The neglect of older persons' needs in global health policies: The case of long-term care

Global health policies as framed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are built on some key principles, such as equity and inclusiveness. However, for many years, older persons’ needs are largely ignored in global health policies and related policy priorities range very low on the global agenda. With rapid worldwide demographic ageing, resulting issues for older persons are expected to increase significantly given the growing number older persons with age-specific health and long-term care risks.

Against this background, the lecture highlights the case of long-term care to demonstrate the impact of neglecting older persons’ needs in global health policies. It discusses barriers in access to care experienced by older populations in all regions of the world including in Europe, e.g. the lack of rights, funding and well trained personnel in the context of global health policy principles. The lecture concludes with policy suggestions underscoring the necessity to address age discrimination in global health.

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Xenia's work focuses on advising Governments, UN agencies and NGOs on global health policies. She has published numerous books and articles. Prior to her work as Vice-President of the Health Law Institute, UN Representative of the International Federation on Ageing and Independent Expert, Xenia served as the

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