



AGE Platform Europe

The voice of older persons at EU level



Ageism and COVID-19

Do human rights have a best before date?

June 2020





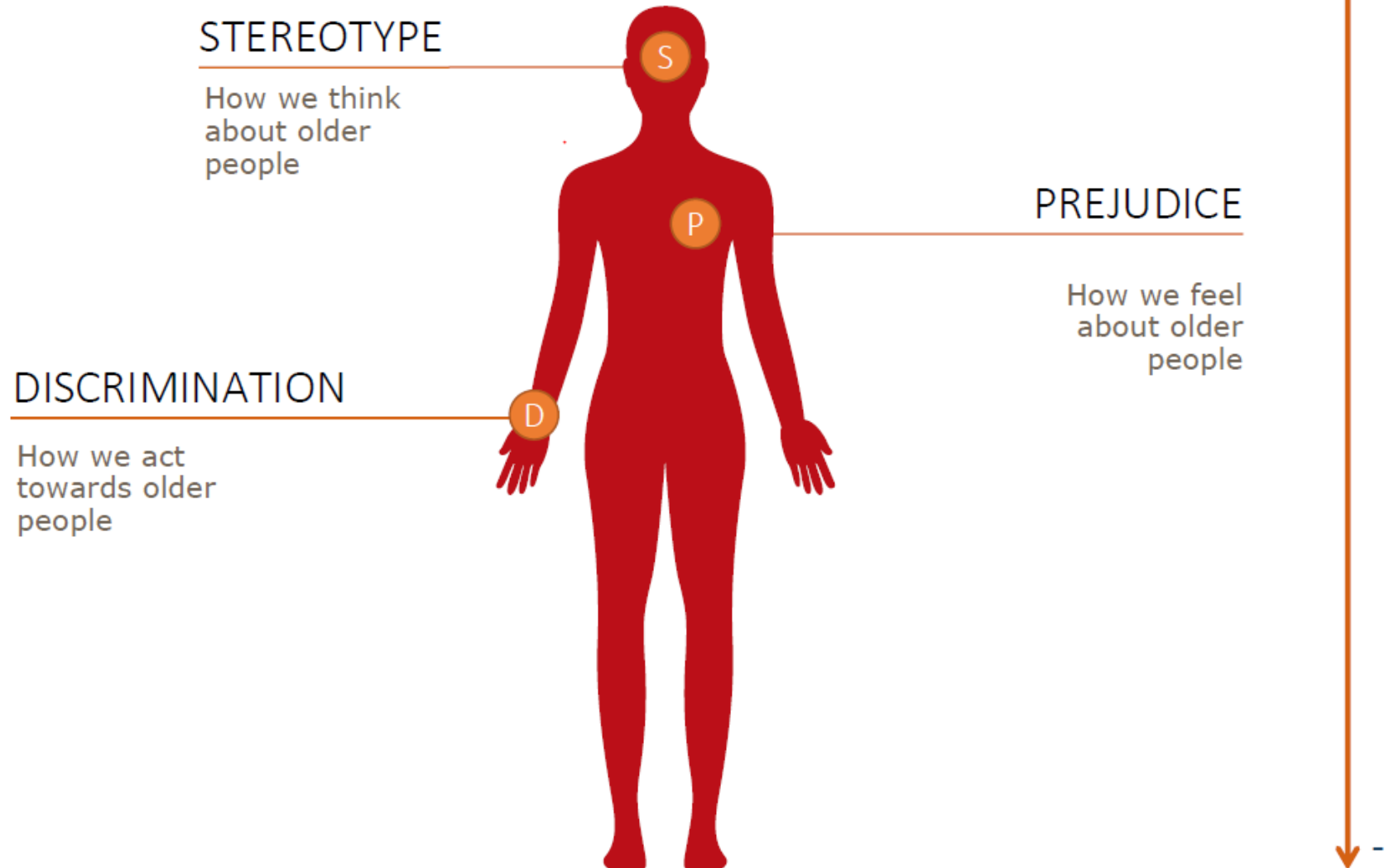
BY ANTONIO GUTERRES
Secretary-General of the United Nations

**"Our response to COVID-19
must respect the rights and
dignity of older people."**

.....

Ageism: The injustice of
not 'seeing' the injustice

Three dimensions of ageism





A typical older person



Typical older person?



Disney's witch



The 'regrettably
expendable'

Othering and trivialization

There will be far more deaths than usual, but it's also not a reason to be completely alarmed. Most of the deaths will occur in older people, as it happens with the flu, and they will be the ones that have to adopt more measures to avoid contagion.

ABC.es, Adolfo García Sastre, 05/03/2020

Director of the Global Health & Emerging Pathogens Institute at The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City

Stigmatization and hate speech

“Boomer Remover” [is] a mean nickname for the novel coronavirus COVID-19 ... The term ... references the higher mortality rate among older people infected with COVID-19 – particularly among people over 60, including the Boomer Baby age cohort approximately between the ages of 56 and 74.

[Andrew Whalen, Newsweek](#)

In human rights law

Emergency measures must be
necessary,
proportionate,
non-discriminatory
and timebound

In practice

Measures have **deprioritized,**
discriminated and **excluded** older
persons
from treatment, support, testing,
protective equipment, etc



Age-based
confinement

Triage



Coronavirus: allocating ICU beds and ventilators based on age is discriminatory

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Neglect

- Limited staff
- No PPE
- No testing
- No visitors
- No transfer to hospitals
- Lack of data



Older people have the
same rights and these
must be equally
protected during the
pandemic



A challenge and an opportunity for:

Awareness Advocacy Change



Want to know more about us?



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