



October 1, 2020

**The International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care Celebrates the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Day of Older Persons**

The International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC) joins with partners and friends around the world to celebrate the Decade of Healthy Ageing and to support the health of all persons throughout the life course through Primary Health Care (Astana Declaration 2018) under Universal Health Coverage (Political Declaration 2019). We endorse the entire spectrum of essential services from prevention and health promotion through treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care. We take a human rights-based approach that recommends the inclusion of all affected populations, including older persons, in policy making and implementation.

IAHPC has been working on the human rights of older persons to palliative care and essential medicines for many years, including by participating in the UN Open Ended Working Group on Ageing. Our submission to the 10<sup>th</sup> OEWSGA on the normative elements of a right to palliative care for a binding convention on the rights of older persons can be found [here](#). We welcome the Inter-American Convention on the Rights of Older Persons, which stipulates a right of older persons to palliative care and pain relief and look forward to participating in the drafting of a binding convention on the rights of older persons under the auspices of the UN Open Ended Working Group on Ageing.

**IAHPC supports the right of older incarcerated persons to palliative both behind the walls and in the community.**

Global experts collaborated on this [Briefing Note](#) on “Palliative Care for Detainees in Custodial Settings” in our Global Palliative Care and COVID19 series. It is associated with a [webinar](#) featuring a formerly incarcerated person, Marvin Mutch, speaking about dying inside, behind the walls. A new Report from the UK entitled [Avoidable natural deaths in prison custody: putting things right](#) – warned that the high number of deaths in prison with COVID was “not just a reflection of an ageing prison population”, and that many were probably preventable. *The average age of natural death in prison is 56, compared with 81 in the general population*, with the most common causes being heart disease followed by cancer. More than a third are among people aged between 35 and 54. The report is authored by the Royal College of Nursing in partnership with the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody (IAP), which advises government on issues related to deaths in people who are detained. You can find our [Policy Brief: Compassionate Release and Palliative Care in Prison](#) and [Human rights-based response to COVID-19 in prisons Addendum to Policy Brief on Compassionate Release](#) on our Advocacy Page.

**Contact** [Katherine Pettus](#), Advocacy Officer, for more information.