



Office for Seniors  
Te Tari Kaumātua

Administered by the Ministry of Social Development

# Aide-mémoire

## Meeting

**Date:** 28 February 2020      **Security Level:** IN CONFIDENCE

**For:** Hon Tracey Martin, Minister for Seniors

**File Reference:** REP/20/2/155

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### Meeting with the United Nations Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons

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**Meeting details**      4:00pm on Monday 2 March 2020 in your office.

**Expected attendees**

- Rosa Kornfeld-Matte, United Nations (UN) Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons (her preferred language is French, and she will be accompanied by a French translator)
- Khaled Hassine, Legal Officer, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Diane Turner, Director, Office for Seniors

**Purpose of meeting**

Rosa is meeting with you to discuss a number of topics that are relevant to your Seniors portfolio;

- the implementation of Better Later Life – He Oranga Kaumātua 2019 to 2034
- Elder Abuse
- Ageism
- Digital inclusion of older people, including older Māori, and
- She is likely to ask you about New Zealand's position on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.

You may also want to talk about the work (such as the SuperGold Card, and the Age friendly Programme) you have been leading to improve the wellbeing of older people.

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**Background**      *Rosa Kornfeld-Matte's visit to New Zealand*

Rosa was officially invited to visit New Zealand by Her Excellency Ms Jillian Dempster, Ambassador to the United Nations Office in Geneva.

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The purpose of the visit is to study national legislation, policy, regulatory frameworks, institutions and practices, in seeking to identify best practices and gaps in the implementation of the existing law.

We understand that she will be seeking support to establish a new international treaty, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.

Rosa's visit involves meetings with Ministers and government officials, as well as local authorities and civil society representatives, whose functions are relevant to the issues covered by the Independent Expert's mandate. The Independent Expert's mandate is to determine the best way to strengthen the protection of the human rights of older persons.

At the end of her visit, on Thursday 12 March Rosa will meet with you to discuss her preliminary findings. She will then meet with high-level government officials.

This will be followed by a press conference. This conference will outline some of the key findings from the visit and will take place after the meeting with officials.

The Independent Expert's full findings and recommendations will be presented in a report to the UN Human Rights Council in September 2020.

### *The role of an Independent Expert*

Independent Experts are appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council to examine and report back on a thematic or country-specific perspective in all parts of the world.

This position is honorary. The Independent Experts are not members of staff of the United Nations, nor are they paid for their work. They express their views in an independent capacity and do not represent their respective Governments.

Their independent status is crucial to them being able to fulfil their functions in all impartiality.

### *Rosa Kornfeld-Matte*

In May 2014, the Human Rights Council appointed Rosa as the first Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons.

She previously served as the National Director of the Chilean National Service of Ageing, where she designed and implemented the National Policy of Ageing.

She has a long career as an academic and is the founder of the programme for older persons at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. This is her last country visit in this role.

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**Suggested  
talking  
points**

*Implementation of Better Later Life*

- This strategy provides a common road map for central and local government, non-governmental organisations, businesses and communities to achieve better outcomes for all New Zealanders.
- Everyone has a role in implementing the Better Later Life strategy to make the future better for older people as we age.
- you are developing an action/implementation plan for the strategy this year. I expect this to focus on several of the key issues including employment, housing, ageism and social connection.
- While the action plan is being developed, we will continue implementing the initial actions that are included in the strategy.
- you have established a Ministerial Steering Group to monitor the implementation of the strategy. The Ministerial Steering Group includes Ministers whose portfolios align with the strategy's key areas for action.
- An Officials Steering Group will support the Ministerial Steering Group. These groups will meet regularly to manage implementation issues, identify and mitigates risks and track progress.

Out of Scope



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Out of Scope

*Ageism*

- In 2016, my office commissioned research to understand New Zealanders' attitudes towards older people and ageing.
- While the research found that there are generally high levels of respect for older people, older adults are often stereotyped as dependent, frail or a burden, and they are discriminated against on the grounds of age ('ageism').
- Valuing and respecting people as we age is a guiding principle and an area for action in the Better Later Life strategy.

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