



Five Nations Care Forum

10th December 2025

Rt Hon Chris Elmore MP Minister for Human Rights Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office King Charles Street London SW1A 2AH

Dear Minister Elmore,

Re: Encouraging Full UK Participation in the Drafting of the UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons

We, the Chief Executives of the Five Nations Care Forum, following a recent meeting in England, write to express our collective support for the UK Government's active and full participation in the drafting of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Older Persons. This is a pivotal moment to ensure the rights of older people are recognised and protected globally, and we believe the UK has a significant role to play in shaping this historic initiative. The Five Nations Care Forum is an alliance of the professional associations representing the care sector across the UK and Ireland.

Older people in the UK represent a vital and growing segment of our population, contributing immensely to our communities, economy, and society. Yet, they often face systemic barriers, discrimination, and neglect, which undermine their dignity and human rights. The creation of a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons offers a unique opportunity to address these challenges, both domestically and internationally, by establishing a robust framework to protect and promote their rights.

We urge the UK Government to:

1. **Publicly support and fully engage in the drafting process:** As a key member of the Human Rights Council, the UK's leadership and commitment to the Intergovernmental Working Group are essential to ensuring the Convention reflects the needs and aspirations of older people globally.
2. **Recognise the voice of older persons in the UK:** It is crucial that older people are at the heart of this process. Their lived experiences, perspectives, and ideas must inform the content of the Convention to ensure it is truly representative and impactful.

3. **Acknowledge the role of social care providers:** Social care providers play a significant role in advancing the human rights of older persons. Their expertise and insights should be leveraged to shape policies and practices that uphold dignity, independence, and equality for older people.

We also encourage the UK Government to use this process as an opportunity to raise awareness of older people's rights among the wider society, fostering a culture of respect and inclusion for people of all ages.

The Five Nations stand ready to support the UK Government in this important endeavor. We are committed to working collaboratively with civil society, stakeholders, and older people themselves to build momentum and ensure the success of this Convention.

We look forward to your response and to seeing the UK take a leading role in this critical initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Tadhg Daly, Chief Executive, Care Homes Ireland

Professor Martin Green OBE, Chief Executive, Care England

Professor Donald Macaskill, Chief Executive., Scottish Care

Mel Minty, Senior Policy Advisor, Care Forum Wales

Joseph Musgrave, Chief Executive, Home and Community Care Ireland

Professor Vic Rayner, National Care Forum

Pauline Shepherd, Chief Executive, Independent Health and Care Providers, Northern Ireland

Dr Jane Townson OBE, Chief Executive, Homecare Association.