



# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS

October 1, 2021



# Introduction

On October 1, the world will celebrate the International Day of Older Persons.

This day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly (by resolution 45/106) on 14 December 1990.

IF takes this opportunity to raise awareness on ageing with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus. According to the survey carried out by the IF Working Group on Ageing, data from the last three decades suggest that more than 75% of newborns will reach adulthood and it is predicted that the numbers of older people with SBH will rise dramatically over the next few decades. Yet, whilst the knowledge base concerning neonatal and paediatric care is growing, there is little known about the impact living with SBH has on transitioning to old age. There is a need to explore and expand our knowledge and gain insights into current health and wellbeing status of older people with SBH. We need to understand the challenges they face, their way of developing resilience and coping mechanisms and the impact ageing has on their occupation and independence.



# IF International Day of Older Persons 2021

On this day, the goal is to raise awareness on ageing with SBH, the barriers older persons with SBH can face and the need for lifting these barriers.

IF aims to emphasise the importance of integrated care for persons ageing with SBH and the fact that individuals with SBH are subject to "accelerated ageing" which means the ageing process for some groups of people with disabilities begins earlier than usual, such as for individuals with SBH.

To overcome these barriers, they need access to multidisciplinary clinics, where professionals have up-to-date in-depth knowledge on SBH treatment and care, including mental health care. They need access to assistive devices, access to inclusive education, employment with reasonable accommodations, such as flexible working hours. They need social protection against financial hardship and the risk of institutionalisation. More research is needed into the effects of ageing with SBH and the impact on daily life of secondary conditions. The health and the lives of people ageing with SBH should not be at risk due to stigma, prejudice, and the combined discrimination based on age and disability.

Another important aspect to highlight on this day is the risk of institutionalisation and abuse for older persons with SBH is a serious violation of human rights.

It is vital to protect older persons with SBH from experiencing preventable loss of independence and to develop community based services to prevent institutionalisation and abuse in old age. Individuals with SBH and intellectual disabilities may have already been subjected to loss of legal capacity or institutionalisation at a younger age.

Their right to transition to community based living regardless of age or perception of quality of life must be addressed by policy makers and service providers.

Happy

Older

INTERNATIONAL

DAY OF

PERSONS



# UN International Day of Older Persons 2021

This year the United Nations has chosen to celebrate the International Day of Older Persons under the theme “Digital Equity for All Ages” to predicate the need for access and meaningful participation in the digital world by older person (read more [here](#)).

The United Nations organises an online event on this occasion.

## Practical information:

“Digital Equity for All Ages”

Virtual Zoom Webinar and Facebook Live

Geneva Pre-Launch Event: September (TBD)

Date: 1 October 2021

Vienna Event: 8:00-9:30am EDT / 2:00-3:30pm CET

New York Event: 10:00-11:30am EDT / 4:00-5:30pm CET

Register [here](#)



The poster features logos for the United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, and the NGO Committee on Ageing in both Geneva and New York. The main title is "Digital Equity for All Ages" with the subtitle "UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS". It lists a Geneva Pre-Launch Event in September (TBD) and the main event on October 1, 2021, with times for Vienna (8:00-9:30 AM EDT / 14:00-15:30 PM CET) and New York (10:00-11:30 EDT / 16:00-17:30 CET). A circular collage of photos shows older people using mobile devices. The text "#UNIDOP2021 #OLDERPERSONSDAY #DIGITALINCLUSION" is displayed above the large "Save the Date!" text. Below this, it says "PRE-REGISTER & LEARN MORE: BIT.LY/UNIDOP2021". At the bottom right, it notes "SUPPORT FOR NY'S EVENT FROM:" followed by the AARP and M&T Bank logos.

# IF Working Group on Ageing

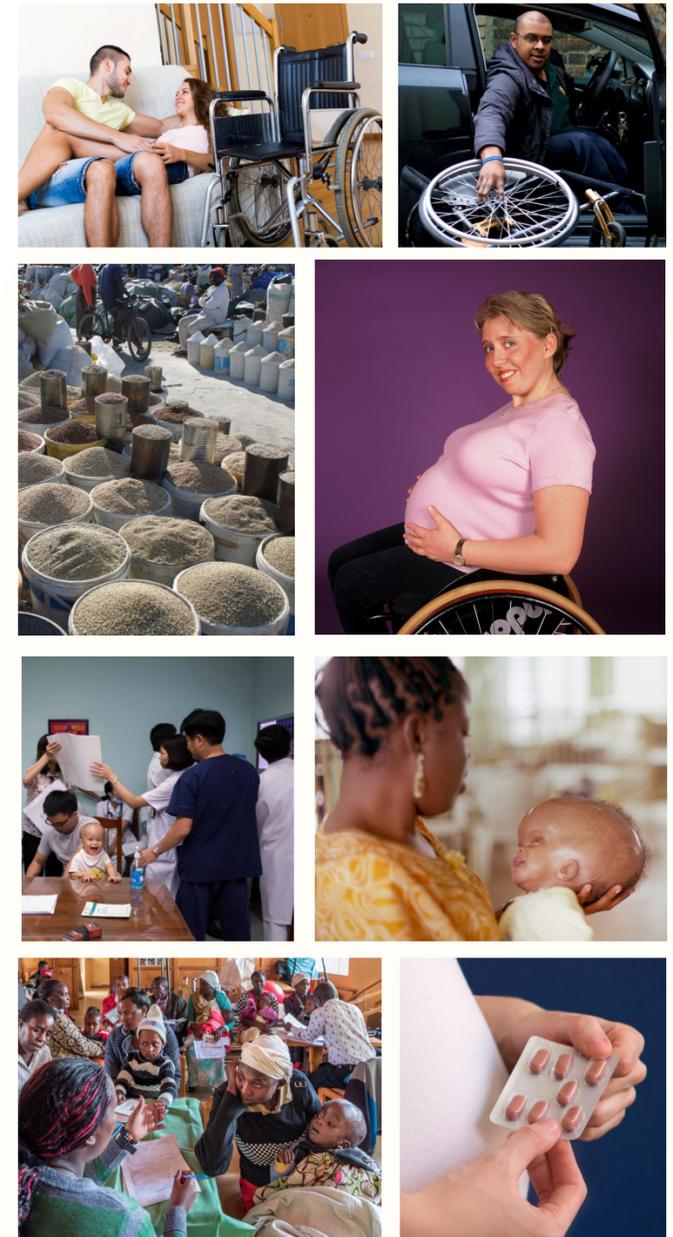
IF represents the global SBH community and aims to advance and protect the rights of individuals with SBH and their families. IF achieves this through its policy and advocacy work as well as through awareness raising. IF actively works to increase its presence and visibility on the regional and international level, including in the EU's implementation of the UNCRPD and in relevant activities on the UN level.

In the past years, our members have emphasised the importance of raising awareness about ageing with spina bifida and hydrocephalus (SBH).

Due to improved treatment and care, many children born with SBH have grown up, become adults, and are reaching their senior years. At the same time, we know very little about ageing with SBH and its impact on physiology, mental abilities and independence.

There is a need to improve our understanding of **the lived experience of older persons with SBH**, which is why it has become a key objective for our organisation.

IF Working Group on Ageing conducts several activities such as reports, webinars, monitors policies and consultations relevant to older persons with disabilities, SBH in particular .



# What does this toolkit contain?

- **Within this toolkit, you will find key messages, posters, hashtags, logos and banners as well as key links to download**
- **Come and join the challenge by sharing this toolkit with your organisation, colleagues, partners and friends!**
- **Participate in the IF challenge and send us your recorded video or a picture to express yourself about Ageing with SBH and what it means to you**

**Help us to spread awareness!**

**IF is looking forward to seeing your materials and share them during the  
#InternationalOlderPersonsDay #ElderlySBH #AgeingWithSBH**



## Key messages

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- Multidisciplinary care for all life stages. The needs of individuals with #SBH changes with age and healthcare services need to be able to meet them. The needs may change but the rights stay the same. #MultidisciplinaryCareForSBHElders #OlderPersonsDay #AgeingWithSBH
- Health and social care professionals, individuals with SBH and their families need support to adjust to the change in demographics. Develop training content for professionals, carers and service users on transition to old age and building resilience skills. #OlderPersonsDay #AgeingWithSBH
- Support the needs of carers and partners of individuals with SBH who are transitioning into old age. #OlderPersonsDay #AgeingWithSBH #ElderlySBH
- New ways and greater support is needed to address incontinence, pain management and sexual health issues for people with SBH as they age. #OlderPersonsDay #AgeingWithSBH #ElderlySBH



## Key messages

- Support needs to not end after childhood. Older people with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus have the same rights as every other person. To overcome the barriers, they need access to multidisciplinary clinics. #MultidisciplinaryCareForSBHElders #OlderPersonsDay #AgeingWithSBH
- More research is needed into the effects of ageing with SBH and the impact on daily life of secondary conditions. #OlderPersonsDay #AgeingWithSBH #ElderlySBH
- The health and the lives of people ageing with SBH should not be at risk due to stigma, prejudice, and the combined discrimination based on age and disability. #OlderPersonsDay #AgeingWithSBH #ElderlySBH
- It is vitally important that policy makers take into account the needs of individuals who experience accelerated ageing due to SBH or other conditions. #OlderPersonsDay #AgeingWithSBH
- A multidisciplinary care model of care and support is essential as it is one of the most efficient ways of addressing the challenges brought on by ageing with SBH. #MultidisciplinaryCareForSBHElders #OlderPersonsDay



## Key messages

- Multidisciplinary care for SBH must not omit older people with SBH. Integrated approach to treatment, care and support for adults with SBH is as essential as for children and youth with SBH. #MultidisciplinaryCareForSBHElders #OlderPersonsDay
- Older people with SBH can be at risk of mental health issues, such as depression and anxiety, in part due to. Inaccessibility, lack of support and stigma. An association between disability and depression has been established, identifying mental health concerns as a secondary conditions is a priority for persons with SBH. #OlderPersonsDay #ElderlySBH #AgeingWithSBH
- Encouraging the development of personalised and holistic model of care for the older adult with SBH and a sustainable and well informed workforce is of utmost importance. #MultidisciplinaryCareForSBHElders #OlderPersonsDay
- It is necessary to support further neurological research including further qualitative research on the impact of ageing and identification of outcome measures that are meaningful to people who are part of the SBH community. #OlderPersonsDay #ElderlySBH #AgeingWithSBH

# Materials to download and share:



**- The #OlderPersons Poster**

**- The #OlderPersons Banner**

**- The #OlderPersons Save the date**

**- The #OlderPersons Frame**

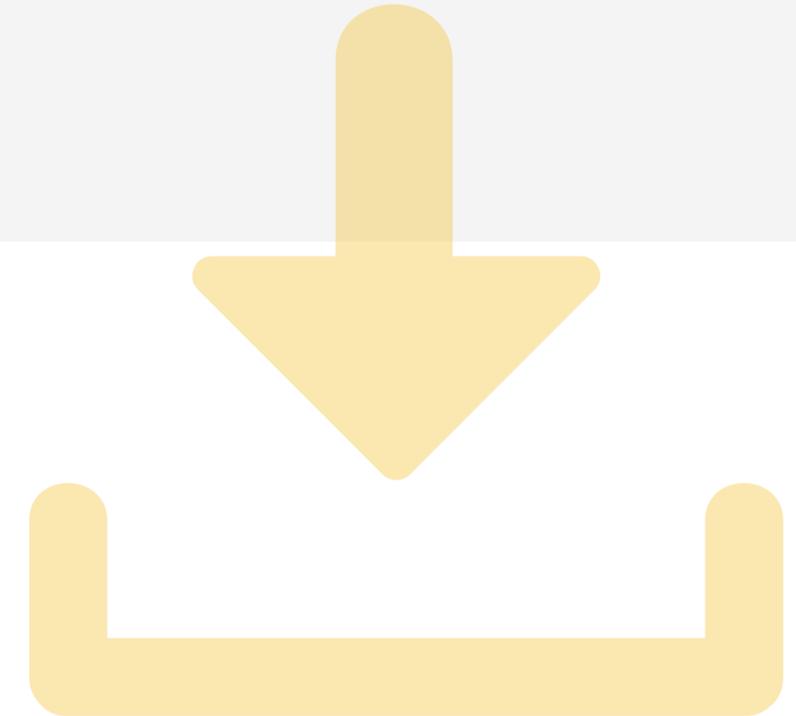
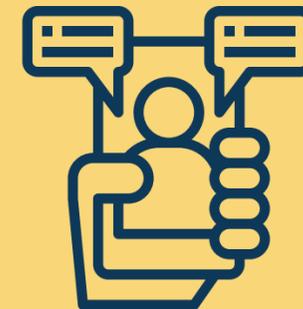
**- The #OlderPersons Frame picture**

**- The #OlderPersons Frame message**

**- The #OlderPersons Frame picture with quote 1**

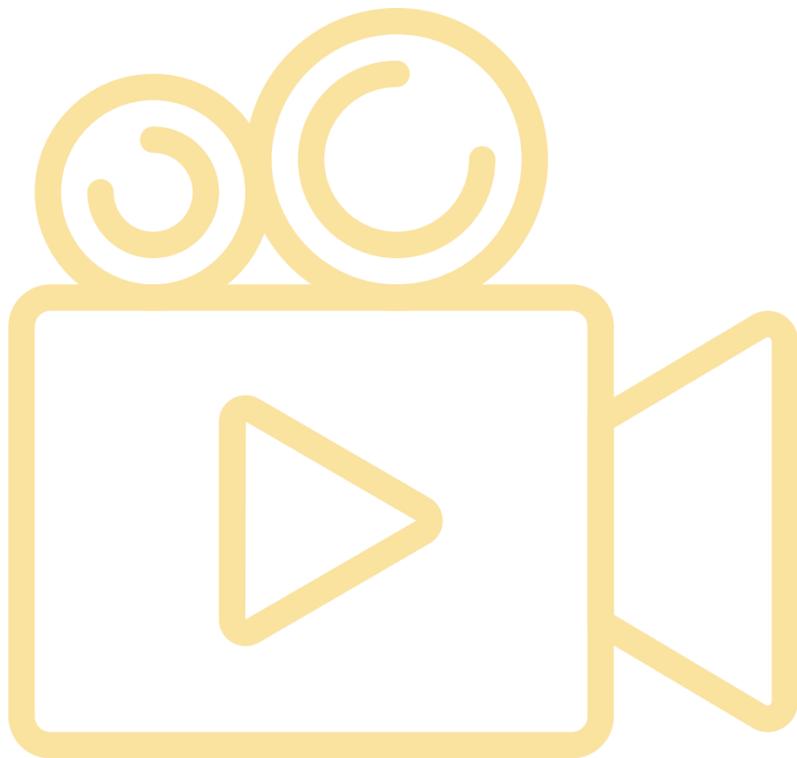
**- The #OlderPersons Frame picture with quote 2**

**- The #OlderPersons Frame picture with quote 3**



# Testimonial Challenge

In preparation for the International Day of Older Persons, IF invites YOU to send a short 1-2minute video message.



1. **Format**

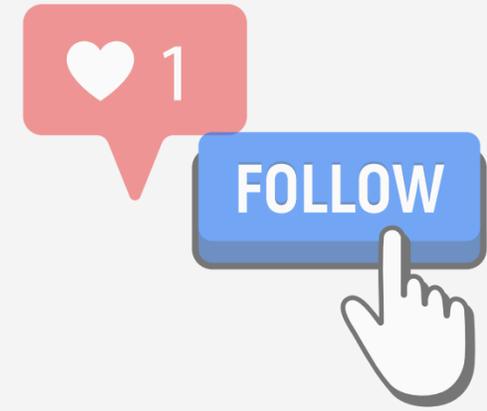
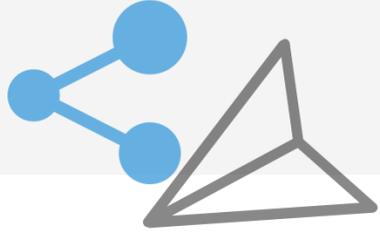
- a. Video mp4 files
- b. Duration up to 1-2 minutes
- c. Language in English

2. **Content**

- a. Introduce yourself (name, age, country)
- b. A comment to what barriers you encounter as an older person with SBH
- c. What actions would you like to be taken to remove these barriers
- d. A call to support and invitation to join the movement to help raising awareness

**Please email the video to [info@ifglobal.org](mailto:info@ifglobal.org) before September 24.**

# Tagg @IFSBH, Share & Follow



## Share, use the hashtags:

#IFSBH

#AgeingWithSBH

#ElderlySBH

#OlderPersonsDay

#InternationalOlderPersonsDay

#MultidisciplinaryCareForSBHElders



## And Follow @IFSBH



# Useful Links

IF website: <https://www.ifglobal.org/our-work/working-group-on-ageing-with-sbh/>

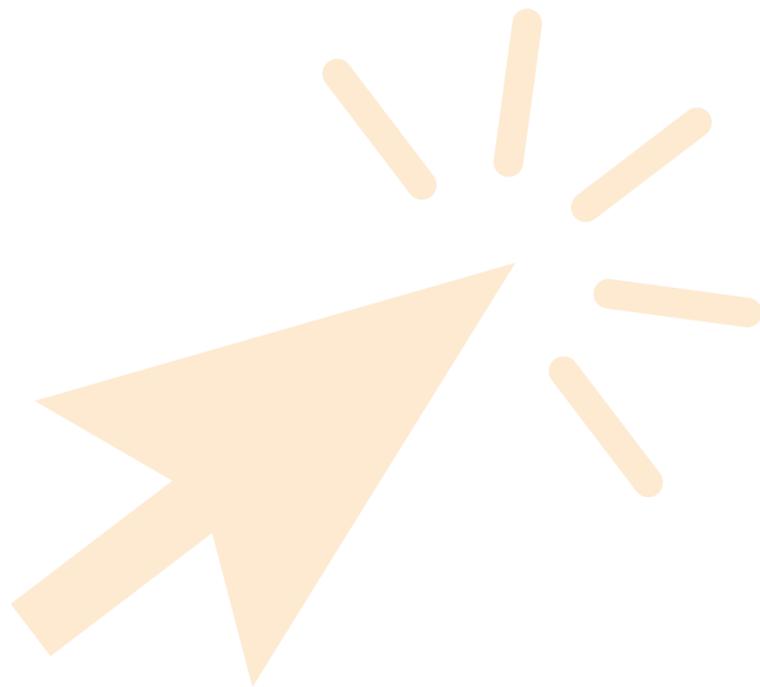
IF news on ageing: <https://www.ifglobal.org/news/launch-if-report-on-ageing-with-spina-bifida-and-hydrocephalus/>

IF Working Group on Ageing report: <https://www.ifglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/IF-report-Ageing-SBH-2020-final.pdf>

IF Submission on the Rights of Older Persons with Disabilities: <https://www.ifglobal.org/news/if-submission-on-the-rights-of-older-persons-with-disabilities/>

United Nations DESA: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/ageing/international-day-of-older-persons-homepage.html>

United Nations: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/ageing/2021-unidop-digital-equity-for-all-ages.html>



**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR PARTICIPATION**  
IF TEAM

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

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