

# Delete 8 March 2021 Older Women Ageism



*We are a force!  
We deserve the elder rights - Dare to Be Aware!  
Elderly Women's contributions make our planet safe and secure.  
They have the broader and long-term interest of society in mind and  
improve the gender architecture.  
They are not yet active participants in local development planning. One  
of the key philosophies of concerted community action and generation  
awareness is participation and sense of belonging.  
We do not belong!*



BY GOOD.STUDIO/ADOBE STOCK

# STOP AGEISM

**TVSH / Emission "NE":** Women and their dominance in society "07 March 2021"

Invited: Nora Malaj - Sociologis

Ermira Pirdeni - Executive Director ASAG

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwquofp8g>

8 March 2021

WOMEN

ALL AGES



Women leaders and women's organizations have demonstrated their skills, knowledge and networks to effectively lead in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. Today there is more acceptance than ever before that women bring different experiences, perspectives and skills to the table, and make irreplaceable contributions to decisions, policies and laws that work better for all.

Majority of the countries that have been more successful in stemming the tide of the COVID-19 pandemic and responding to its health and broader socio-economic impacts, are headed by women. For instance, Heads of Government in Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, New Zealand and Slovakia have been widely recognized for the rapidity, decisiveness and effectiveness of their national response to COVID-19, as well as the compassionate communication of fact-based public health information.

# NURSES

A VOICE TO LEAD  
A VISION FOR FUTURE  
HEALTHCARE



**W**HAT MAKES WOMEN KEY CHANGE-MAKERS?

**8 March 2021** is celebrated by ASAG & Eco group in 'Home Nurse' led by the prominent Albanian nurse Mrs. Mimoza Kalaja. In that Home Nursing Services you can see the role of community responses to the elderly by dedicated professional women.



*Miss Bora Luka – medical student*

# 8 March 2021

Women, founders of the women's movement since '91, one day together.  
Years of effort strengthened our friendship!



**Interview Ermira Pirdeni: Inside every elderly there is a young person.**

*Magazine 'Psychology' no.8, 2006*

“...When I was 40 I thought I was perfect, but I doubt I was that even at 50 - now that I am 60 I feel perfect. Every decade has its wonderful rewards. My perception of aging has gradually changed. I believe inside every elderly person there is a youngster who yearns to get involved, but is not allowed by the society. The policies, psychology and tendencies of the population are in a continuous change. There is always something new and that is what makes life more interesting and work more motivating to me. I am independent, authentic and have the pure pleasure of being passionate in what I do. I do not feel the need to be greedy for things that do not belong to me. Only tender moments are valuable in human life. Only when all the spiritual forces in a woman are alive, she really lives as a person for herself and for others...”

United Nations 11th Open-ended Working Group on Ageing a multilateral legal instrument and identification of areas and issues where further protection and action are needed for elderly.  
**Ermira Pirdeni, Director, ASAG, statement:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-w5QPqsSmU>



ALBANIAN SOCIETY FOR ALL AGES

**SOME POINTS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN STATEMENTS 1 TO BE MADE AT THE OEWSGA, 11th Session, 29 March – 1 April 2021**

**A**lbania is a country with a prolonged transition, which has weighed heavily on the elderly. The political and social structures have circumvented the problem of the elderly by making it a chronic problem, although the democratic developments have provided opportunities.

*The poverty of the elderly has been caused by the inadequate pensions, the lack of access to services and the active age discrimination.*

**An international convention would guarantee for older persons everywhere:**

- In my country, the right to work and access to the labor market for older persons is not protected.
- Opportunities are lacking for learning throughout the lifespan.
- In my country, access to justice is not available for older persons.
- In my country, COVID-19 has:

Exposed the unacceptable state of healthcare services and long-term care. Caused social isolation and lack of connectivity among older persons, leading to depression, substance abuse and other physical and mental health issues.

Discriminated against, because of their age – at work; health care services including palliative and of life care; education and training; participation in economic, social, cultural and political life of a community; housing and a healthy environment, etc.

**International action is long overdue to protect the rights of older persons.**

**OEWSGA has had 10 sessions discussing issues concerning older persons and the violation of their rights. The time for action is long overdue.**

- Create societies and environments for all ages, where we do not lose our humanity, as we get older.
- International action is necessary where national action is inadequate.
- Improve State accountability and transparency.
- Raise public awareness of their rights.
- A Time for Community Resiliency!
- Older persons demand that they AGE WITH RIGHTS!
- Ageism must end NOW!

**A convention must be drafted NOW!**

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# RESTORING COMMUNITY



Brilliant interview of the 82-year-old Virgini Ristani, the folk singer of the city of Berat. (ASAG member)

*“A beautiful amenity”—a beautiful piece of space that is now being abused,” says Virgini, a longtime resident of community.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PeQKLAF-Jf8>

Limited resources for environmental justice by local governments are among the many obstacles that have resulted in inequitable access to green space, worsening health disparities among urban communities.

A Tirana Neighborhood wants to Create Green Space to Improve Community Health.

Once a beautiful garden and groundplay area enjoyed by the whole community, now is full of cars and concrete.

ASAG is leading the collaborative efforts by the community members to create green spaces aiming to improve the health for all ages of the community.

Urban greenery, such as the park of community space, benefits people’s health and recreation. But access to nature is unequal for lower-income communities compared to affluent mafia communities.

Listen to diverse voices

We hope to shift the perspective on the representation of aging and promote a new ageless mentality.

Aging is a privilege, we can use that privilege to help others!

*Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life. It's important to the person who serves as well as the recipient. It's the way in which we ourselves grow and develop. Dorothy Height.*

Mrs. Aneta Mihali Xhiku is a freelance journalist focused on community life, aiming to accelerate its culture shift and make meaningful and long lasting changes. Her powerful writing resonates with what matters the most to the community, and it’s a moving force in awakening common citizens while shaking the establishment.

She has been recognized by society as a leader and motivator in creating positive social and environmental impact. Aneta is a strong woman with a distinguished career in Albania and abroad.

<https://sarandavianeta.com/2021/04/15/maria-the-beggar/?fbclid>

## “Maria the Beggar”

A touching story masterfully described by Aneta!

Barbarian society leaves no chance!

ASAG is proud to have Aneta as its member, benefiting from her sensitivity to the problems of society through valuable writings!



# EURAG

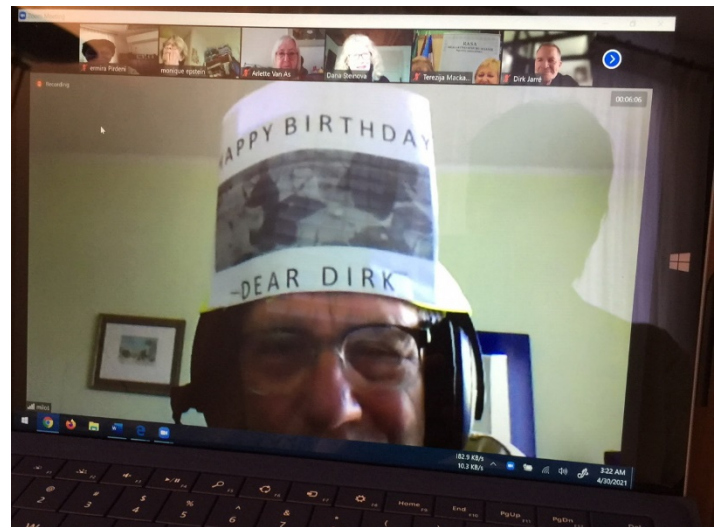
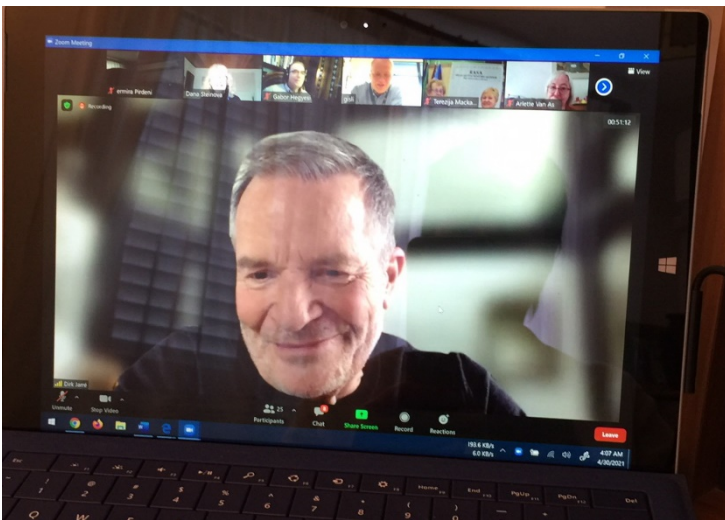
**M**ay 14, 2021 / EURAG zoom meeting on the topic ‘Solidarity Between Generations during the Covid-19 Pandemic’

The meeting was with a glass of wine to congratulate the 80th anniversary of the President of EURAG **Mr. Dirk Jarre**.

EURAG members thanked the President for his valuable contribution to strengthening the voice of EURAG and the ongoing commitment in favor of EURAG contributing organizations.

And ASAG expressed its deep gratitude for EURAG contribution to the organization of the international conference on Ageing in Tirana, etc.

The topic of Intergenerational Solidarity has been one of ASAG 's main activities since its inception, when ASAG became a member of the Global Coalition ‘Coalition ‘99’ during the International Year of Older Persons, 1999. This activity continues today by the unpaid volunteerism of ASAG members.



ASAG notes the most pressing issue to community is a Intergenerational Solidarity



Mrs. Nora Malaj, former Deputy Minister of Education Ministry called for the University Centers to become environments where volunteering, critical thinking, solidarity, and empathy are instilled and encouraged in the young graduates through new age-based curricula, thus influencing society as a whole to Stop the Stereotypes About Aging.

# Coalition '99

UPDATE

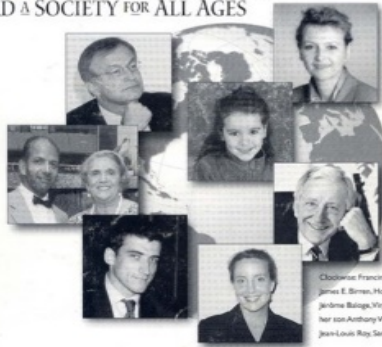
Partnership for an Aging Society Focusing on the International Year of Older Persons and Beyond

DECEMBER • 1999

## Intergenerational Solidarity

By Francine Lamontagne, Editor

TOWARD A SOCIETY FOR ALL AGES



Chairperson Francine Lamontagne,  
James E. Birner, Holly Batts,  
Jordana Balogh, Virginia E. Hayes Williams &  
her son Anthony Williams,  
Jean-Louis Roy, Sarah-Jeanne Lamontagne.

The International Year of Older Persons has concluded. And the century and the millennium shall shortly be ending as well. This newsletter and the International Year of Older Persons (IYOP), we reckon, were a great success! In fact, Coalition'99 as the International Clearinghouse received a UN Award last October for its contribution for the Year! Thus, in the same vein, we conclude the Coalition'99 Update newsletter with this issue, which wraps up the IYOP. The theme I chose for this final issue addresses "Intergenerational Solidarity", which I believe is the key solution for the future.

SEE SOLIDARITY ON PAGE 15

## AROUND THE WORLD



**Albania** Coalition'99 is very pleased to announce that on October 28, 1999, a group of intellectuals in Tirana established the Albanian Society for All Ages. The group comprises individuals involved in artistic, cultural, and scientific life in Albania. Welcome to the partnership!

During the crisis in Kosovo, given the difficult situation, the contribution of the elder persons was paramount to the humanitarian efforts, which included helping the poorest of Albanian families. Despite their generosity and tireless efforts during the row in Kosovo, the transformation that their society underwent proved to be very difficult for all generations, but particularly for the elderly. Taking inspiration from this very difficult situation, this movement was warmly accepted by many people and other organizations in Albania.

There were three problems to focus on: 1) Training and evaluation of needs. 2) The need to obtain the experience of international organizations. 3) Involvement of the media in the diffusion of information. The Board of Directors will evaluate every kind of help concerning the protection of elder persons for the development of this movement in Albania.

Upcoming events are:

- A public debate on national television concerning older persons and their contributions.
- The preparation of a poster on tolerance.

Albeit these important points presented above, the Board of Directors and President of this movement is working hard to prepare a long term program and strategy for this movement. Newly elected on November 9th 1999, the President of the Albanian Society for All Ages is Ms.

Tiaska Kurti, a nationally and internationally awarded artist of the Albanian theatre and cinematography.

CONTACT: *Ermeta Pindeni, Executive Director, ASAG - Albanian Society for All Ages Rr. "Mihal Grameno" 78/4/4/35 Tirana - Albania. Tel: 355 42 33935, Fax: 355 42 72889, E-mail: asag@gmx.net*

**Argentina** In Argentina, the Committee for the IYOP in Cordoba, which is composed of three organizations on aging: la Fundación Asistencia Integral del Anciano (FAIDEA), Vinculos Terera Edad Cordoba (VINTECO) y la Residencia Geriatrica Privada Bella Vida (Sector Privado), adopted the theme "Cordoba: a society for all ages." The main goal of the Committee is to change attitudes of the public by modifying the images of aging.

CONTACT: *Comité Pro Año Internacional de las Personas de Edad 1999, Duarte Quiroga 2837-Alto Alberdi-C.P. 5003-Córdoba, Argentina. Tel: 054 0331 480 2125, Fax: 054 0331 481 2491, E-mail: cromano@agora.com.ar*

**Australia** United Nations Association of Australia (NSW Division) presented a symposium celebrating the IYOP under the theme "Building A Bridge Of Values-A Dialogue between the Young and the Old" on September 18, 1999 at The University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW. A panel of youth and older persons discussed the diminishing role of older persons as the traditionally recognized source and imparters of values to the younger generation in Australian society. The symposium aimed at broadening perspectives across the generations. Topics for discussion included:

- Possible reasons underlying the disintegration of the older person's role in the family and society as a whole.
- The influence of migration on the individual, family, and social structures.
- The diminishing role of religion amongst the younger generations and how it affects the process of "building a bridge of values" between the generations.

CONTACT: *Miss Taylor Dong, IYOP Programme Convener, United Nations Association (NSW) School of Social Science and Policy, Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Marwen Brown Building G18, The University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW 2052, AUSTRALIA. Tel: 61 2 9385 1712, Fax: 61 2 9385 1040, E-mail: taylor@unsw.edu.au*

**Bahrain** The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the National Committee for the Elderly developed a colorful packet for the IYOP including material in English and Arabic such as posters, stickers, United Nations principles for older persons, root publications, programs that honor older persons, competitions for school students, a school calendar, and a program



SEE AROUND THE WORLD ON PAGE 16

Online '99 UPDATE

15

No. 13, 1999

# DÉCLARATION DE QUÉBEC

DÉCLARATION DE QUÉBEC SUR LA SOLIDARITÉ INTERGÉNÉRATIONNELLE

QUEBEC DECLARATION CONCERNING INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY

DECLARACIÓN DE QUÉBEC SOBRE LA SOLIDARIDAD INTERGENERACIONAL

QUÉBEC, LE 23 MAI 1999  
QUEBEC CITY, MAY 23, 1999  
CIUDAD DE QUÉBEC, A 23 DE MAYO DE 1999



# Deklarata e Kebekut

DEKLARATA E KEBEKUT MBI SOLIDARITETIN E BREZAVE

QUEBEC DECLARATION CONCERNING INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Gjyetei i Kebekut, 23 Maj, 1999  
Quebec Citi, May 23, 1999



1

The Quebec Declaration has been translated into Albanian and distributed by ASAG



## Albania Elections 25 April 2021

Elections are a contested subject. In many countries, elections have both succeeded and failed to translate into real change for people. Still, elections are extremely consequential for our lives. While we cannot rely on them alone to bring about real change, they can present a critical moment for communities to organize around shared priorities, and for movements to put forward agendas for change and mobilize supporters.

Elections April 25 2021 - Vote for women!

ASAG had a surprise, which has not happened during the last three decades, an agreement between candidates for MP and ASAG in favor of the elderly population!

It is time to think of the elderly population and to unite a series of policies that will govern the philosophy, approach and negative prejudices that are against the elderly. ASAG activist, Mrs. Nora Malaj, who has supported Ageing that the first day of the establishment of ASAG, 28 October 1999, announced by the UN as the international year of elderly people in response to demographic change, which already severely affects and Albania.

She committed of the approval of the draft law on the elderly within the first two years of the her mandate.

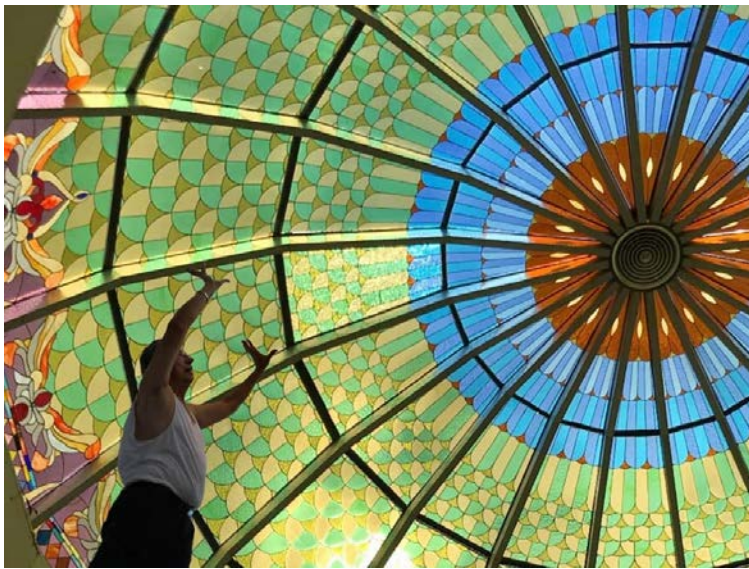
At the same time I'm enthusiastic that this initiative has joined my colleague Mr. Besnik Jakaj, a serious and courageous doctor in his commitments. Albanian elderly are the most experienced and damaged group that has not even benefited from national wealth or from development. The law is a modest solution to unlock the power of the elderly and to change the vision from dependence on independence.



**This election activity was not covered by any electronic or print media!**

# V R T

**Mr. Fatbardh Marku**, scenographer of the national theater, painter, stained glass, etc. awarded at various national and international awards.

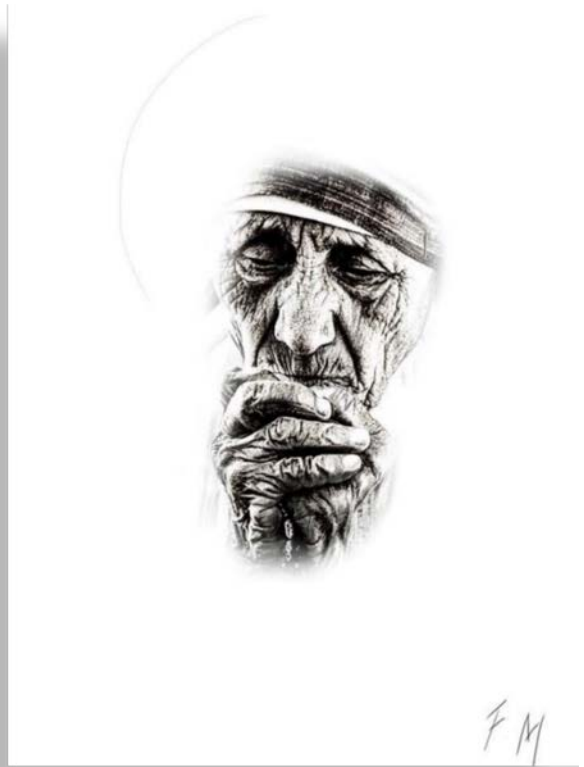


# “Mother Teresa”

Graphic made with printing ink -1993

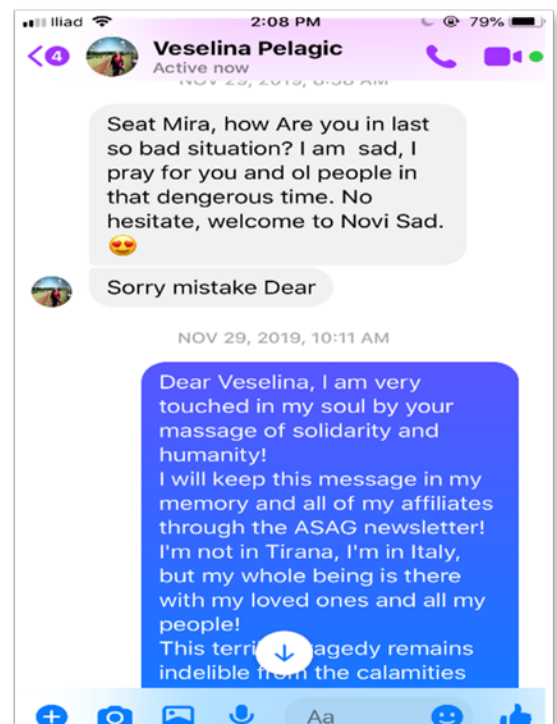
*This is my world. No one can take me ...*

<https://www.facebook.com/markvitraux>



I want you to be concerned about your next door neighbor.  
Do you know your next door neighbor? Mother Teresa

**An Act of Solidarity** from Mrs. Veselina, I met her just three days at an international meeting. (2009, severe earthquake in Albania damaged many families with loss of human life and housing, many of whom are still homeless)





## United Nations Principles for Older Persons

- **Independence**, including being able to reside at home as long as possible
- **Participation**, including opportunities for older persons to share their knowledge and skills with younger generations
- **Care**, including benefiting from family and community care and protection in accordance with each society's system of cultural values
- **Self-fulfillment**, including access to the educational, cultural, spiritual and recreational resources of society
- **Dignity**, including being treated fairly regardless of age, gender, racial or ethnic background, disability or other status

Interview on SCAN TV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uA5KoTg8tOY&t=1s>





## Breaking Ground: How Community Speaks the Language of Its Residents

The elderly and people of all ages should be able to live where they choose and with the ability to participate fully in their communities.

By funding services and supports provided by networks of community-based organizations and with investments in research, education, and innovation make this principle a reality for Albanian Society.

These declarations are an important first step in the movement to advance equity and must be followed by allocation of resources and strategic action.

In surveys when older adults are asked where they would prefer to live, they say they want to live in their communities.

People also are happier and healthier when they live in community settings.

Inclusion of older adults also offers many benefits to communities themselves. Communities miss out on valuable voices and perspectives when older adults are left out. They are deprived of co-workers, volunteers, mentors and friends who offer new ways of thinking about and communities lose wisdom collected over many decades, and their connection to history. Community living also happens to be less expensive than other options for most people.

### *"The Soul of a woman"*

*"This is the era of emboldened grandmothers, and we are the population's fastest-growing group. We are women who have lived long lives; we have nothing to lose and therefore are not easily scared; we can speak up because we don't care to compete, to please, or to be popular; and we know the immense value of friendship and collaboration. We are anxious about the situation of humanity and the planet. Now it's a matter of agreeing to give the world a formidable shake" Isabel Allende*

#endingageism

#aworld4allages

## *Albanian Society for All Ages (ASAG)*

*Prepared by Mira Pirdeni*

*Designed by Luca Pirdeni / 12 years old*