

WOMEN AND AGEING

GLOBALLY

WHILE WOMEN HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF LIVING LONGER, THEY ARE MORE LIKELY THAN MEN TO EXPERIENCE DISADVANTAGES IN ACCESS TO EDUCATION JOB SECURITY FOOD SECURITY HEALTH CARE SOCIAL SECURITY AND POLITICAL POWER OVER THEIR LIVES THESE CUMULATIVE DISADVANTAGES MEAN THAT WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY THAN MEN TO BE POOR AND TO SUFFER DISABILITIES IN OLDER AGE.¹

Inheritance laws, both statutory and customary, often **DENY WOMEN OF ALL AGES THE RIGHT TO OWN OR INHERIT PROPERTY** when their husband is deceased. Family members force widows off their land or seize their property, which is a violation of their right to equality of ownership, management and the disposition of property.²



IN THE 15-YEAR REVIEW of the UN Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, **ONLY FOUR COUNTRIES OUT OF A SAMPLE OF 121 SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED OLDER WOMEN** in their national responses to violence against women despite³ evidence that older women are at greater risk of abuse or violence.⁴

TYPE OF ABUSE OF OLDER WOMEN	LEADING PERPETRATOR (%)
Violation of Rights	Spouse 59.0%
Sexual Abuse	Spouse 55.4%
Physical Abuse	Spouse 50.7%
Neglect	Son / Daughter 40.6%
Financial Abuse	Spouse 33.7% ⁵

IN AUSTRALIA

ONLY 19% OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS of older women in aged care are reported,⁷ and conviction rates of the perpetrators of abuse on elderly women in Australia are estimated to be **LESS THAN 1%**.⁸

OLDER AUSTRALIAN WOMEN ARE MORE THAN

TWICE AS LIKELY

than their male counterparts to live in a nursing home, or in poverty, and the number of impoverished older women is growing.⁶

For more facts see: The Australian Women Donors Network [Fast Facts Page](#).

¹ World Health Organisation, Ageing: Key Facts 2014 http://www.wpro.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs_201203_ageing/en/

² United Nations Strengthening Older People's Rights: Towards a UN Convention (online) [http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/documents/Coalition to Strengthen the Rights of Older People.pdf](http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/documents/Coalition%20to%20Strengthen%20the%20Rights%20of%20Older%20People.pdf)

³ Helpage International Global Age Watch Date and Analysis on Aging Population <http://www.helpage.org/resources/external-links/>

⁴ United Nations Neglect, Abuse and Violence against Older Women 2013 <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/ageing/ReportofEGMNeglectAbuseandViolenceofOlderWomen.pdf>

⁵ United Nations Neglect, Abuse and Violence against Older Women 2013 <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/ageing/ReportofEGMNeglectAbuseandViolenceofOlderWomen.pdf>

⁶ ABS Where do Australia's Older People Live? 2011 <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/2071.0main+features602012-2013>

⁷ The Age: Shocking Numbers of Elderly Women Being Abused in Aged Care Homes 2014 <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/shocking-numbers-of-elderly-women-being-abused-in-aged-care-homes-20140706-3bg9w.html>

⁸ The Age: Shocking Numbers of Elderly Women Being Abused in Aged Care Homes 2014 <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/shocking-numbers-of-elderly-women-being-abused-in-aged-care-homes-20140706-3bg9w.html>