



CHARTER OF THE RIGHTS of retired and elderly persons in Europe

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EUROPEAN FEDERATION
OF RETIRED AND ELDERLY PEOPLE

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The European federation of retired and elderly persons (FERPA) plans to conduct an awareness raising campaign to focus more social and political attention on the situation of 100 million individuals aged over 65 living in all European countries, whose number is bound to increase given the lengthened life expectancy.

This situation today calls for political, social and economic policies respectful of a harmonious, dignified and decent life based on justice and solidarity.

Retirement and old age should usher in a new phase of life to be enjoyed in peace and quiet, not in decline and loneliness.



Every European citizen, young or old, must understand that defence of the rights of elderly persons is an investment in his or her own future. The rights of retired and elderly persons today will be theirs as they reach old age tomorrow.

If the rights we enjoy today are destroyed, there will be no guaranteed rights tomorrow. We are calling for a social Europe, based on democratic values and social justice, which are indispensable in forging the requisite unity and solidarity between the Member States – values which are also indispensable in fighting against divisions and the resurgence of dangerous nationalisms.

For FERPA, the promotion of such values as democracy, freedom, equality and social equity required the implementation of European policies that affect all aspects of life. Such policies must take into account the social dimensions, conditions of income, health, housing, and compliance with the ethical principles and the environment.

It is a matter of civilisation and democracy – no more, no less. FERPA is launching this awareness raising and social and political interest campaign in all European countries to draw attention to the situation of retired people irrespective of their age.

We want to – indeed we must – fight against every form of isolation and discrimination, in particular those linked to age and ageing, put human beings at the centre of the discussion.

THE RIGHT TO HAVE RIGHTS

1 RIGHT TO DIGNITY

We, the retired and elderly people of FERPA, demand:

- ▶ To be able to age actively, not by working until 70, but as “stakeholders” and “actors” in society and its social, cultural and spare time dimensions.
- ▶ To be considered as a resource for the present and the future, and not as a burden, a weight or a cost for the community as a whole.
- ▶ That our fundamental role for social cohesion in families and societies be recognised as bearers of memories and knowledge – factors for inter-generational links and generators of wealth and well-being.
- ▶ To be able to benefit from the right to ongoing learning and training, to be active in a society which is constantly subjected to technological innovation.

2 RIGHT TO WELL-BEING

We, the retired and elderly persons of FERPA, call for:

- ▶ Sufficient retirement pensions to enable us to live in dignity and not to rely on aid.
- ▶ The right to receive health care, including such care as is unavoidable for the elderly, and quality and accessible services.
- ▶ Preventive measures to protect our physical integrity and care and assistance at home or in specialised institutions when life makes us less self-sufficient or deprives us completely of our autonomy.
- ▶ Access to means of transport adapted to different age brackets and the state of health of senior citizens.

3 RIGHT TO SECURITY

We, the retired and elderly persons of FERPA, call for:

- ▶ The right to food and energy security.
- ▶ Measures, actions and controls to prevent and thwart acts of violence, in all places, against elderly persons.
- ▶ The implementation of social policies for housing and the adaptation of cities and neighbourhoods to demographic changes.

The ageing of the population, with everything it entails, must be envisaged in a positive manner as well as a possibility for development and employment.

The retired and elderly people of FERPA plan to mobilise in Europe and member countries through their trade union to claim the right to exercise fully active, free, participatory and democratic citizenship now and in the future.

FERPA calls for a social Europe with a social model that promotes inter-generational solidarity and protects young people, adults, the elderly, men and women.

As a European trade union of retired and elderly persons, FERPA is counting on the support of ETUC so that the Charter of the rights of retired and elderly persons is applied in all Member States.

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