242-premiere-rencontre-improbable-maire-geneve/>

Age Platform Europe

Silvia was invited to speak at an event on elder abuse organised by Age Platform, the Commission of Europe, the Council of Europe and the European Network of National Institutes of Human Rights to talk on policies and practices to tackle elder abuse.