

## Framework for the Sexual Rights of Older People

The aim of this sexual rights framework is for older people to be treated with dignity and respect at all times. It can be used to guide research, teaching, health and social care practice, and the design of services for older people. The framework is based on the Declaration of Sexual Rights from the *World Association for Sexual Health*, which we have adapted for our book *Addressing the sexual rights of older people*, by Catherine Barrett and Sharron Hinchliff.

You are welcome to use this Framework in your own work. Suggested citation for when using the Framework: Barrett, C. and Hinchliff, S. (2018). *Addressing the sexual rights of older people: Theory, policy and practice*, Oxon, Routledge.

1. **The right to equality and non-discrimination:** Older people have the right to enjoy all the sexual rights set out in this declaration without distinction of any kind.
2. **The right to life, liberty, and security:** older people have the right to life, liberty and security that cannot be arbitrarily threatened, limited, or taken away for reasons related to sexuality.
3. **The right to autonomy and bodily integrity:** older people have the right to control and decide freely on matters related to their sexuality and their body. This includes the choice of sexual behaviours, practices, partners, and relationships with due regard to the rights of others.
4. **The right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment:** older people have the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment related to sexuality.
5. **The right to be free from all forms of violence and coercion:** older people have the right to be free from sexuality-related violence and coercion.

6. **The right to privacy:** older people have the right to privacy related to sexuality, sexual life, and choices regarding their own body and consensual sexual relations and practices without arbitrary interference and intrusion.
7. **The right to the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual health:** older people have the right to the highest attainable level of health and wellbeing in relation to sexuality, including the possibility of pleasurable, satisfying, and safe sexual experiences.
8. **The right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application:** older people have the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications in relation to sexuality, sexual health, and ageing.
9. **The right to information:** older people have the right to access scientifically accurate and understandable information related to sexuality and ageing through diverse sources.
10. **The right to education and comprehensive sexual education:** older people have the right to education and comprehensive sexual education that is age-appropriate and grounded in a positive approach to sexuality and ageing.
11. **The right to enter, form, and dissolve marriage and other similar relationships:** older people have the right to choose whether or not to marry, and to enter with full and free consent into marriage or other similar relationships.
12. **The right to freedom of thought, opinion, and expression:** older people have the right to freedom of thought, opinion, and expression regarding sexuality and the right to express their own sexuality with due respect to the rights of others.
13. **The right to freedom of association and peaceful assembly:** older people have the right to peacefully organise, associate, assemble, demonstrate, and advocate including about sexuality, sexual health and sexual rights.

14. **The right to participation in public and political life:** older people are entitled to an environment that enables active, free, and meaningful participation in and contribution to the civil, economic, social, political, and other aspects of human life.
15. **The right to access to justice, remedies, and redress:** older people have the right to access justice, remedies, and redress for violations of their sexual rights.