

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day: A Roadmap to Elder Justice.

This year is the 16th anniversary of WEAAD and thus a good time for reflection and assessment. IFA has indicated that an evaluation would provide the conceptual framework, structure and strategy for long term planning. There is an absence of larger coordination that hopefully can be addressed.

There has been a remarkable range of events and activities which WEAAD strives to broaden each year. The concept has spread across all nations, absorbing influences from other traditions, growing even richer and more profound in its campaign. Through WEAAD people understand what elder abuse is, acknowledge the importance of human and civil rights, and recognize the need for research, education, advocacy and policy development.

This article asks IFA readers to be a catalyst in promoting and facilitating social inclusion. Social inclusion is potential risk factor for elder abuse: dangerously so for those with disabilities. There is a universal need to belong. It includes acceptance, trust, caring, and respect, safety and security. IFA can develop a groundswell leading to greater sense of community, of citizenship, and of human connection, freeing older adults from abuse, moving towards a society where everyone belongs.