



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION ON AGEING
Global Connections



Plenary Panel – “Women and Ageing”

Abstract

The challenges which accompany the ageing process are experienced disproportionately by older women as compared to older men. This is unsurprising when considering the fact that women today still have less access to health / education and a lower earning capacity than their male counterparts. The cumulative impact of life-long gender discrimination as it intersects with the unique conditions of ageing can cause older women to experience a degree of marginalization which is unparalleled by most other subpopulations. This marginalization manifests itself in the increased likelihood that older women will face abuse, become confined in roles as caregivers, experience loneliness due to cultural stigmas about female widows remarrying, and more. It is clear that the needs of older women require specific attention.

While many countries are slowly closing gender gaps with better gender equality programs implemented for the current and future generations, these do little to address the problems faced by the current-day generation of older women. This complicating factor is augmented by the fact that any strategy which is designed must take into account differences across countries including those related to level of economic development and those related to cultural norms.

Participants of this plenary panel will lend their expertise and shed valuable insight onto the topic of the marginalization of older women so as to create a robust dialogue in order to inform policy development and research priorities.