Statement
by the Alliance for Health Promotion

Statement on COVID
to the Seventy-Third World Health Assembly
in support of the aged population

On the UN International Day of Older Persons, WHO launched “The Integrated Care for Older People (ICOPE). A few days previously at the UN High level Meeting on UHC there was a landmark political declaration “Universal Health Coverage; moving together to build a healthier world” and member States committed to scale up efforts to promote healthy and active ageing and maintain and improve the quality of life of older persons around the world

COVOD 19 has brought about even greater neglect and abuse, caused by isolation, domestic abuse, mental distress, lacking health services in Care Homes and Old peoples Residences are in poor shape, with lack of health services, untrained staff, and few possibilities for improvement, leading to an increasing number of deaths, far greater than those caused by COVID 19.

The spread of COVID 19 in Care Homes and institutions is taking a devastating toll on old people, with distressing respond on neglect, mistreatment, violence and abuse. Older people are living in precarious conditions, refugee camps, prisons, informal settlements, overcrowded conditions, limited or no access to health services, water and sanitation. Prolonged periods of isolation have a serious effect on mental health.

COVID 19 is escalating ageism, discrimination and stigmatization. Essential care that older persons often rely on is under pressure. Almost half of COVID deaths in Europe occurred in long term care settings. Yet older women often provide care for their relatives. Violence against older persons is on the rise.

The mission of the Alliance for Health Promotion is to bring global declarations down to the people. With COVID 19 causing such additional stress and suffering to the elderly, we will endeavour to bring the ICOPE into our communities around the world.

18 May 2020