

SAMHS INFO BULLETIN

Compiled by Corporate Communication



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day- 15 June 2013

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) happens each year on 15 June. It was established by the United Nations, following representations by our international Partners. INPEA (the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse). AEA are the coordinators within the UK and we provide help, support and guidance for individuals and organisations wishing to take part.

It is about all of us working together to bring greater recognition of the mistreatment of older adults wherever they live throughout the world and to highlight the need for appropriate action. It is intended to give abuse and neglect of older adults a global relevance that will sustain and move prevention efforts forward throughout the whole year and years to come.

Each year individuals and organisations come together to raise awareness of elder abuse and to fundraise for AEA. It represents the one day in the year when the whole world voices its opposition to the abuse and suffering that is inflicted on some of our older generations. And the UK always plays its part in voicing that opposition.

Calling on governments to end discrimination

Older people in 18 countries across the world, are marking the day by coming together as part of **Age Demands Action for Rights (ADA)**. ADA for Rights is a global campaign calling on governments to end discrimination by pledging their support for high level talks at the UN, which could lead to a new international convention on the rights of older people.

UN convention on older people's right

A new UN convention on the rights of older people is necessary to bring about this change. It would provide governments with a legal framework, guidance and support to help them protect older people's rights.

A convention would:

- Oblige governments to adopt non-discriminatory laws and allocate their budget more fairly across age groups.
- Require governments to collect data broken down by age to inform policy decisions.
- Encourage governments to design age-sensitive programmes, and train service providers, for example, health workers, on ageing issues.
- Encourage governments to take a stand against discrimination.
- Provide a system to monitor government action and hold them to account.

<http://www.elderabuse.org.uk>

<http://www.helpage.org/newsroom>