

# INPEA BULLETIN

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE PREVENTION OF ELDER ABUSE



October 2008



## INPEA - EXPERIENCE THE FUTURE

The future for INPEA is now. It happened with the third World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 16th in Ottawa, Canada. The two day conference was organized by INPEA and co-hosted by the Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (CNPEA) with over 200 people from 22 countries attending. The generosity of our major funders was heartening ; we thank the federal Government of Canada, the Ontario Government and the National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly( NICE) for making this event possible. Please visit the website and read the papers that were presented. The future was seen when we conducted a Email Blast during the INPEA meeting in Ottawa on June 15, 2008. Although not a large number of participants, it was exciting that some people joined us; the fact that it took place at all is a milestone. The Email Blast opens the door to future interactive activities; we are investigating the possibility of repeating this at the INPEA meeting at GSA in Maryland on November 21st. Watch for it! The future is in lessons learned from our first ever membership survey where members articulated the strengths and weaknesses of INPEA. It is truly wonderful that the membership has found its own voice. We will continue this format as was suggested in the responses. The document calls for role clarification, organizational structure and developing a Business Plan among other things. A discussion of this report will be the focus of the meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup> and we strongly encourage you to join this process; write your ideas/responses/ recommendations for action to Betty Malks ([Betty.Malks@ssa.sscgov.org](mailto:Betty.Malks@ssa.sscgov.org)).

The future is in organizing WEAAD on July 5<sup>th</sup>,2009 in Paris. The event will bring together the world elder abuse community in an interactive program to celebrate the work people are doing, and the enduring hope for a future free of abuse. The concept of having a worldwide Web Cast could impact INPEA/WEAAD meetings in places such as Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Oceania by bringing the conference to the people instead of the people to the conference. The future is now as we face our most important challenge: to elect a new executive on July 5<sup>th</sup> 2009. We need the election to be honorable, open and transparent. Members are hoping for a very inclusive and broad process of shared decision making. The Bulletin will publish periodic mini-bulletins on "Things You Need to Know" about electing a new executive.

The future is in reading about the work taking place in India and South Asia as presented in this special issue. Many thanks to our Guest Editor Dr. Mala Kapur Shankardass.

The future ,as poignantly expressed by one survey respondent, is "what INPEA **could** become."

The future is now and we must experience every minute of it,

Elizabeth Podnieks  
Editor

## Comments from Guest Editor



This special edition brings emphasis on ageing concerns, particularly on aspects of elder abuse and related issues in the South Asian countries. It also has news from other parts of the world and reports about observances of the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) 2008 and other activities, which INPEA President, office bearers and members organized, were invited to and participated or are interested. This newsletter, while is part of the regular activity of INPEA, is also unique as it reaches out to a wider readership especially in South Asia, encouraging many more to join the network and report about their activities as well plan programs

to advocate for prevention of elder abuse and contribute towards improving quality of life of older people from a rights-based approach.

*Information generated here is testimony to the fact that INPEA President Dr. Lia Daichman's dream of making an impact in all continents is taking shape. Awareness on elder abuse issues is growing and many good policies and practices are shaping to address the concerns.*

I am happy to accept the responsibility of shaping this edition of the INPEA Newsletter and bringing focus on South Asia, namely India and the neighboring countries, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. These 7 countries in all, with some different as well as some similar socioeconomic characteristics and separate path of development constitute the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Region where issue of elder abuse is getting recognition and acknowledgement as a concern to be addressed at various levels. However, much more awareness on the issue needs to be generated so that violation of human rights of older people in the Region does not take place.

As observed by me when I visited some of the South Asian countries as a Consultant with United Nations and also in other capacity as well as part of my research and academic interest, there is increasing media coverage on different forms of abuse and neglect of older people, defined in the Region as 60 years and older. Respective country Governments are taking note of the increasing problems of elder abuse and some have enacted legislation to address the concern or bring attention to it in the policy documents and programs. Formulation of National Policy on Older Persons is one strategy adopted to bring greater attention on concerns related to ageing. A number of NGOs and other civil society members are involved with various programs which impact quality of life of older people but may not be directly involved with addressing the issue of abuse and neglect. The difficulty in bringing direct interventions arises because elder abuse in many of these countries has not been properly recognized nor systematically documented.

It is a challenge which needs to be taken on and this special issue of the INPEA Newsletter provides the opportunity to bring greater focus on the concern in the Asian context and encourage all stake holders to contribute towards achieving INPEA's goal to increase society's ability, through national, regional and international collaboration by recognizing and responding to the mistreatment of older people in whatever settings it occurs, so that each individual can achieve an optimal quality of life in keeping with his or her cultural values and traditions.

## Comments from Guest Editor (cont.)

The incidence and prevalence of neglect, isolation and abuse of older persons is increasing in the countries of South Asia as indicated by various studies conducted by researchers and reports of many organizations. However, there is no national level data available to guide concrete programs for combating the problem, nor have any tools been developed to measure the extent and understand its nature and type. There is recognition of certain risk factors and also of the different forms across socioeconomic groups but much more work needs to be done to provide adequate evidence of it. Problems of reporting and treating it as a crime/offence have to be taken up by individual countries based on their situation.

Governments of India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka have gone ahead with legislations to combat the problem (See the Section on Legislations in South Asia). In most of the countries observance of the International Day of Older Persons brings focus on the concerns related to older persons and many of the programs organized reflect attempts by different groups and agencies to empower older people, recognize their contribution in order to make societies sensitive to their needs and participation in development and at the same time bring attention on their plight with regard to certain circumstances. Observance of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day since its inception in 2006 has brought many stakeholders together and increasingly partnerships are developing between senior citizens, government, police, media, social scientists, legal and medical professionals and the civil society to address the concerns. I am happy to share that as the Representative of INPEA India and neighboring countries I have been able to make substantial in road in these endeavors. I look forward to receiving from readers, news about research, programs, practices and sharing of thoughts and views on elder abuse and related matters. Many individuals have joined the Network and I encourage many more to do so in order for us to jointly and in our individual ways address the concerns, raise awareness and participate in action to make a difference for better quality of life of older persons.

It is hoped that this edition of the Newsletter will bring awareness on the situation of older persons in South Asia both in terms of emerging problems and also illustration of good practices which improve the circumstances of older people and prevent their abuse and neglect.

We now have Mr. Manohar Upreti as INPEA Representative in Nepal and soon would also have response from other 5 South Asian countries too. As INPEA grows in India and South Asia I take this opportunity of acknowledging the valuable support of Dr. Lia Daichman, INPEA President, Dr. Elizabeth Podnieks, Vice President, Ms. Susan Somers, Secretary General, Dr. Toshio Tatara, Asia Regional Representative and all the other INPEA office bearers and members.

An appeal: Share your thoughts, activities, programs and suggestions for working towards combating elder abuse and age discrimination. Make the newsletter more interactive. Write to the Editorial Board Member's by giving your comments and suggestions. In anticipation of your active involvement,

Dr. Mala Kapur Shankardass  
INPEA National Representative for India & South Asia  
Email: malakapurshankardass@hotmail.com

## **Giving Visibility to INPEA in India and Elsewhere and Building Partnerships for INPEA**

### **Recent activities of Dr. Mala Kapur Shankardass, Chair INPEA in India & South Asia covering elder abuse issues:**

**Interaction with UNFPA** - In 'Strategy Paper on Ageing' developed by her for UNFPA India for their 7<sup>th</sup> cycle country program, 2008 to 2012 she brought emphasis besides other concerns on addressing elder abuse issues and strengthening networks on ageing, such as INPEA.

**Interaction with NGOs** - She as Chairperson of Development, Welfare and Research Foundation (DWARF) and Representative of INPEA made a Presentation on "Health Security for Older People: An Evaluation" at the Seminar on "Senior Citizens as National Resource: Challenges and Opportunities", organized by the Initiative for Social Change and Action (ISCA) and REMEDIA Trust on 19- 20<sup>th</sup> January 2008 in New Delhi. Besides other concerns she brought focus on elder abuse as a public health issue and the need for emphasizing on quality of care for older people in all settings.

**Interaction with Academic Community** - She was invited to Chair a session and make a presentation on 'Globalization and Ageing of Populations: New Threats, New Strategies' at the International Conference on 'Social Development, Social Movements and the Marginalized: Perspectives and Concerns' held from 16-19 February 2008 at Indira Gandhi Open University. She reviewed the policies in practice for inclusion of older women and men in development in the South Asian context.

**Interaction with Government** - On invitation she delivered Lectures and guided research, dissertations and organized seminars on elder abuse combating strategies and on INPEA activities at both the Certificate and Post Graduate Diploma Courses in 'Integrated Geriatric Care' organized by National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. She delivered talks on elder abuse prevention, and is currently guiding students on the project 'Role of Elderly in Community Development' and on 'Role of School Teachers in Bridging the Inter Generational Gap'. Students of the 2008 six months and one year training courses of NISD participated in WEAAD 2008 India program organized by her as INPEA India activity.

**Promoting Rights of Older People** - She spoke on 'Disability, Poverty and Older People' at the National Seminar on "Disability, Poverty and Human Rights in India" organized by the Society for Social Empowerment at Jawaharlal Nehru University on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

**Discussing Care Aspects** - She made a presentation on 'Organizing Care Networks for Dementia Control and Management' and spoke about INPEA activities in South Asia at the National Seminar organized by the Society for Gerontological Research and HelpAge India from 14 to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

## Giving Visibility to INPEA in India and Elsewhere and Building Partnerships for INPEA (cont.)

**Addressing SAARC Forum** - She was invited to deliver an Address on the 'Situational Analysis: An Overview of Ageing Concerns in SAARC Region' at the Five Day Training in Geriatric Care Giving for SAARC Countries organized by the NISD, Government of India from July 21-25 2008 at New Delhi. Her address which opened the technical sessions set the ball rolling for deliberations and sharing of experiences from different countries. INPEA Representative from Nepal, Mr. Manohar Upreti was one of the participants and Dr. Shankardass appealed to other countries participants to join INPEA as active members and strengthen its work in respective countries.



**Addressing International Community** - As a Panelist at the 4<sup>th</sup> World Ageing and Generations Congress in St. Gallen for the Session on 'Combating Age Discrimination and Elder Abuse' she spoke about 'Combating Age Discrimination and Elder Abuse in India' and also on 'Ageing, Women & Health: Emerging Care Giving Needs in Asia' in another session organized by UNFPA New York. In both the presentations she highlighted vulnerabilities of older men and women to elder abuse and lack of care. She critically reviewed the prevailing practices with recommendations for further action.

**Partnering with Civil Society** – She has addressed a number of forums, almost 2 a month, partnering with Rotary, Inner Wheel Clubs, Resident Welfare Associations, Senior Citizens Associations, Colleges, Schools and Women Groups to deal with elder abuse concerns and take steps for preventing and reducing risk of it given different circumstances and environment.

## Recognizing Work of INPEA Members and Supporters, those Working for the Cause of Older People in India and South Asia

*We encourage more individuals and organizations to join and support the activities of INPEA. Please send your information and contact details to INPEA Representative in South Asia.*

### In Pakistan

INPEA is happy to note the initiatives being taken by the Senior Citizens Forum based in Karachi, which arranges travel, outings for senior citizens, brings them together to visit important places, celebrate festivals and through its TIFFIN Project of providing daily free meals reaches out to older people who are needy, widows, destitute, ailing, immobile and those deserted by their children.

## Recognizing Work of INPEA Members and Supporters, those Working for the Cause of Older People in India and South Asia (cont.)



### In Bangladesh

Forum for Rights of the Elderly, '*Probin Adhikar Forum*' has been started and this is non-political, non profit making voluntary organization. It is an initiative to raise legal protection of older people. *We congratulate* Resource Integration Centre (RIC) for having conducted awareness programs on rights of older people and publishing a newsletter since 2000 which has information on various concerns of older people and the community programs on nutrition, dealing with emergencies, disaster management, etc. *INPEA appreciates the work* of Bangladesh's Women's Health Coalition (BWHC), Bangladesh Retired Government Employee's Welfare Association, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) and Bangladesh Association for the Aged and Institute of Geriatric Medicine (BAAIGM) towards improving quality of life of older men and women.

### In Nepal

NEPAN through its work has shown special concern for the marginalized and disadvantaged group such as older people who should be part of development plans and programs. Other organizations working for the cause of older people include Asmi in Kathmandu; Shree Pashupati Briddhashram, Inaruwa; Shanti Ashram in Kathmandu; Help Age Nepal; National Senior Citizen Organization Network Nepal (NSCONN); Prodha Kalyan Sangh; Senior Citizen Service Centre; Old Age Management \ Social Welfare Trust; Senior Citizen Society. These organizations provide legal help, advocate for older people and adopt necessary steps to safeguard their rights, interest and welfare.

Thumbs up for Mr. Manohar Upreti, INPEA Representative for Nepal for organizing since beginning 2008 many events for the welfare of older people. He was involved with distribution of Identity cards to senior citizens, visiting old age homes, organizing pilgrimages for older people, advocating for special facilities for 60 plus population, facilitating geriatric health care services, educating seniors on their legal rights, and encouraging sharing of elder abuse experiences as seen in the photographs below, where an elder person is talking about elder abuse and Manohar giving a talk on another occasion.

### In Sri Lanka

INPEA applauds the efforts of faith organizations - We wish continuous success to The All Ceylon Buddhist Congress which pioneered opening Elders' Home in the mid 1920s and managing a large number currently. We appreciate the efforts of Sarvodaya, "Dharma Wijaya" and "Sahana" in providing services to older people. And as well as the work of HelpAge Sri Lanka, Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs, Red Cross Society, Kulagana Samithiyies (Women Activists), Maranadhara Societies (Death Donations), and Legal Aid Foundation.

## Recognizing Work of INPEA Members and Supporters, those Working for the Cause of Older People in India and South Asia (cont.)

### In India

Congratulations to Mrs. Kiran Puri, Director, Development, Welfare and Research Foundation (DWARF) for her work on bringing awareness on the 'Role of Assistive Technologies in the Prevention of Crime against the Elderly'. She has been doing various programs to reduce the burden of care of older people and improve their quality of life.

We are grateful to the Delhi Government for recognizing and encouraging INPEA initiatives and being part of observance of WEAAD. In 2007 Honorable Mrs. Sheila Dikshit, the Chief Minister of Delhi had graced the function organized by INPEA Representative Dr Shankardass and in 2008 Dr. Yoga Nand Shastri, Honorable Minister for Health and Social Welfare addressed the esteemed gathering assembled to observe WEAAD with participation from across the country.

Thank you Mr. P C Sharma, Member, National Human Rights Commission for Presiding over the National Seminar on 'Building Knowledge and Networks to Address Elder Abuse in India: Pathways to Human Rights' and supporting activities of INPEA organized by the Representative in India.

Thank you Dr. Arbind Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the nodal agency for dealing with old age issues, for understanding the importance of elder abuse concerns and recognizing the efforts of INPEA by agreeing to inaugurate the National Seminar organized by Dr. Shankardass as INPEA Representative on 'Building Knowledge and Networks to Address Elder Abuse in India: Pathways to Human Rights' *as part of observance of WEAAD 2008 in India.*

INPEA is grateful to National Human Rights Commission in India and HelpAge India for sponsoring and supporting Dr. Shankardass, Chairperson of Development, Welfare and Research Foundation (DWARF) and Representative of INPEA endeavor in organizing the big National Event, WEAAD 2008 in India with participation of over 150 participants. We are also grateful to United Nations Information Centre and United Nations Population Fund for supporting the cause.

Sincere thanks to the following NGOs for joining hands of INPEA Representative in observing WEAAD 2008 in India - Delhi Federation of Associations of Senior Citizens; Bharat Pensioners Samaj; Pensioners & Retired Persons Association; Bharat Central Pensioners Confederation, Senior Citizens Council of Delhi; All India Confederation for Senior Citizens & the Research Committee 18, Sociology of Crime & Deviance of the Indian Sociological Society.

We are in appreciation of initiatives taken by National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for bringing awareness on elder abuse issues in their training and advocacy modules. INPEA acknowledges

## **Recognizing Work of INPEA Members and Supporters, those Working for the Cause of Older People in India and South Asia (cont.)**

(cont.) the efforts of Dr. Satyendra Prakash, Director NISD in bringing focus on rights of older people and elder abuse combating strategies in different programs.

*Margherita College*, Assam in North East India observes elder's day by arranging free health check up for older persons. INPEA congratulates Dr. Chura Giri, Head of Sociology Department for organizing the event.

Individuals make a difference!! We congratulate Mr. Prem Sagar Relli for launching 'Happy Old Age', a magazine from a common senior citizen for the common senior persons. Those wanting to subscribe can email at [happyoldage@gmail.com](mailto:happyoldage@gmail.com) or [premrelli@yahoo.com](mailto:premrelli@yahoo.com).

National Institute of Criminology & Forensic Science (NICFS) and National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) organized a 'National Seminar on Crime Against Senior Citizens: A Search for Peaceful Solution' at NICFS premises in Gurgoan, Haryana, India.

Involving Children, Innovative Initiative of Early Childhood Web Channel. Efforts of Meenakshi and Vinay Rai must be applauded. They are organizing an event 'Children and Elders' on October 1, the International Day of Older Persons which will be dedicated to Elders by their NGO, 'chinh children' where children from 6 years to 15 years would produce their own 1 minute films on grandparents, take photographs capturing grandparents, make drawings of their grandparents and in turn will win prizes offered by sponsors. As for the films, they would be webcast on the channel for the whole world to see. Be on the look out at [www.chinh.in](http://www.chinh.in) for details.

INPEA India is appreciative of Mr. Mohan Siroya, a senior citizen of 72 years and the Founder Chairperson of Consumer Complaints Cell, an NGO based at Mumbai for being actively involved in the problems and concerns faced by seniors by getting their grievances redressed by highlighting the same by way of articles/letters in the media, print magazines, and websites related to Seniors; besides, fighting on their behalf with various Government /public or private organizations at his own cost and time.

## **Starting of Helplines for Senior Citizens - A Way to Secure the Elderly**

In India and other South Asian Countries an increasing number of the elderly are living alone, are more and more irregularly being visited by their children and other relatives and due to negligence and disregard from their own kith and kin, many feel lonely, insecure and isolated. They have difficulty in seeking help and guidance in meeting their day to day needs. Setting up 'Help-lines' for senior citizens is one way of making them feel secure and manage their lives. It is source for information and counseling and provides a medium for them to be connected to the world around them. In India Help Lines for older people have been set up in a number of towns, for instance in Chennai, Cuddalore, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, etc by NGOs and HelpAge India has taken a lead in many of these initiatives.

## Removing Digital Exclusion of Older People: Initiatives of NIPSTEC and NISD

Initiatives are being taken by NGOs and other institutions to ensure digital inclusion of older persons. In SAARC countries IT stakeholders are seriously working towards this. In India, NIPSTec Ltd has worked tirelessly to make computer literacy a unifying instrument for older persons' interactions with younger generation. At the government level, National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) has also launched computer training programs for senior citizens and has supported organizations to undertake these educational projects. NIPSTec and NISD joined hands to do computer literacy programs for senior citizens.

Removing Digital exclusion as the experience of NIPSTec in collaboration with NISD reveals has led to older people using internet for their benefit, knowledge, communication with children and relatives, doing e-business, e-banking, getting travel tickets - be it railways or air-lines, watching movies, playing games, passing time and *be hold*, it has made them 'very special grandparents', having a common computer language with grandchildren.

## Recent National Initiatives and Legislations in South Asia

### Bangladesh

Bangladesh is a predominantly Muslim country. Religious laws govern family law in the judicial system, be they Muslim, Hindu or Christian. The Muslim law as practiced in Bangladesh states that, 'children in easy, materially comfortable circumstances are bound to maintain their poor parents, even if the parents are able to earn something for themselves'. The law specifies that sons, even if poor but earning something, are obliged to support their poor mothers and fathers if they are poor, without earnings, and whether or not infirm. In Bangladesh, the National Policy for the Aged has been initiated to give effect to the programs that would ensure health, economic and social security to older people. National Level Committees/Councils have been created with membership of government and NGOs. Some notable programs for older people which impact on their quality of life include setting up of *Shanti Nibas* (Old Age Homes), *Abosar* (Hospices), social security schemes, pension and gratuity schemes, old age allowance program, elder widows allowance scheme. National Plan for the welfare of older people focuses on the awareness and sensitization of the general public towards ageing issues. It focuses on providing geriatric health care services, economic empowerment, housing, recreational facilities, etc. It encourages NGOs to take initiatives in providing services to older people. Few of them in rural and urban areas have started credit facilities for older people and income generation activities along with providing access to basic needs. Observance of the International Day of Older Persons raises awareness on ageing concerns.

## Recent National Initiatives and Legislations in South Asia (cont.)

### **Bhutan**

Families take pride in caring for their elders and consequently there is no formal policy on older people. At present, Bhutan's old-age security still is mostly based on an extended family network. Formal old-age provision is mainly for civil servants, providing only lump-sum payments. However, the government is open to review the possibilities for introducing a pension scheme which provides regular (monetary) income in old age. The government is keen to address the issue of the ageing in the country.

### **India**

The National Policy on Older People was announced in 1999 and it envisages the government to ensure financial, food, health and social security to older people and protection against abuse and exploitation. Indian government on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2007 succeeded in passing 'The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill'. It has now become an Act and the States have the powers to make rules for carrying out the objectives of the Act, which is being put before the concerned State Legislature for adoption. The Act provides for Maintenance of the elderly and also for other welfare measures, namely, (a) Better medical facilities; (b) Protection of life and property; and (c) Old Age Homes in every District. Significantly, the Act makes abandonment of the elderly a cognizable offence.

### **Maldives**

Migration of young to other countries has raised the awareness on ageing parents left behind. The Government has now passed a Law based on the Islamic Principles of Kinship and Responsibilities, which places the onus on families to look after their elderly. For those without families to take care, government has started old age homes for housing them but there are limited social security measures. NGO sector is now growing to cater to caring needs of older people.

### **Nepal**

The Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002-2007), which takes forward the 9<sup>th</sup> Plan when Policy on Older People was framed, in principle states to have programs for the senior citizens by focusing on security for the old age, relevant involvement in work, and organizing capacity building activities by involving local bodies, NGOs, and civic society. In order to make the lives of senior citizens easier and respectable, it suggests using their knowledge, skills, and abilities whenever applicable. Government has initiated few programs to meet the health care, education and training needs of older people. It is strengthening mechanisms to enhance families role in caring for the elderly and is involving NGOs in providing services. The Nepalese law has made provisions for protecting older persons from possible misuse of their physical and mental disabilities. Nepalese law prohibits making any property and financial transactions with elderly persons aged 75 years and above in absence of his / her near and dear ones.

## Recent National Initiatives and Legislations in South Asia (cont.)

### Pakistan

Families are still strong in providing care to older people and thus limited NGOs are involved with ageing issues. Most of these are organized by senior citizens themselves as forums, pensioners associations with the intention of giving more visibility to their problems and concerns. These organizations conduct various programs for their members and also support or provide assistance to those needy, destitute or deserted by their families.

### Sri Lanka

A National Committee on Ageing was established in 1982 and government is implementing certain programs for the welfare of older people. Protection of the Rights of the Elders Bill was passed unanimously in 2000 which ensures concurrence in the country for the need to develop and sustain various welfare programs to meet the health and social security needs of older people.

## News of Selected Activities Across the World

Ms. Susan B Somers, Secretary General, INPEA & Sub-committee on Elder Abuse, NGO Committee on Ageing and Ms. Pat Brownell, INPEA Representative, New York participated in the UN DPI/NGO Briefing on Elder Social Isolation on 22 May 2008. It was attended by about 100 representatives of NGOs, United Nations and Permanent Mission staff. Susan spoke about how social isolation lead to elder abuse and how INPEA was increasing public awareness; promoting education and training for caregiver professionals; and simulating research in the area of elderly neglect.

An example of what is possible is demonstrated by *The Hebrew Home* at Riverdale in New York, USA. They created the Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Research, the first comprehensive elder abuse center in the US. The Center provides a coordinated system of crisis intervention that includes an emergency residential shelter and community based services for victims of elder abuse; a broad spectrum of community education and training programs to increase professional knowledge; a national replication training program; and a research component to profile victims.

*Community Alliance* an independent grassroots non-profit organization based in Beijing, China works to protect the rights and social welfare of the elderly. It recently coordinated contributions to disaster relief efforts to help elderly earthquake victims in China's southwest Sichuan province.

## News of Selected Activities Across the World (cont.)

*Development, Welfare and Research Foundation (DWARF)*, a voluntary organization working in India for improving quality of life of people as they age by taking up 'Little Things Matter Initiatives' (LTMI) has started from April 2008 Health Talk Series on 'Dealing with Common Ailments'. This is a follow up of Health Series held in 2006 and 2007. These public interactive sessions conducted by experts empower people to manage health issues themselves and reduce vulnerability to risk of abuse and neglect in life.

*Silver Innings*, a dedicated website for the elders and their family members launched from Mumbai, India an 'Online Petition – A National Campaign' with recommendations and demands from Central and State governments to address elder abuse concerns.

*HelpAge India* in March 2008 launched a Helpline in Delhi for senior citizens, which is an extension of the effort already made in Chennai and Hyderabad to cater to the needs of older persons/parents, especially in urban areas, who face acute problems of isolation and neglect and to deal with extreme cases of abuse.

*The Family Welfare Agency* working in Mumbai, in Maharashtra State of India is providing day care services, networking with organizations working for senior citizens to handle cases of elder abuse.

## Remembering Charles Henri Rapin INPEA Swiss National Representative

Prof. Charles Henri Rapin died unexpectedly in Sion, Switzerland on July, 11 2008. He is remembered fondly by us not only for his contribution towards strengthening INPEA, for his vision, ideas, energy and plans, but also for his pioneering work in many different fields, namely fight against pain, introduction of palliative and community care, development and bringing to the public strategies to make a success of retirement, programs of prevention and training, support to people suffering from prostate cancer.

## INPEA Member's Meeting in St. Gallen, Switzerland

The Meeting convened by Susan Somers, General Secretary was Chaired by Dr. Ariela Lowenstein, EU Regional Representative. It was attended by about 2 dozen members. The meeting started with paying homage to Dr. Charles Henri Rapin, INPEA Swiss National Representative. Dr. Monica Ferreira, who has resigned from the post of Regional Representative, Africa was appreciated for her work and assurance of continued guidance to INPEA activities. Laura Machado and Dr Alex Kalache were congratulated for their efforts in working on Declaration of Rights of Older People and moving the Latin American Nation States to a Convention.

## **Dr. Monica Ferreira** **Newly Appointed INPEA Special Research Advisor on Africa**

INPEA's worldwide family congratulates Monica. A Special meeting by the African Research on Ageing Network (AFRAN) was organized at St. Gallen as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> World Ageing and Generations Congress to honor the revered Prof. Monica Ferreira, a well known sociologist and gerontologist. Monica's international contribution in the ageing field in the broader canvas of demography and sociology was highlighted by Dr. Isabella Aboderin, Monica's student; Dr. Alfonso Sousa-Poza, Director, World Demographic Association (WDA); Dr. Alexandre Sidorenko, Head, UN Focal Point on Aging, New York. We wish her to move healthily ahead in life and to establish milestones as she serves on the Advisory Board of WDA, also INIA, INPEA, Steering Group of AFRAN, and takes ahead her AgeConsultAfrica. We all look forward to her continuous authorship of scientific articles, consultancies, and involvement with various policy groups around the world.

## **Report on Special Session - 'Combating Age Discrimination And Elder Abuse' at The World Ageing and Generations Congress (St. Gallen, Switzerland)**

This Session, which was well attended, was organized by the World Demographic Association in cooperation with the University of Haifa, Israel and the International Longevity Center (ILC) South Africa. The session Chairs were INPEA Members Prof. Ariela Lowenstein, Head, Centre for Research & Study of Aging, University of Haifa and Prof. Monica Ferreira, President, ILC – South Africa. Session Panelists were also INPEA members, Dr Simon Biggs, UK; Dr. Thomas Gorgen, Germany; Dr. Olayinka Ajomale, Nigeria; and Dr. Mala Kapur Shankardass, India. The Discussant was Dr. Lynn McDonald, Canada. A special presentation was made by Dr. Sara Alon, Program Director, Elder Abuse & Neglect at Jerusalem.

## **Some Upcoming Events**

**Join INPEA in Paris in 2009** -- Get ready to participate in WEAAD at the XIXth IAGG Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics being held from 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July 2009 in Paris, France. Join us on 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 for a day conference with focus on learning and understanding elder abuse and the importance of the '1991 UN Principles for Older Persons'. Africa will host WEAAD in 2010.

Resource Tool Kit may be accessed at [www.inpea.net](http://www.inpea.net)

You can Contact Steering Committee Members for further details:

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## WEAAD in Asia and Around the World



### World Elder Abuse Awareness 2008: Online Global Forum

Organized by AARP from June 1, 2008 - June 16, 2008. It featured Naomi Karp, Strategic Policy Advisor, AARP Public Policy Institute, United States and Experts from Around the World, the INPEA Representatives and Office Bearers. Expert Q & A sessions from Argentina, Israel, Italy, Japan, Sweden and the United Kingdom are available online, [www.aarpinternational.org/weaad08](http://www.aarpinternational.org/weaad08). Email: [international@aarp.org](mailto:international@aarp.org)

### 2008 WEAAD in India – Two National Events in New Delhi

Observance of 2008 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) in India was marked by many events. There were two National Events and many State and Local level functions. Two National events were organized by the INPEA Chair for India Dr. Mala Kapur Shankardass with her Trust Development, Welfare and Research Foundation (DWARF). These were sponsored by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and supported by HelpAge India.

The first event was a National Seminar 'Building Knowledge and Networks to Address Elder Abuse in India: Pathways to Human Rights'. This was a One Day program held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2008. There were four technical sessions, in which deliberations on social, health, financial, housing, shelter, travel and other issues impacting quality of life of the ageing and which address concerns of elder abuse concerns and minimize risks and vulnerabilities to it took place.

The second National Event was a Open Public Function to mark the Observance of WEAAD. This followed the Seminar and was held in the evening from 6.30 to 8 pm. The Chief Guest for the evening meeting was Shri Yoga Nand Shastri, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Social Welfare, Delhi Government, who gave a very enriching and thought provoking Speech, appreciating and encouraging activities of INPEA and DWARF in India.

## WEAAD in Asia and Around the World (cont.)

Welcome address was given by Dr. Mala Kapur Shankardass as Chair, INPEA by discussing the role of INPEA and relevance of WEAAD. Special Addresses were delivered by Mr. M M Sabharwal, Emeritus President, HelpAge India, Mr A N Sood, President, Delhi Federation of Associations of Senior Citizens, Mr J R Gupta, President, Senior Citizens Council of Delhi. Vote of Thanks was delivered by Mrs. Kiran Puri, Director, DWARF who also highlighted programs of DWARF to combat elder abuse in India and the initiatives being taken to build networks and bridge gaps in knowledge to address human rights of older people.

(Full Details of the two National Events will soon be available on the website of INPEA and of Development, Welfare & Research Foundation [www.littlethingsmatter.com](http://www.littlethingsmatter.com))

### WEAAD in Chennai, India

To commemorate World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, 2008 Senior Citizen's Bureau brought out a book titled 'Bridging the Gap' on Thursday at Stella Maris College (SMC). The book, an anthology of articles contributed by several senior citizens, including India's first geriatric physician Dr V S Natarajan, also the Chairman of Senior Citizen's Bureau deals with topics ranging from ill-treatment of the elderly to the need for applying the disabilities act to the aged. Apart from containing tips to care for the elderly, the Rs 50 book also contains findings of a pilot study conducted by the social work department of SMC. The study, 'Quality of life of elders in Chennai' was conducted by the NSS volunteers from the college early this year. On this day, signature campaign against elderly abuse was also conducted. Till date, 1,030 signatures have been secured. Chief Guest for the Day was Mr. V K Subburaj, Principal Secretary to the Health and Family Welfare Department. The social work department of SMC arranged an inter-collegiate street theatre festival. For the senior citizens who had gathered, it was undoubtedly a proud moment. Urging people to be more tolerant towards the older sections of the society, Captain M Singaraja, Secretary, Senior Citizens' Bureau, said, "Just as parents show infinite patience to their kids, the elderly too need to be treated alike — with love, affection and a patient ear."

### WEAAD In Mumbai, India

**(Based on report submitted by Mr. Sailesh Mishra of *Silver Innings*)**

WEAAD was observed as a month long program from June 1-30 organized by *Silver Innings*. It was promoted by Dr. Mala Kapur Shankardass, India Representative of INPEA (International Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse), through Development, Welfare and Research Foundation (DWARF) and 'Little Things Matter Initiatives' (LTMI), The Family Welfare Agency, Mumbai, ARDSI (Alzheimer's Related Disorder Society of India), Mumbai Chapter, Society for Serving Seniors, Hyderabad, Shree Manav Seva Sangh, Mumbai, and AISCCON (All India Senior Citizens' Confederation). *Silver Innings* took the initiative by networking with organizations working with older people in Mumbai and all over India to make a petition with recommendations to the Government and the society to eliminate elder abuse at both micro and macro level. Through observance of WEAAD *Silver Innings* aimed to increase society's ability to recognise and respond to the mistreatment of older people in whatever setting it occurs, so that the latter years of life will be free from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Through various public programs such as awareness campaigns in different places and with various NGOs, essay competition, online petition, forming human chain on 15<sup>th</sup> morning, it sought to create awareness in elderly people themselves regarding what comes under elder abuse, sensitize young people regarding elder abuse and enabling them to reflect on their own attitudes towards the elderly and create awareness in media and society at large regarding elder abuse.

## WEAAD in Asia and Around the World (cont.)



### WEAAD in Kolkata, India

(Based on report submitted by Dr. Indrani Chakravarty, Director, CMIG)

Calcutta Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology (CMIG) has been observing the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day since its inception and supporting the activities of INPEA India Representative. This year, the day was observed on 16<sup>th</sup> of June, 2008 at CMIG's Purbalok premises in East Kolkata. The programme consisted of songs, recitations dance and a street-drama. The participants were mostly young men-women &

children. The students of Geriatric Animator's and their family members participated enthusiastically. The highlight of the day was a spirited enactment of a theatre, the subject matter being neglect and abuse of a septuagenarian widow who was deserted by her son and daughter-in-law in a cunning manner. The production was entirely supported by CMIG's internal resources. The other remarkable feature was the composition of the audience. It consisted of an overwhelming majority of BPL women elderly, all beneficiaries of the two Day Care Centres run by CMIG concurrently. This part of the audience was emotionally moved by the theme of the drama enacted.

### The Third Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) in Japan (Based on Report by Noriko Tsukada, Chair for INPEA Japan) [tsukada.noriko@nihon-u.ac.jp](mailto:tsukada.noriko@nihon-u.ac.jp)

Third WEAAD event in Japan was held on June 15, 2008 in the conference room of the Hotel Arcadia Ichigaya, located in the center of Tokyo. A total of 21 members of INPEA Japan, along with three new members and the press, *Silver Shimpō*, assembled for the occasion. The number of members of INPEA Japan has now grown to 66 in all. There were four guest speakers, including Soji Tanaka who spoke about elder abuse in England, Kinuko Takasaki who explained the history of the Japan Academy of Elder Abuse and its future direction, Yoko Shido talked about recent activities at the ILC-Japan, and Toshio Tataro who described Dr. Rosalie Wolf 's great contributions and reminded that she was still present there in spirit. A photo was taken, saying "Hello from Japan" to all INPEA members all over the world.

### World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in South Africa – June 15 2008

This is the second year that Age-in-Action participated in this global event and it proved to be a huge success with over 10, 500 people from all 9 provinces across the country strongly expressing their disapproval and abhorrence of any form of elder abuse, compared to about 3000 last year. Once again the purpose of the day was to: increase public awareness of elder abuse, i.e. what it is and where advice and assistance are available; make the public more aware of the elderly in their communities; and recognize elder abuse and take decisive action against it. Interest was shown by school children, the SA Police Services, magistrates, government departments and the elderly themselves, some even in their wheelchairs and using walking sticks.

## WEAAD in Asia and Around the World (cont.)

### WEAAD 2008 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

*Senior Rights Victoria*, established as part of the Victorian Government's elder abuse prevention strategy with the aim of providing an accessible service for older people who have suffered abuse, mistreatment or neglect, was opened on Monday June 16<sup>th</sup> as part of Victoria's contribution to World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The theme was "Building Networks to Address Elder Abuse: Pathways to Human Rights". Helen Szoke, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Conciliator of the Victorian Equal



Opportunity and Human Rights Commission, said in her keynote address "it is important to note that the service's purpose is to prevent elder abuse, ....which require greater attention and focus as we move from the respect that historically may have been afforded to elders, to focusing on the greater responsibility that may reside with a younger population which begins to take on the task of providing care for ageing members of the family". The opening was chaired by Ms. Vivienne McCutcheon, a former President of Council on the Ageing. The opening was attended by nearly 200 representatives from various organizations, including government departments, community legal centres, the RSL, housing, health and aged care agencies. Also in attendance were community members, who have been instrumental in raising awareness of the elder abuse issue in the Victorian community and lobbying for the establishment of a legal service.

### WEAAD 2008 in UK

In the UK, Action on Elder Abuse was once again the lead co-ordinator, facilitating a series of events throughout the country. Participating individuals and organizations included many care homes, sheltered housing schemes, adult protection coordinators, local councils and primary care trusts.

#### Note

*Please contact Dr. Mala Kapur Shankardass for a very interesting list of books and reports which due to lack of space we were unable to publish in this issue.*



## **WorldView on Elder Abuse: An Environmental Scan**

This international study, conducted by Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada; the University of Kentucky, USA, and Cleveland State University, USA, attempted, for the first time, to collect information on the nature of elder abuse and responses to it from a global perspective. The results suggest enormous diversity in both regards, which underscore the personal tragedy of elder abuse and inadequacy of existing systems to effectively prevent or treat the problem. Findings from this scan will serve as a catalyst for action both globally and on the part of individual countries.

### **Responses**

A total of 53 countries from the six World Health Organization regions responded to the study with a total of 190 surveys representing 362 respondents.

### **Summary Highlights from the Findings**

- Most professionals and the general public seem to lack an understanding of, or are unaware of, laws that protect older people.
- All countries report a lack of funding for elder abuse.
- The theme of respect/honor emerged as a value applied to older adults.
- The issue of ageism was identified as a problem.
- Poverty and lack of social support are leading causes of elder abuse in developing countries.
- In developed nations, living alone and lack of social support were contributors to elder abuse.
- An overall lack of education and awareness of the issue of elder abuse was cited.
- Also lack of familiarity with and lack of access to the internet were reported.
- There was a call for research, particularly in rural areas and in institutions in which older adults lived.
- The next phase of the study includes re-visiting participants who agreed to further interviews and reaching out to those countries/regions with a low initial response rate.

### **Summary Conclusions**

The study findings suggest a need for urgency on the part of individuals, families, organizations, and governments (at all levels) to make this issue one of priority concern; to commit sufficient resources to result in a violence-free society. The results from this study represent an initial step in this direction.

## WorldView on Elder Abuse: An Environmental Scan (cont.)

*For further information on this study, please contact the following:*

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### Acknowledgements

Many thanks to all those who assisted with this study, particularly the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.

Note: Developing and developed countries were categorized according to the World Bank classification.

**Developing Countries:** **Africa** (6): Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Gambia, Nigeria, South Africa, and Uganda; **The Americas** (10): Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Columbia, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Peru, St. Lucia, and Uruguay **Southeast Asia** (2): India, Sri Lanka; **The Western Pacific** (1): China; **The Eastern Mediterranean** (4): Lebanon, Jordan, Iran, and Iraq; **Europe** (3): Albania, Russia, and Turkey

**Developed Countries:** **The Americas** (3): Canada, Puerto Rico, and United States; **The Western Pacific** (5): Japan, Australia, Korea, Singapore, and New Zealand; **The Eastern Mediterranean** (2): Bahrain and UAE; **Europe** (17): Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom.





# memo

**SAVE THE DATE!**

## INPEA 2008 North American Regional Meeting

**When:** Friday, November 21 2008 (2:00 - 5:00pm)

**Where:** GSA 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting  
Gaylord National Resort Convention Center  
National Harbor, Maryland

**PANEL SPEAKERS:** Dr. Georgia Anetzberger  
Dr. Toni Antonucci  
Dr. Toshio Tatara

**Room Location:** Chesapeake B

RSVP to Betty Malks at [Betty.Malks@ssa.sccgov.org](mailto:Betty.Malks@ssa.sccgov.org)



## Un Plan D'action de Lutte Contre la Maltraitance Envers les Personnes Aînées au Québec (A Plan of Action Against Elder Abuse in Québec)

Le Québec en voie de se doter de son premier plan de lutte contre la maltraitance envers les aînés

La Ministre responsable des aînés, madame Marguerite Blais, a annoncé que le Québec aura, en 2009, son premier plan de lutte contre la maltraitance envers les aînés. Depuis 20 ans, le Gouvernement a soutenu divers travaux mais c'est la première fois qu'il s'engage à travers des politiques publiques. Ce plan d'action repose sur une démarche de concertation entre de nombreux ministères et organismes publics directement concernés par la cause. Pour mener à bien ses travaux, le Ministère a choisi de s'adjoindre une équipe d'experts-conseils dans divers domaines : recherche, pratique dans la communauté, pratique dans les milieux d'hébergement, groupes de concertations d'aînés, etc. Ce plan d'action est grandement attendu.

Marie Beaulieu, Ph.D.  
Université de Sherbrooke, Service Social



### REMEMBERING SUSANA AGUAS

It is with enormous sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Susana Aguas, INPEA Regional Representative in Latin America. She showed fierce determination and persistence in dealing with her disease; her undaunted courage and grace under pressure were added tribute to her spirit and determination to live her life to the fullest. What a role model.

Within the network Susana was steadfast and loyal; she embodied the very best of INPEA. I have bittersweet memories of how she took care of us at the seminar in Cuba. Susana was warm and lovely and beautiful. Everyone was enchanted by her Latin American charm, her humor... even in a second language. Her journey was far too short. Susana was a gift ... we were blessed to have had her in our lives.

Elizabeth Podnieks.

## **Buen Trato a las Personas Mayores Moviliza a Actores Sociales y Políticos en Peru**

El movimiento social a favor de las personas mayores va en aumento. Las propias personas mayores tienden a organizarse cada vez más a nivel de sus comunidades. Esto se ve favorecido con la Ley 28803 de las Personas Mayores aprobada en el año 2006, que entre sus medidas comprende la instalación de manera obligatoria, de los Centros Integrales de Atención a los Adultos Mayores – CIAM a nivel de los gobiernos locales. Estos a su vez irán progresivamente implementando servicios acordes con la realidad local, entre ellos el Servicio de Orientación Socio Legal SOSL. Lo interesante a anotar es que el Ministerio de la Mujer y Desarrollo Social MIMDES, ente rector de políticas sobre envejecimiento, tomó como modelo al Centro de Orientación Socio Legal Lima COSL implementado en el año 2005 por el Centro Proceso Social con auspicio de HelpAge Internacional HAI, modelo también en funcionamiento en Bolivia. Actualmente se encuentra en trámites la publicación de la Guía de Instalación de los SOSL elaborada por el COSL y que se editará conjuntamente con el referido ministerio.

Desde este año ha iniciado sus operaciones el COSL Ayacucho, región andina de Perú, donde la violencia política dejó miles de muertos, desaparecidos y población desplazada. Una de las principales acciones del servicio a cargo del SER, es apoyar a las personas mayores que perdieron su documentación ya sea porque fueron quemados o arrebatados, a que puedan obtener sus documentos de identidad y con ello al beneficio del Programa de Reparación a las Víctimas, proceso del cual están excluidas. Estas acciones se realizan en el marco del Proyecto auspiciado por HAI y la Unión Europea.

De otro lado, por tercer año consecutivo se desarrollaron acciones de sensibilización y promoción del buen trato en torno al 15 de junio. Lo destacable es que la Comisión Multisectorial de Implementación y Monitoreo del Plan Nacional 2007 al 2010, presidida por le MIMDES, organizó el Seminario Internacional Realidad y Desafío de los Cuidados de Largo Plazo, el cual contó con la participación de profesionales de IMSERSO. Otras actividades desarrolladas fueron: Cursos de Capacitación sobre Maltrato (EsSalud – Sabogal), Jornada Ponle Corazón a cargo de la Red Nacional de Personas Mayores ANAMPER, Mesa Redonda a cargo de la Municipalidad de Lima, jornadas de sensibilización en diversos gobiernos locales de Lima y Regiones, entre otras. La fecha se encamina hacia su institucionalización.

Un hecho importante es que el UNFPA, MIMDES, INEI (Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas e Informática) vienen preparando el primer estudio de incidencia del maltrato, lo cual será un aporte importante para trabajar las estrategias más efectivas para abordarlo. En el proceso han convocado a las entidades que están tratando el tema para recoger sus aportes, entre ellas al COSL.

Luz Barreto  
INPEA Perú

## **The Elder Justice Coalition: A National Advocacy Voice for Elder Justice In America**

The Elder Justice Coalition reports that the scheduled Senate Finance Committee markup of S.1070, the Elder Justice Act and S.1577, the Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act of 2007, have been postponed until September 10, raising concerns about the ability to get the bills passed in this session of Congress. The Senate Finance Committee markup passage of the bill is a critical gateway toward full passage. Congress will not return until the second week of September, leaving an extremely tight time period to get these bills before the full Senate and then to have the House accept the Senate action.

The Elder Justice Act would amend the Social Security Act to ensure adequate public and private infrastructure, and to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. As the first comprehensive federal response to elder abuse, an Elder Justice Coordinating Council and Advisory Board within the Department of Health and Human Services would be established to coordinate programs to promote awareness of elder abuse. Millions of dollars would be authorized through grants for states to establish research centers, training programs and incentives to improve long-term care facilities. Much of the elder abuse, whether physical, mental and/or financial, occurs within the family, making the abuse difficult to detect, report and measure. The bill, which defines an elderly person as anyone aged 60 or older, cites abuse estimates ranging from 500,000 to 5 million elderly persons per year. Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act of 2007 would require all non-relative caretakers of the elderly to undergo criminal background checks. Garnering widespread support, including from unions representing home care and long-term care workers who provide services for the elderly, this action comes after a three-year pilot program conducted across seven states that found thousands of individuals with criminal histories were being hired to work with seniors at home and in nursing homes. The bill authorizes funding for the background checks, which would be conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

As advocates, the Elder Justice Coalition promotes the continued effort to encourage the House and Senate on the need to pass the Elder Justice Act and the Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act of 2007 this year by contacting their Members of Congress about these bills. Consult the Coalition's website ([www.elderjusticecoalition.com](http://www.elderjusticecoalition.com)) to determine whether or not your United States congressional member is a co-sponsor. If so, use the sample letter on the website to urge them to schedule a final vote this year. If not, urge your United States Member of Congress to become a co-sponsor, and build up the necessary support for the bills. The Elder Justice Act and the Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act of 2007 is long overdue and much needed to address problems that will only grow as the Baby Boom generation reaches old age.

John B. Breaux  
Honorary Chair

Robert B. Blancato  
National Coordinator

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