Governments

+ **Must:** Have age-inclusive development and humanitarian planning, policies, and programs supporting older women’s health, and economic, social and political empowerment.

+ **Must:** Build an evidence base around the specific nature of violence, discrimination, neglect and abuse of women in later life.

+ **Must:** Commit to and invest in collection, analysis, and publication of data on women beyond reproductive Age. No age caps.

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**Older women matter for sustainable development**

Achieving gender equality for all is a pre-requisite to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in their entirety. Gender inequality can last a lifetime and can be exacerbated in older age. Implementation and monitoring of all the goals must include the 900 million women, that is 24 percent of the world’s women, who are over 50 years old.

**VIOLENCE**

Data on violence against older women is not yet fit for purpose. The Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), which are the standard used for measuring and recording violence against women in many countries, end at age 49. Due to age caps and inadequate survey instruments, abuse and violence is not routinely recorded or recognized for women over 50. The extent and nature of violence against older women is hidden by assumptions that all forms of violence and abuse are “elder abuse” and not connected to gender based violence, or that violence and abuse of older persons mainly takes place in institutional settings. Those assumptions lead to a failure to recognize incidence and prevalence, and a lack of solutions. For example, in an EU wide survey, 4 percent of women between the ages of 45 – 59 and 3 percent of women over the age of 60 had been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a partner in the 12 months before the interview.

**EMPOWERMENT**

Discrimination on the basis of gender and age is widespread in all regions of the world. Inequalities in income, access to education, employment and health across the life-cycle expose many women to poverty in old age. This is further exacerbated by limitations on pension entitlements, and a lack of control over financial resources, and forced dependence on others. The World Bank reports that out of 173 countries reviewed, 155 have at least one law impeding women’s economic resources.

**WHAT DOESN’T GET COUNTED DOESN’T GET MEASURED**

Data disaggregation over the entire life course by age and gender is needed now. Only this can illuminate the experience of unique and often invisible intersectional and cumulative discrimination to which older women are subjected.

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1 UN Resolution A/RES/70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Globally, 46.8% of women aged 55 to 64 are economically active, compared with 73.5% of men.

Barriers preventing women accessing the labour market on equal terms with men and reduced access to pensions puts women at increased risk of poverty in later life compared to men.

Income security

of the world’s female population are aged 50+, making the case for collection, analysis and publication of data on women beyond reproductive age.

There is a significant gap between men and women’s pay, so opportunities to save for later life are limited, significantly increasing the risk of poverty.

According to ILO employment rate among men and women age 55-64 is:

Globally women aged 60+ have secondary or higher education.

of men aged 60+ have a secondary or higher education.

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