

CHAPTER 3

PRINCIPLES AND FRAMEWORK

The Strategy has not been developed in a vacuum, it has been developed within the following framework.

1. PRINCIPLES OF THE ELDER ABUSE STRATEGY

- **Equality**

All individuals are of equal worth, should be privy to equal rights and share the same responsibility. Each is born a unique individual; each develops along different lines; each has different abilities. Older persons, who were previously treated unequally, should be allowed to experience equality in their daily lives, by creating an environment which is conducive to acknowledgement and acceptance of differences.

- **Social Justice and Equity**

Social justice implies that services and opportunities provided for older persons should be at the disposal of all older persons. There should be equal access to services which should be available at various levels i.e primary, secondary, and tertiary and in different contexts, home, community and institution. Positive attitudes should be fostered amongst professionals and employers, individuals and communities, in order to promote the optimal utilisation of resources and services. Guided by the principle of social justice, one should endeavour to build programmes that will eventually give all older persons essential services. Services should be accessible, affordable and acceptable to all older persons. Older persons should be made aware of services which are available and be empowered to demand the services needed to enhance independence.

- **Solidarity**

Solidarity should form part of the equalisation of opportunities for all people with special needs – children, older persons and people with disabilities. Solidarity of purpose and efforts toward this end should be seen as a privilege of all and not as a charity for some.

- **Integration and Participation**

All members of society should join in the mainstream of community life. Integration of older persons in all aspects of life will ensure equal opportunities in the social, economic, educational, political and recreational spheres of life. Participation is a call to share power, to seriously promote people's participation, to enlighten leadership and build capacity in older persons.

- **Dignity**

The right of older persons is to live in dignity and security, free from exploitation and abuse. The right to fair treatment without discrimination regardless of their economic contributions.

Protection of human rights is an obligation of the authorities in each country, for its communities and for every citizen. Older persons shall have the same rights as others and there must be no exception. Special attention may be needed to ensure the following: access to health, welfare, transportation, justice, education, work services, housing, police and to buildings; to information; to cultural and social life, including sports and recreational facilities; to representation and full political involvement in all matters of concern to them.

Intervention in the area of abuse should guard against any erosion of the rights of older persons.

Older persons are not homogeneous but are individuals with particular and differing needs, beliefs and values.

2. FRAMEWORK

2.1 Constitutional Framework

2.2 Legal Framework

2.3 International and National Obligations

**Refer to
Annexure B**