

## **2022 Report**

### **Rita Assogna - representative IFBPW UN Vienna**

My 2022 report concerns my work within the Ageing Committee and the Peace Committee. Furthermore I participate in the Committee on the Status of women. The Committees organized meetings on a monthly basis partly online and partly in person, due to the situation in 2022.

**1. The NGO Committee on Ageing in Vienna** ([ngoageingvie.org](http://ngoageingvie.org)) resumed its work at a first meeting on January 24, 2022, with the election of a new board. I was again elected Secretary for the next two years.

Old women are much more susceptible to being abused, cheated and less prepared to fight for their rights. The role of BPW fighting for the rights of women is of great importance; the role of women fighting for their rights must be strengthened.

An important theme discussed in the Committee was the creation of an international “convention for the rights of older people” recognized by all countries.

Ageism in health services, denial of access to education and other violations of the rights of older persons were discussed. Violations of the rights of older persons are often interdisciplinary, and not included in the reported numbers. It should be recognized that older persons are not beneficiaries but human rights holders and that investment in ageing is an investment in the future and not expenditure.

*In brief the work of the Committee in 2022:*

*The Committee organizes every year a special event on the occasion of the UN International Day of Older Persons (October 1st). The committee on Ageing Vienna has celebrated the day by organizing an event in 2022 with the following themes:*

*“The Resilience and Contributions of Older Women”; “Ageing – So What? Mainstreaming Getting Older”, Speaker: Dr Alexandre Sidorenko (Senior Advisor, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna); “Older Persons: Strengthening Resilience to Mental Health Issues”, Speaker: Dr Monika Zavis (Associate Professor, Comenius University, Bratislava); “The Impact of Climate Change on Older People”, Speaker: Dr Andrea Schmidt (Head of Department, Austrian National Public Health Institute, Vienna) ; “Care and Caring in Europe: Common Challenges - Common Solutions?” Speaker: Mr Stecy Yghemonos (Executive Director Eurocarers, Brussels).*

*During the year the following presentations took place: “Drug use in the elder”; “So often, our attitude is that ageing is just, making the best of a bad situation, and that effects everything we do”; “The situation in Ukraine in particular concerning old people”; “The importance of Digitalization for older people”.*

**2. The NGO on Peace in Vienna** resumed its work at a first meeting on January 26, 2022. A general meeting took place on 30 March 2022 for new elections. I was elected Auditor.

Women in war zones suffer physical and mental violence which forces them into a state of subjection that is difficult to eliminate even when the conflict is over shattering their physical and mental health. For this reason, BPW's involvement in the attempt to resolve or eliminate conflicts is extreme importance.

The NGO Committee on Peace in Vienna is interested and active in the fields of disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, peace keeping and peace building. Global peace education seems to be an urgent need, if not a necessity in our time.

*The Committee has heard experts about the above theme and discussions after presentation on the following points: "The geopolitical context of the Ukraine Crisis!" Speaker: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Heinz Gärtner; "How can the United Nations be Re-empowered to Fulfill its Peace Mission and Prevent Future Threats to World Peace?"*

*Speaker: Dr. Tariq Rauf; "Lessons learned from the UN Peacekeeping Missions and Peace Perspectives in the Russian - Ukraine War" Speaker: Dr. Afsar Rathor; "Peace initiatives between individual actions and political advocacy ", Speaker: Prof. Dr. Angela Mickley.*

**3. The NGO Committee on the Status of Women Vienna** ([ngocswvienna.org](http://ngocswvienna.org)) follows the work of the Vienna-based UN Commissions and Agencies including UNODC and UNIDO. The Committee's main purpose is to facilitate the activities of its member organizations in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women among member organizations and in relation to UN Women. It acts as a forum for the exchange of information and views on matters of common interest, and coordinates the drafting of joint statements to the UN Commission on the Status of Women. Its goals are to:

follow the work of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women,

including submission of statements, organization of events, and dissemination of related documents;

follow the work of the Vienna-based UN Commissions and Agencies including UNODC and UNIDO, submit statements to respective sessions, organize side events, and disseminate related documents; disseminate information on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Beijing Platform for Action, etc.