

For immediate release:
June 14, 2016

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World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Respect for elders includes access to health care

Tomorrow marks the 11th annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, which has been observed globally since 2006. This year's event will continue to raise awareness of the exploitation of seniors and the need for better understanding and protection.

Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life Global Outreach (MCCL GO) urges communities and nations to provide safety and care to their older citizens. Millions of elders are abused, neglected and exploited each year, yet few of these incidents are ever reported. In the United States alone, older persons lose an estimated \$2.6 billion annually due to elder financial abuse and exploitation—funds that could have been used to pay for basic needs such as housing, food and medical care. Such abuse leaves elders even more vulnerable.

“Countless senior citizens across the world lack proper medical care when they become sick, and many die when care is either unavailable or withheld from them,” said MCCL GO Executive Director Scott Fischbach. “These vulnerable persons need care and protection.”

The World Health Organization's recently adopted Global Strategy & Action Plan on Ageing & Health includes ensuring access to essential health care services. On this World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, MCCL GO encourages nations to prioritize access to medical care for elders. Seniors worldwide who suffer from serious illness are subjected to pressure to end their lives prematurely, whether by assisted suicide, euthanasia or the withholding of medical treatment against the patient's wishes.

“The distressing crime of elder abuse often occurs in quiet, private settings, making a vocal, public response that much more important,” said U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. “Let us strengthen our resolve to end this problem as part of our broader efforts to create a life of dignity for all.”

MCCL GO has published a brochure about the dangers of euthanasia and assisted suicide, and on patients' rights to health and the alleviation of suffering. It is available at the MCCL GO [website](http://www.mccl-go.org).

“Euthanasia and assisted suicide violate the right to life,” Fischbach said. “All patients have a right to health and deserve care rather than killing. We encourage everyone to share the vital information in our brochure.”

MCCL GO is the UN and OAS accredited global outreach program of the Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life Education Fund. Our goal is to protect as many human beings as possible from the destruction of abortion, infanticide and euthanasia. Learn more at www.mccl-go.org. Please subscribe to our [RSS Feed](#).