

FOR WOMEN OF ALL AGES

MAGAZINE 'ACTIVE AGEING' NR.2



ASAG promotes 'Active Ageing' No. 2 magazine with Public Health Students



ADVOCACY finding & promoting positive & sustainable solutions

ASAG association encourages everyone to get involved and be an advocate and activist. We can facilitate change but only if we actively pursue it. Support The Civil Rights of Older People.

AWARENESS recognizing & understanding the needs and interests for women of all ages

ASAG is actively involved in advocating for benefits that are beneficial to Albanian older people and invites all ages to support society.

ACTION unifying & mobilizing to facilitate change

ASAG advocates Call to Action to approve the law in favor of the elderly, which is delayed since March 2009. Older Women voice needs to be heard!



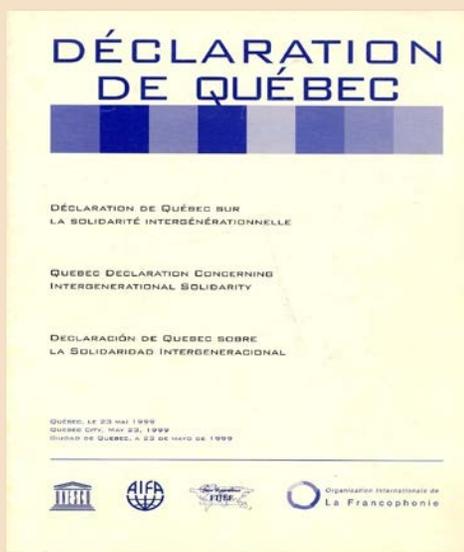
Intergeneration Solidarity

AIESEC & Leadership Development Assosacion Albania & Kosovo organized the forum: The 'Leadership Speech Feminine' forum was invited Mrs. Mira Pirdeni / ASAG to share the experiences, motivation and promotion of 'Active Ageing' nr.2 magazine with the audience.



QUEBEC DECLARATION CONCERNING INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY

QUEBEC CITY, MAY 23, 1999



II. EDUCATION AND CULTURE

ARTICLE 5

1. All generations must join to participate in the development of culture, which is the essence of community's identity.
2. To ensure cultural development, the members of each generation must promote their own forms of expression.

INVITATION

“The Time is now: Rural and urban activists transforming women’s lives”



KOHA ËSHTË TANI!

“Veprimtarë ruralë & urbanë transformojnë jetën e GRAVE.”

Konferencë:

**Më 5 Mars 2018
09:30 - 12:30
Hotel Mondial**

8th MARCH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

SHGPZ
Shoqata e Grave Profesioniste, Muzikiste e Eksperte të Shqiptarëve

Me Dytë të Gruas Shqiptare
United to Albanian Women

ASAG





Challenges Facing Older Women

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women

“If not addressed, the feminization of aging has the potential to become one of the biggest challenges to gender equality of this century; therefore, these issues need targeted action by governments and international organizations.”

<http://journal.aarpinternational.org/a/b/2016/02/challenges-facing-older-women>

A poor and inadequate lifestyle at an older age is and will remain a factor of fear and uncertainty for younger generations. There is no better than now to act together towards encouraging participation and change in defining and supporting the older woman's role in our lives. *Mira Pirdeni*

LACK OF LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Since 2009 ASAG is struggling to and pushing for the government to introduce and implement the „National Strategy on Ageing 2009-2013“ in Albania. NO ACTION has been undertaken so far.

Lack of central or local governmental structures to support the elderly.

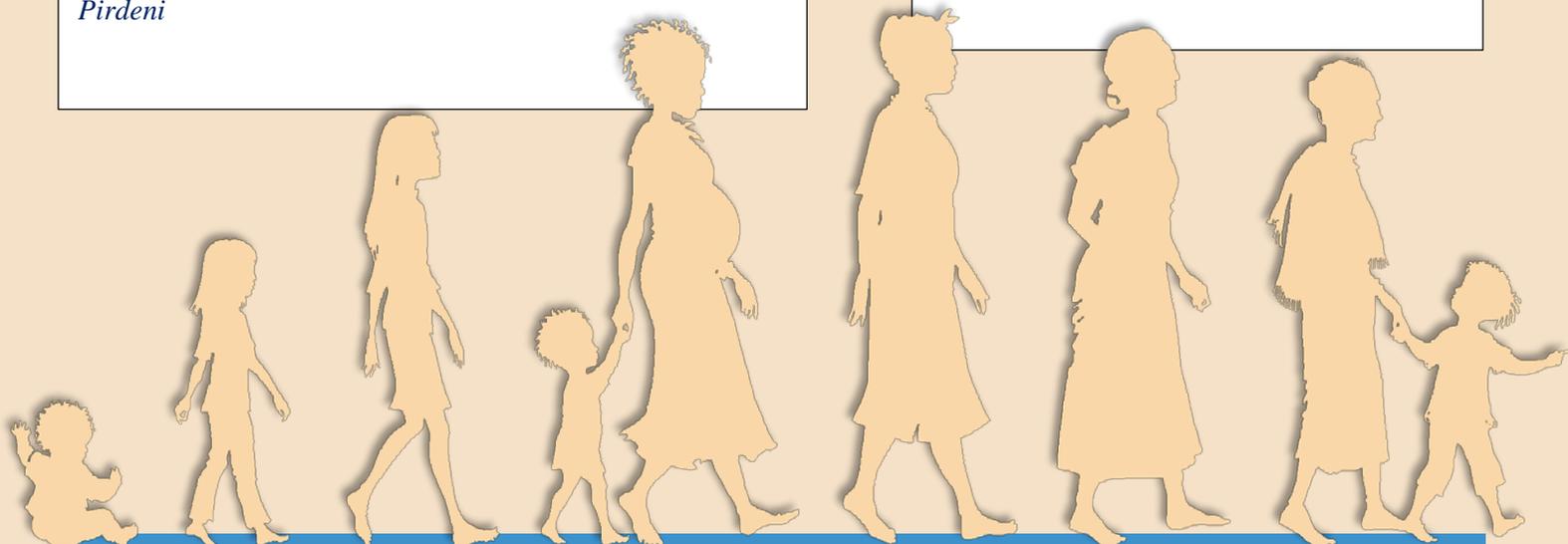
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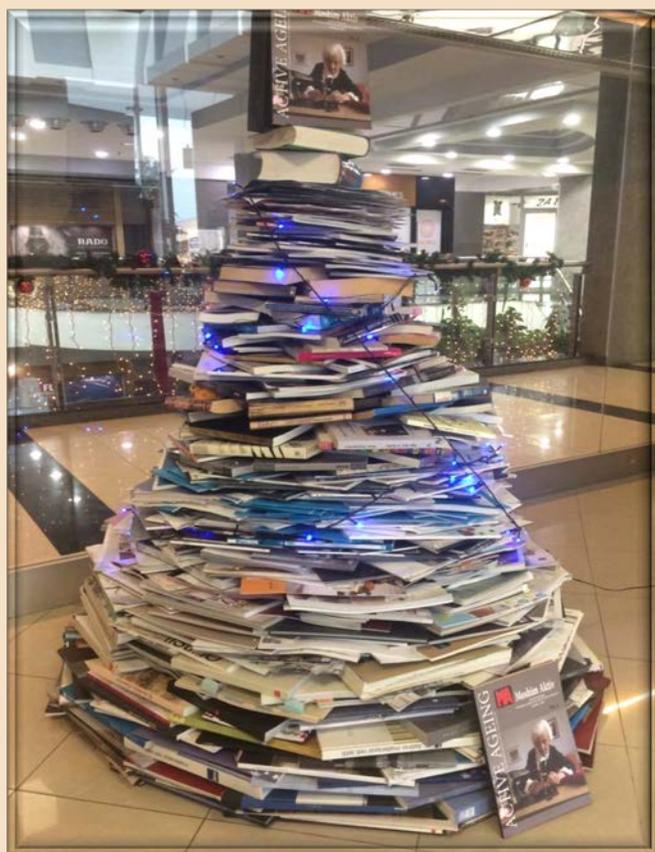
Limited access to services severely impacts their health, physic, psychology, intimacy and the ability to enhance the education.

Gender differences, inequalities and lack of support influence the way older persons are perceived and their ability to contribute in the community.

FACT:

Tirana, the capital city in 2018 is comprised of 11 local administrative units. The largest unit: number 2, where ASAG is established, has a population count of 100.000 inhabitants and unfortunately 0 daily and residential centers for the elderly.





EDITORIAL

Global statistics point out one fact: women live longer than man. With a growing life expectancy for women, the challenges to find solutions for coping with their real needs are also increasing. Aging has therefore become a vital issue for women of all ages, but also for men and for the whole society.

The demographic changes taking place and the aging dimension of women's lives require attention and action right now. In a country like Albania, where even the basic aging facilities are missing, such changes should be at the focus of public debate, since they are radically transforming the world, as we know it.

Right from its very foundation, ASAG has been constantly trying to make known its concerns over the aging women.

The establishment of this Association is a normal continuation of the Albanian Women Independent movement, which began in March 1991 and reached its culminating point on 16 November 1991 with the first mass women demonstration, which demanded the changing of the grave economic situation in the country.

The old dream of Albanian women became a reality on 10 March 1993 with the creation of the Union of Albanian Women, which encompassed women from all ethnic territories and the Diaspora.

This Union emerged as a critical necessity, with the view to broaden the range of voices of Albanian women and the quality of the ideas of those visionary women who wished to give the Albanian society a positive orientation.

Today, even though 27 years have passed since then, the range of voices we hear has been narrowing down, comprising only a small part of the population, mainly males, and a very small minority of select women, which means that only a small part of our society voice is being heard.

“Active Aging” magazine provides a supplementary platform to express and exchange opinions and share our concern about the future of our society.

What would our society be like if we were not to utilize all of its potential?

This magazine is committed to ensuring the visibility of every underrepresented person willing to contribute to the transformation of the society with their voices.

The vision of the magazine is to contribute to a well informed, richer, and more ethical society, empowering more people – particularly more women of all ages – to vent out their opinions in the major debates of our time. We need to hear the voices of women from all walks of life.

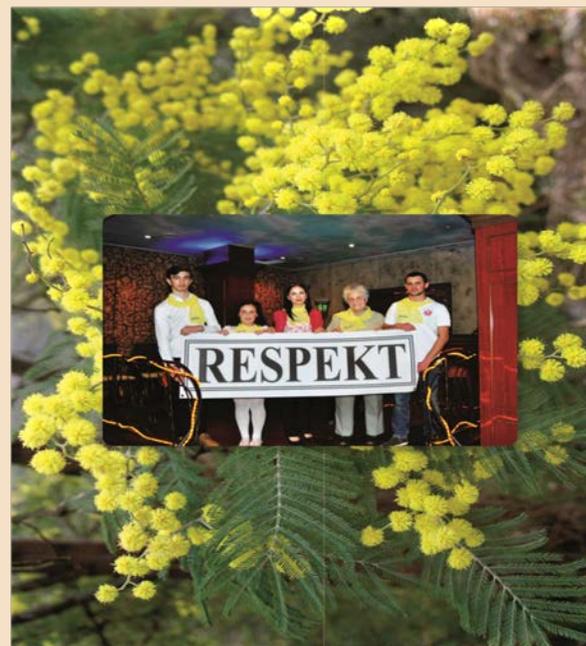
We believe that women, individually and collectively, need to speak louder and be listened to, be more visible and become more empowered.

This can be achieved by addressing this problem in its very roots, because women have a lot of experience and knowledge but are faced with a culture where women are rarely heard; they lack support at higher levels and the necessary connections to make a greater impact on the life of the society.

Mira Pirdeni



Soprano Prof. Shqipe Zani is accompanied by an excellent student of economics, flutist



*In memories of the doctor Prof. Rushen Golemi,
woman parliamentarian of the first pluralist parliament, 1991*

The Independent Women Movement in Albania

- A brief history –

In a world in constant motion, the need to embrace changes had become imperative also for Albania. In December 1990, women of all ages engaged in the movement against the communist regime and in March 1991, eager to contribute to the expected changes, the women set up the first women independent movement, “The Women Democratic League”.

The women who supported the change were powerful women, coming from all walks of life, women artists from the world of theater and cinema like the great ‘People’s Artist’ (the highest award) Tinka Kurti, who supported the movement by joining the hunger strike of the Valias coal miners; the People’s Artist Margarita Xhepa, whom nature has endowed with a beautiful face and voice, a fine taste and intelligence, delivered one of the most important messages for change; and University pedagogues like Teuta Bubsj, who has been honored with a medal by the President of the Republic for averting a possible conflict between the cadets of the Military School and the demonstrating citizens.

In this movement were involved also poor women, worn out by the hard working conditions, who worked in shifts in factories and plants and in agriculture, and also wonderful female students who stood on the front line to protect their male student friends, joining hands in front of the police of the dictatorship.

We followed with trepidation the violent events of 5 March 1998 in Kosovo; we organized the “Women Demonstration” in front of the Yugoslav Embassy in Tirana, expressing our indignation at what was happening

through a Petition we handed over to the personnel of this Embassy, asking to stop the systematic violence being perpetrated against the Kosovo people. Despite their extreme poverty, many aged women took in and helped the Kosovo families displaced in Albania.

We did not know then that it is easier to change the old than to replace it for something new and advanced. For this to happen we needed to have access to the right information. In this situation we had to train our organization. Various international organisms began to train us women to make use of the best opportunities we had. As a result of these trainings, some women became capable of going beyond the daily tasks and focus on a longer term vision.

The participation of the first four women in the International Congress of Women held in March 1992 in Ankara with the participation of women from all over the world was an inspiring and special opportunity for us to share our experiences and learn from them. The four Albanian women who participated in it, Ermira Pirdeni, Sevim Arbana, Flutura Xhabija and Rajmonda Prifti forged a close and ongoing friendship with one another.

It was the first time that professional women began to write and speak out in the media about women issues.

In 1993, Ermira Pirdeni played a major role in the transformation of the Democratic Movement of Albanian Women (LDGSH) into the first political women's movement that supported the change.

At that time, all these women were young and very energetic. Today, they are all retirees and subject to discrimination because of their low pensions and lack of services for older people, and because of age.

Older women were unprepared for the new phenomena like trafficking, exploitation, poverty, raising orphan children, violence and especially, for the social exclusion.

Pushed by political individuals or old communist structures, the social movements took another direction based on their personal interests to retain their undeserved privileges. Such individuals have nothing to do with the growth of our society and they have lost not only their abilities but also the pleasure of thinking differently.

The question we ask today is: What can we do to promote our rapid economic growth and give our nation a long term sustainable development?

“A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture and transform.” — Diane Mariechild



Historical photo



Actress Tinka Kurti, supporting the movement by joining the hunger strike of the Valias coal miners, 1990



Women's demonstrators against systematic violence in Kosovo, March 5, 1998



Tinka Kurti reward for the effective role in civic movements

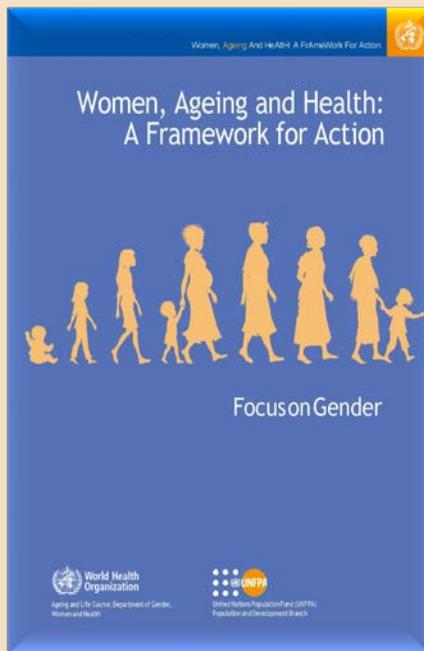


A society for All Ages (ASAG)

TO SERVE, NOT TO BE SERVED / AARP

About This Report

The concepts and principles in this document build on the World Health Organization's active ageing policy framework, which calls on policy-makers, practitioners, nongovernmental organizations and civil society to optimize opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life for people as they age.¹ This requires a comprehensive approach that takes into account the gendered nature of the life course. This report endeavors to provide information on ageing women in both developing and developed countries; however, data is often scant in many areas of the developing world. Some implications and directions for policy and practice based on the evidence and known best practices are included in this report. These are intended to stimulate discussion and lead to specific recommendations and action plans. The report provides an overall framework for taking action that is useful in all settings (Chapter 2). Specific responses in policy, practice and research is undoubtedly best left to policy-makers, experts and older people in individual countries and regions, since they best understand the political, economic and social context within which decisions must be made.



This publication and the complementary longer Review are designed to contribute to the global review of progress since the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995),² the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002),³ and the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.⁴ While some progress has been made as a result of these United Nations initiatives and new policy directions have been adopted at the country level, the rights and contributions of older women remain largely invisible in most settings. This lack of visibility is especially problematic for ageing women who face multiple sources of disadvantage, including those who are poor, divorced or widowed; immigrants and refugees; and members of ethnic minorities.

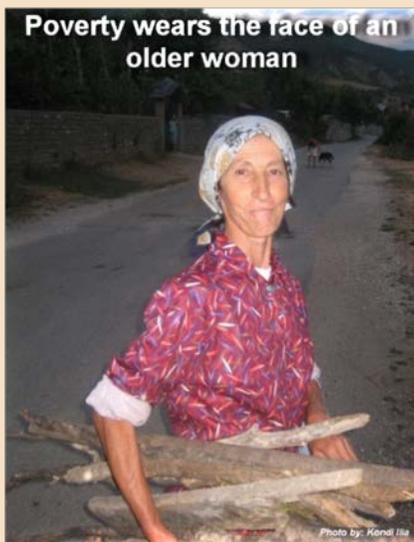
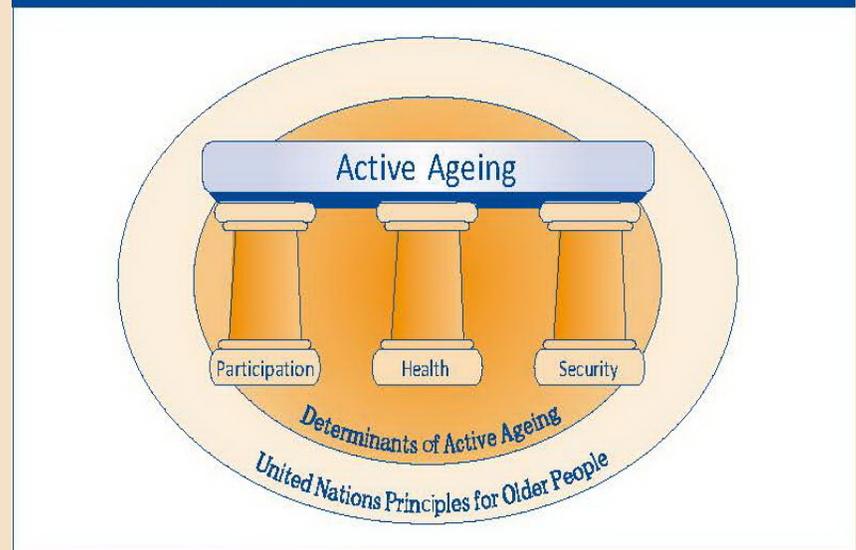


Figure 2. The three pillars of a policy framework for active ageing



Source: Active Ageing: A Policy Framework, WHO, 2002

Poverty is an artificial creation. M. YUN



Rikela Fusha / student of excellence of Public Health / Leader of Intergeneration Solidarity program at ASAG

One of the things we want to do is find ways, first, to impress these parents how important it is to have children in a situation where they can respond to them and, second, to bring **intergenerational relationships** into play.” — **C. Everett Koop**



The electronic media, Fax News TV, National TV, ect. introduced the issues of the elderly women through the magazine 'Active Ageing' no. 2 to the larger audience.

ASAG spent 19 years with activists to lay the groundwork for a political response, however *indifference* and *abuse continue*.



The draft Law for Albanian elderly, towards a new vision.

Ensuring women's participation in the development process is done after poverty reduction.

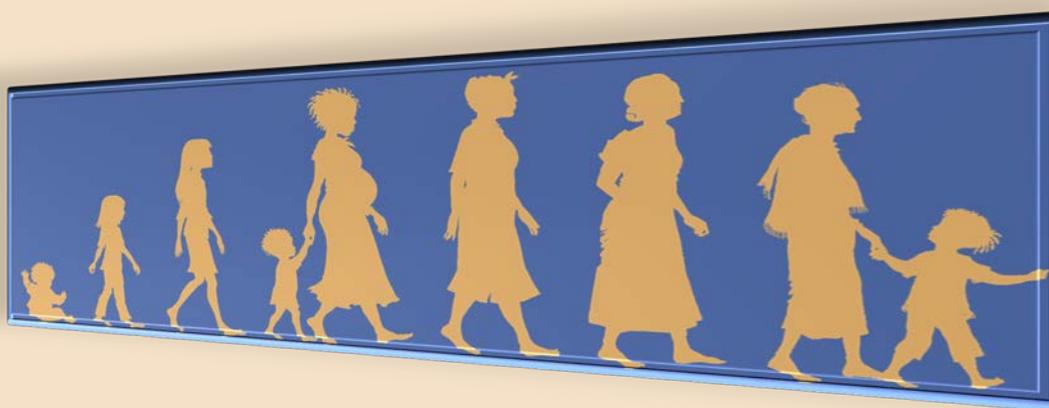
The Albanian Parliament did not pass the draft Law in favor of Elderly (March 2009) which was an initiative of the Albanian civil society in partnership with a political party and other active players.

This Law would be a guarantee to the eradication of the extreme poverty among the elderly.

The national infrastructure on ageing is underdeveloped. The UN mission noted a lack of coordination among government offices dealing with ageing and related socio-economic and demographic issues.

Lack of coordination means that the concerns of older persons are not sufficiently integrated into the policies and programmes of various government entities.

Women of All Ages



Information Exchange & Networking

Fourth UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing “A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer”, 21-22 September 2017, Lisbon

The conference was attended by 56 UNECE member states and 34 ministers, where Albania was represented by Mrs. Merita Xhafaj, head of the focal point of Ageing in Albania and Mrs. Mira Pirdeni, civil society representative – Albanian Society for All Ages (ASAG).

The conference completed the third review and appraisal cycle (2012-2017) of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and its Regional Implementation Strategy (MIPAA/RIS). The focus was on ‘Realizing the potential of living longer’. Conference panels will address this theme through the lens of:

- 1) Recognizing the potential of older persons
- 2) Encouraging longer working life and ability to work
- 3) Ensuring ageing with dignity

The Ministerial Conference on Ageing was organized by UNECE in cooperation with the Government of Portugal, under the coordination of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity, and Social Security.

A civil society forum and a research forum preceded the Ministerial Conference on 20 September 2017.

What's next?

ASAG was appointed by UNECE to monitor MIPAA, the implementation of new MIPAA commitments made by the Albanian governments in the final Ministerial Declaration adopted in Lisbon.

http://www.monitoringris.org/content/country_detail_ALL.php



Friendship is an arrangement by which we undertake to exchange small favors for big ones. Charles de Montesquieu

Exchanges

Different meetings between associations of different countries open the way for the value of the free movement of information, co-operation and personal contact.

- In the premises of the ELVE Community Center, on January 24, 2018 a meeting was organized with the associations of 'Red Cross' - 'Help net', etc. from Belgrade / Serbia and ASAG members. Belgrade Associations were introduced to this meeting with the largely voluntary work and dedication of the Albanian older women.



- On 10.11. 2017, a gift exchange between Ukraine and the 'Kavaja Elderly House' was organized by ASAG, in cooperation with the Useful to Albanian Woman (UAW) association, becoming a participant in an international exchange project among the elderly.





ANGELS POST SERVICE
officially thanks on behalf of Ukraine
to Albanian people & organizations
for taking part in International Cultural Exchange

Christmas Connections 2017
Albanian Partners
Shtepia e te Moshuarve Kavaje, Fisnik Krasniqi
ELVE Coffee-Library, Vjollca Thimo Lubonja
ASAG, Ermira Pirdeni

Let's make this World better in 2018 !

Join us this Christmas at
www.AngelsPostService.com
#angelspost

Opening day
01st of October,
2017

Dedicated to
26th of December,
2017
boxing day

ASAG VALUES

Optimism

We are hopeful that even the most complex social issues can be solved and we work towards the best possible results for older women and their communities.

Integrity

We are an ethical, trustworthy and responsible organization. Those who come into contact with ASAG will experience us as open, fair and reliable.

Respect

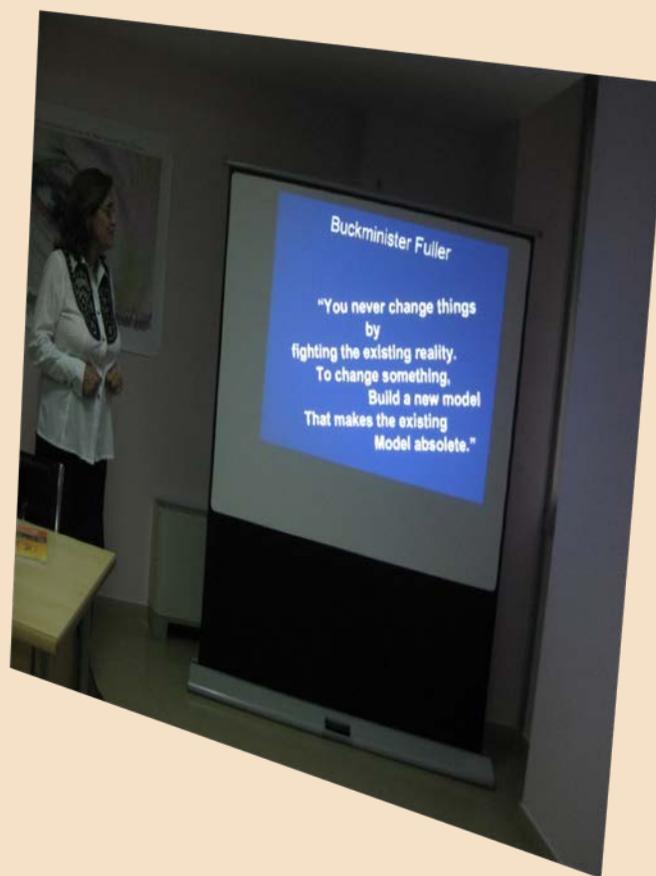
We show regard and appreciation for people from all walks of life and honor human difference and diversity.

Collaboration

We work jointly with others as we believe that together we can tackle the things that prevent communities and society from being caring and just.

Effectiveness

Our efforts result in us achieving our organizational purpose.



From the very beginning, the ASAG's work has been made possible by the compassion, determination and passion of our people, the small financial support of UNFPA Albania and the generosity of our volunteers. Those characteristics remain true to our organization today.

