

For immediate release:
Sept. 30, 2015

Contact: Bill Poehler
+1 612-825-6831

International Day of Older Persons should highlight need for protection

Celebration recognizes the value of older people to our society

October 1 is the 25th annual [International Day of Older Persons](#). The celebration was established by the United Nations in 1990 to recognize the importance of older people, the contributions they make to society, and the issues and dangers they face in today's world. This year's theme is "Sustainability and Age Inclusiveness in the Urban Environment."

"On International Day of Older Persons, we ought to proclaim the tremendous value and dignity of the elderly members of society," stated Scott Fischbach, Executive Director of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life Global Outreach (MCCL GO). "The world's population is aging, and this presents new opportunities for either exploitation or protection. We must ensure that we treat older people with the honor and care that they deserve."

According to the [World Health Organization](#), there are 600 million people over the age of 60, a figure expected to double by 2025. Medical advances are increasing life expectancy, and the costs associated with aging are growing.

Seniors worldwide who suffer from illness and disability can be subjected to pressure to end their lives prematurely by assisted suicide, euthanasia or the involuntary withholding of medical treatment. MCCL GO has produced a [brochure](#) that highlights the dangers of euthanasia and assisted suicide, and affirms patients' rights to health and the alleviation of suffering. It is available at the MCCL GO [website](#).

In 2002, the United Nations adopted the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. It included a call to ensure "the full enjoyment of all human rights" of older persons and to combat "all forms of discrimination."

"Our older people are amazing resources of knowledge and understanding, history and compassion—they are human beings and have human rights that require protection," Fischbach concluded. "The first of these rights is life itself."

MCCL GO is a pro-life NGO global outreach program of the Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life Education Fund with one goal: to save as many innocent lives as possible. Learn more at www.mccl-go.org.

Please subscribe to our [RSS Feed](#).