

The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA)

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The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) is an international nongovernmental organization which was founded in 1997 and has consultative status with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Acknowledging the diversity of culture, background, and life style of the world population, INPEA aims to increase society's ability, through international collaboration, to recognize and respond to the mistreatment of older people in whatever setting it occurs, so that the latter years of life will be free from abuse, neglect and exploitation. INPEA's objectives are to increase public awareness and knowledge of the issue, to promote education and training of professionals and paraprofessionals in identification, treatment and prevention, to further advocacy on behalf of abused and neglected elders, and to stimulate research into the causes, consequences, prevalence and treatment. Of critical concern to INPEA is the issue of violence against older women.

INPEA has Regional Representatives in all UN Regions, as well as numerous National Representatives. INPEA engages Member States of the United Nations at various Commission Meetings, such as the Commission for the Status of Women and at the Human Rights Council.

INPEA launched the First World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) on 15 June 2006. In December 2011, the United Nations officially designated WEAAD on 15 June as a United Nations International Day of Commemoration.

VPA focal person



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Susan B. Somers earned a law degree from Albany Law School in Albany, New York, USA. She holds a Certificate of Gerontology Studies. She served as Assistant Deputy Attorney General for the State of New York, Elder Protection Unit, and a prior Director of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, Bureau of Adult Services. She is Secretary General of INPEA, and has collaborated with WHO and others to launch the first WEAAD. Her focus is in human rights to end violence, abuse, and neglect of older persons globally; and address harmful cultural and traditional practices. She co-chairs the joint Elder Abuse and Sub-committee on Older Women of the NGO Committee on Ageing in New York.