Amnesty International welcomes the call for input to inform an expert workshop and the High Commissioner’s comprehensive study on the human rights dimension of care and support to be presented to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-eight session in 2025.

This submission includes links to some recent publications by Amnesty International on issues relevant to the study, which we hope will be of interest and use.


Older people often stay behind in conflict-affected areas, whether because they have disabilities that make fleeing impossible or because they are reluctant to abandon their homes, which are usually their only valuable asset. In many communities, younger relatives who previously supported older people with disabilities have fled or enlisted in the military. Despite the individual heroism of social and healthcare workers, who have continued providing support to older people and people with disabilities in the face of great personal risks and often with minimal pay, there are simply not enough workers – nor enough transportation – to serve this growing need. This report shows how Russia’s invasion has fueled a crisis in Ukraine’s already overburdened care system. Even after being displaced to safer parts of Ukraine, older people in the country often face insurmountable hurdles in their efforts to rebuild an autonomous and dignified life, struggling to access housing, support services and healthcare on an equal basis with others.


The February 2023 earthquakes in southern Türkiye devastated entire communities. More than 48,000 people were killed and over 100,000 others were injured. Amnesty International examined the situation of children, women and men with disabilities in the early stages of displacement caused by the earthquakes. All these individuals received support from family members as opposed to paid carers. With conditions of housing and sanitation in displacement sites compromising the ability of persons with disabilities to practise self-care and undermining their privacy and inherent dignity, their relatives faced increased demands and challenges in trying to support them. In the overwhelming majority of situations, the carers said that the support needs of the relatives they cared for had increased significantly and that their conditions had worsened as a result of the displacement and of the living conditions in displacement.


This report shows how older people have made up a disproportionate number of civilian deaths and injuries. It also shows how intersecting challenges such as disability, poverty and age discrimination place older people in displacement at higher risk, particularly with regards to accessing housing. Older people stay behind in damaged homes without roofs or windows, and thousands have been placed in state institutions, which can lead to their isolation, neglect and abuse.
Muzzled and Unheard in the Pandemic: Urgent Need to Address Concerns of Care and Health Workers in Italy
This briefing details how health and care workers in Italy who raised legitimate concerns about poor and unsafe working conditions in care homes during the Covid-19 pandemic were subjected to unfair disciplinary proceedings and feared recriminations from their employers. Staff working in residential care homes during the pandemic and trade unions have raised serious concerns regarding unsafe and unhealthy working conditions, inadequate labour inspections, and long shifts without adequate rest.

“We Just Want Some Rights!”: Migrant Care Workers Denied Rights in Austria
In Austria more than 60,000 workers care for older people in their homes, most of whom are women migrant workers from Central and Eastern Europe, who are often subjected to various intersecting forms of discrimination and abuse. Live-in care workers are under-protected and undercompensated. They receive low wages, work excessively long hours without adequate breaks and experience barriers in accessing social security. Amnesty International has called on the Austrian authorities to extend minimum wage protection and working hours protection to all live-in care workers, to strengthen labour inspections and to provide counselling and remedies for discrimination and abuse at work. This report outlines concerns regarding the protection of the human rights of migrant live-in care workers in Austria, including their right to non-discrimination, fair remuneration, favourable and just conditions of work, and social security.

As If Expendable: The UK Government’s Failure to Protect Older People in Care Homes During the Covid-19 Pandemic
Covid-19 had a devastating impact on older persons living in care homes in England, with more than 18,500 dying in the first three months. The UK government, national agencies, and local-level bodies took decisions and adopted policies during the Covid-19 pandemic that directly violated the human rights of older residents of care homes in England - notably their right to life, their right to health, and their right to non-discrimination. These decisions and policies also impacted the rights of care home residents to private and family life, and may have violated their right not to be subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment. This report examines UK government decisions and failures, which resulted in violations of the human rights of people living in care homes.

“My Heart is in Pain”: Older People’s Experience of Conflict, Displacement, and Detention in North-east Nigeria
This report documents the treatment of older people in the context of the violence in North-east Nigeria. Amid the conflict, older people’s perspectives and human rights have been largely ignored, despite the distinct and often disproportionate risks they face, whether in their villages, in military detention, or in displacement. This report examines specific violations and abuses that older people have suffered disproportionately, linked also to the intersection of older age, gender, and disability. It also analyses how the humanitarian response has failed to uphold many older people’s rights, including related to food, health, shelter, and participation.

Exposed, Silenced, Attacked: Failures to Protect Health and Essential Workers During the Covid-19 Pandemic
Health and essential workers played an extraordinary role in the global response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Across countries, they put their health and well-being at risk, often in very difficult circumstances and with very little support, to ensure that people were able to access the essential services they need. They faced reprisals from the authorities and their employers for raising safety concerns, and in some cases were subject to violence and stigma from members of the public. This report makes concrete recommendations for what governments across the world need to do to comply with their human rights obligations and adequately protect the rights of health and essential workers.
The conflict in Yemen, which has been marked by serious violations and crimes under international law, has had a disproportionate impact on persons with disabilities. This report documents how persons with disabilities have endured unequal access to quality health services, education, and employment opportunities as well as the challenges they face fleeing violence and living in displacement.


Older people from many ethnic minorities in Myanmar have endured a lifetime of conflict, displacement, and military abuse. They are largely invisible in situations of crisis, including during armed conflict and in humanitarian response. Their rights are often not respected, their needs unmet. This report examines older people’s experience of conflict and oppression and also analyses how and why humanitarian assistance has failed to meet many older people’s rights and needs, including related to health, sanitation, food, water, and participation.