

Highlights of Activities 2015-2017

ILC-DR in the Dominican Republic is well recognized for its work towards improving the quality of life of older people and defending their human rights. In that respect its work on advocacy is outstanding principally through its President Dr. Rosy Pereyra who is continually called whenever and wherever the word ageing is mentioned in the country.

We have established 3 main activities during the year: World Health Day, WEAD and the International Day of Older People. Those activities are usually done in collaboration with the Dominican Network for Dignity in Old Age and Help age International.

Research

In 2016 we finished our research on “Incidence of Sarcopenia in a deprived area of Santo Domingo which showed that out of 200 people interviewed and examined 83% had sarcopenia mainly because of malnourishment and lack of information on how to avoid it and that brought about a decision from the National Council of Ageing People (CONAPE) of assigning supplements of those people known to be under the poverty line.

This year we started a new research, “Dominican Republic Ages” in collaboration with NTD Ingredients Foundation because we found that we have a lot of disaggregated data about the older Dominicans but it is mainly quantitative but we know very little about the quality of life of our elders. We are now interviewing groups of people 65 plus of different social status.

Advocacy

We re permanently advocating for our older population and our work is hard because we have a high incidence of illiteracy specially in the 7th and 8th decade which makes things worse. Those were people that used to live in rural areas, with no formal employment and have moved to urban areas during the last 15 to 20 years. Our government have been implementing a program to abolish illiteracy which have been successful with the younger generation but unfortunately, was not designed for older people. We have been fighting to get a more appropriate tool that could be used with better results.

We are also advocating to get the government to sign the Latin-American Convention for Human Rights of Older People and in the respect we have had three meetings with the Representative of the Organization of American States and are coordinating a visit to the

Minister of Foreign Relations to present a petition for the Convention to be signed by the President and ratified by the Congress.

In 2016 we celebrated World Health Day following the WHO mandate to talk about diabetes with a panel with the President of the Dominican Society of Endocrinology, the Chief of the Department of Disease Prevention of the Ministry of Health and the General Director of Essential Drugs. This panel attracted 180 people and we did a screening for diabetes in people over 65. Great press coverage.

During WEAD we did a media tour talking about abuse and two panels on abuse with the participation of the Public Ministry, the police and a human right's organization.

In October 1st we decided to do a health screening on 200 older people.

Dr. Pereyra also did conferences on;

- Challenges and Perspectives of Public Policies for Older People in the Dominican Republic. 10th of April, 2016
- Age Discrimination. 22nd of April, 2016
- Analytic Review of Systemic and Structural Violence. June, 2016
- How to Preserve your Memory. 22nd July, 2016
- Cognitive Stimulation in Alzheimer's disease. 28th of November, 2016

In 2017 to celebrate World Health Day, we organized a conference on Depression in Old Age with a great TV and press coverage. We were given front page in one of the most important national newspapers. Went to one radio and 2 TV programs.

For WEAD, we gave a conference about "Abuse and ill Treatment" to a group of 50 older people and their relatives to raise awareness about abuse that sometimes goes unnoticed.

In April 22nd she dictated a conference on:

- Psychological Characteristics of Old age. April 22nd, 2017

Dr. Pereyra is writing an article related to old people twice a month in the newspaper Diario Libre and has gotten response from Puerto Rico and Venezuela.

She also participates regularly in TV and radio programs.

From the 24th to 30th of June Dr. Pereyra participated in the Activity Madrid+15 celebrated in Asunción, Paraguay where Civil Society and the Governments of Latin-America and the Caribbean presented their views on the advances in the implementation of MIPAA.

Awards

To celebrate World Women's Day, Dr. Pereyra received an Award from the Chamber of Deputies for her continuous work for Human Rights of Older Dominicans.