

NSINDAGIZA IN CHOGM22



I. CHOGM22 welcoming Intergenerational Celebration

Introduction

The intergenerational celebration was organized by Nsindagiza ([Nsindagiza](https://www.nsingidagiza.org)), a Rwandan organisation promoting the rights and welfare of older people, especially the most vulnerable older women and men in the country, in collaboration with CommonAge (www.commage.org) – The Commonwealth Association for the Ageing works to promote the rights of people of all ages to live well in an all-age friendly inclusive Commonwealth, aiming at welcoming the CHOGM22 to Rwanda, sharing the ageing situation in Rwanda and highlight the project that has involved girls interviewing their grandmothers about their lives.

Objectives/Outcomes

The objective of the event was to shine the light on the experience of older people in Rwanda, by bringing together professionals and officials working with older people and build awareness of the work of the partner organisations.

Key participants

The event was held at the Grand Legacy Hotel in Kigali, and attended by 35 people including international delegates from more than 8 countries, representatives of the Government of Rwanda, the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), the Rwanda Elders Advisory Forum (REAF), Civil society organization, Development partners, older persons and youth representatives.



The opening remarks were addressed by Mr. Elie MUGABOWISHEMA, the President of NSINDAGIZA Organization and Ms. Femada Shamam, leading the African Chapter of CommonAge Association. The Guest of Honour representing the Government of Rwanda who addressed the opening remarks was Mr. Justin GATSINZI delegated by the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC).

Apart from key note address, Mr. Justin made a presentation on the National older persons' policy containing 4 objectives including; awareness-raising on ageing, promotion of healthy ageing, social protection and promotion of cultural values of intergenerational relationship.

Honourable Commissioner Aurelie GAHONGAYIRE shared with the participants, the synergy between the NCHR and civil society in the promotion and protection of Human rights for older persons, through advocacy and awareness-raising. Commissioner Aurelie concluded by advocating for the Government of Rwanda to speed up the implementation of the National Older Persons' Policy as older persons face a lot of challenges, especially those who operated in informal sector who don't have access to pension at the retirement age. She commended the partnership with NSINDAGIZA Organization in the advocacy and awareness-raising for the rights of older persons as well as other actors in Human rights sector.

On behalf Civil Society Organizations, Ms. Assumpta Wibabara, the Deputy Executive Secretary of Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), made a presentation on the role of CSOs on promoting elderly care support and ageing preparedness through intergenerational relationship and emphasized on Regular intergenerational discussions/ debate from safe spaces to the National Level, Promote history writing mostly on Rwandan culture, Discussions on Technology influence, especially the use of social medias platforms and Collaboration among CSOs on activities including both young and old people. She concluded on the following quote: "I'm not ageing, I'm classic".

Closing remarks

In his closing remarks, Honourable Boniface RUCAGU, representing the REAF, emphasized the importance of teaching the youth, the cultural values to take care of older persons as a social responsibility for everyone, as for Freddie Brunt representing the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) appreciated the partnership of NSINDAGIZA Organization with different stakeholders including Government, NCHR, CSOs and Development partners and assured the commitment of FCDO to keep collaborating with NSINDAGIZA Organization and the Government of Rwanda.

Some NSINDAGIZA Board members together with the representatives of Commonage Association, Helpage International, Age International and other actors in ageing field participated and raised the voices on behalf of older persons in the Commonwealth women's, Youth's and People's Forums.