PracticePerspectives

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Strengthening Communities for Elder Justice

Introduction

Within the United States public discourse regarding violence and abuse, especially with respect to abuse of women and children, has changed dramatically in recent decades. Elder abuse[1] is often omitted from such discourse, however, and generally has not been perceived as a national policy priority. Yet, elder abuse is common and has serious consequences for individuals, families, communities, and society. Thus, much work is needed to increase the salience of elder abuse and to build public and political support for systemic solutions to the problem.

Guidance on how to achieve these goals is provided in two resources developed recently by the FrameWorks Institute (hereinafter FrameWorks):[2]

- **Strengthening the Support** (O'Neil, Volmert, Fond, & Busso, 2017) is a research report that presents a communications strategy to introduce and define elder abuse as a matter of collective concern—and to advance systemic solutions to elder abuse. This strategy is based on FrameWorks research on cultural attitudes toward elder abuse (A. Volmert & Lindland, 2016).

- **Talking Elder Abuse** (FrameWorks, 2017c) is a tool kit that equips individuals and organizations to apply the research in their communications.[3]

These evidence-based resources were created in partnership with the federally funded National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA).[4] As a member of the Reframing Elder Abuse Committee, NASW provided input to NCEA and FrameWorks during the development process.[5] The committee also assists with dissemination of the reframing strategy.

This issue of *Practice Perspectives* introduces social workers to the Reframing Elder Abuse initiative and, incorporating aspects of the reframing strategy, updates selected information provided in a previous NASW Practice Perspective (Herman, 2014).

Applying the Frame

As articulated in the NASW (2017) *Code of Ethics*, social justice is a core value of the social work profession. The FrameWorks research found that justice is also the most effective value for understanding, preventing, and addressing elder abuse (O'Neil et al., 2017). The following text, modeled on the FrameWorks *Strengthening the Support* MessageMemo (O'Neil et al., 2017, p. 29) and *Talking Elder Abuse* tool kit (FrameWorks,

Elder abuse is often omitted from public discourse regarding violence and abuse and generally has not been perceived as a public priority.

2017c, "Key Points" & "Storytelling Strategies"), illustrates a systemic framing of elder abuse.

One characteristic of a just society is that people of all ages are regarded and treated fairly. Such fairness relies, in part, on the ability to create and maintain social relationships and to participate meaningfully in the community. These strong connections not only decrease social isolation and enhance the well-being of individuals, but also strengthen the entire social fabric.

Throughout our lives, we rely on systemic structures to enable social engagement and community participation. These structures are akin to weight-bearing beams in a building. Yet, because such "support beams" for older adults are often lacking or weak, the risk of social isolation increases as we age. Isolation, in turn, can increase the likelihood we will experience elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Fortunately, programs and policies can be implemented to prevent isolation, thereby reducing the risk of elder abuse. Moreover, when elder abuse does occur, systemic structures can equip us to respond quickly and effectively.

The story of Jocelyn, a 79-year-old woman, illustrates the importance of strong support beams for older adults. Jocelyn has lived alone in her apartment since her partner died five years ago. Following her partner's death, Jocelyn became active in her local community, tutoring young people and eating lunch at the neighborhood community center. She continued this work even as she noticed changes in her cognition.

About a year ago, though, Jocelyn began having severe back pain, which made walking and leaving the house more difficult for her. After several frightening falls, she was diagnosed with late-stage cancer that had metastasized to her bones and brain. A few months ago, Jocelyn opted to enroll in hospice care, which provided nursing, social work, spiritual care, home care aide, and volunteer services in her home. Some friends from the community center also dropped by regularly, and Jocelyn's 22-year-old niece increased her

visits to her aunt. This system provided the support Jocelyn needed for a while.

Over time, though, Jocelyn began falling more frequently, and her confusion increased to the point that she sometimes couldn't remember how to use her personal emergency response system to call for help. Her friends' visits decreased as they moved or had to stop driving, leaving Jocelyn feeling isolated. Her niece began visiting even more frequently but couldn't take off time from work because her small company didn't offer family medical leave. The hospice team expressed concern to Jocelyn and her niece about the situation and urged them to consider hiring additional in-home care or considering an alternate living situation. Jocelyn and her niece couldn't afford to hire an aide or to pay for assisted living, though, nor did Jocelyn qualify for Medicaid-funded care in a nursing facility. The family was frightened and unsure where to turn until the hospice social worker informed them that their county was one of five in the state that had implemented a Medicaid waiver program for older adults. The program would provide home and community-based services, including up to 24 hours daily of home health aide care. The program would even provide accessible transportation so that Jocelyn could eat lunch at the community center once a week. Relieved, Jocelyn signed up for the waiver program—even as she and her niece wondered how they would have managed if they'd lived in a county without the program.

Jocelyn's situation is not unusual. Millions of older adults are socially isolated and, consequently, at increased risk of experiencing neglect or abuse. At the same time, resources such as in-home aide services, friendly visitor programs, transportation, and congregate meals can help us all to maintain connections within our communities as we age. These programs can also reduce stress on family caregivers.

Social workers play an integral role connecting individuals and families with such resources—and in advocating for policies to mitigate resource gaps. Working with other advocates, service providers, and policymakers, we can build and maintain a stronger social structure around older adults. We can reduce social isolation and overcome elder abuse and neglect. We can create a more just society for Jocelyn and for all of us as we age.

The preceding text illustrates the FrameWorks recommendation of using a narrative strategy to communicate about elder abuse. The strategy relies on three primary components:

- appealing to the value of justice
- comparing society to a building
- placing individual stories in a social context. (FrameWorks, 2017a)

This strategy is congruent with several social work core values: social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of social relationships, and service (NASW, 2017). It also coheres with other tenets of the profession, including the person-in-environment perspective, the ecological framework, and the strengths perspective (Herman, 2018).

Furthermore, by linking elder abuse with social supports, the reframing strategy can enhance social workers' efficacy and relevance in multiple contexts.

- Practitioners can apply the reframing strategy to help older adults and families understand the challenges they face in a broader social context. The strategy can also be useful in communicating with colleagues and in designing and promoting programs to prevent and address elder abuse.
- Administrators and planners can apply the strategy in obtaining and allocating resources for programs that support older adults and family caregivers.
- Policy advocates and community organizers can apply the strategy in mobilizing for social service and elder justice programs at the community, local, state, and national levels.
- Educators can apply the strategy in teaching students and practitioners about elder abuse, social isolation, and potential solutions to these interlinked problems.
- Researchers can apply the strategy in making the case for and presenting research that illustrates the value of social supports in preventing and mitigating elder abuse.

A Webinar (FrameWorks, 2017b) and an online video lecture series (FrameWorks & NCEA, 2018), both available on demand, provide a dynamic introduction to the reframing elder abuse research and communications strategy.

FrameWorks encourages advocates to use its materials in their own elder justice work. As noted on the FrameWorks attribution page (www.frameworksinstitute.org/frameworks-attribution.html), guidelines for such use vary

by the nature of the work—such as whether a communication is intended for the general public, for example.

NASW's Reframing Activities

As a member of the Reframing Elder Abuse Committee, NASW has disseminated information about the reframing strategy using numerous channels.

- preconference workshop at the 2018 NASW national conference, *Shaping Tomorrow Together* (D. Volmert, Neumann, & Herman, 2018)
- plenary session at the 2017 NASW virtual conference, *Aging Through the Social Work Lens* (O'Neil, 2017)
- stories in the *NASW News* (NASW, 2016; Pace, 2017, 2018)
- announcements on SocialWorkers.org and in other NASW media (including *MemberLink, SectionLink*, Social Work Blog, *Washington Update*, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter)
- participation in an August 2017 Twitter chat hosted by NCEA and featuring FrameWorks
- announcements to coalitions
- forthcoming launch of an NASW web page dedicated to the Reframing Elder Abuse initiative.

Following the lead of NCEA, NASW has also been modifying its own communications to reflect the reframing strategy. For example, one NASW message for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) 2018 read,

Today is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. People of all ages deserve to live free from abuse. Strong social structures help to prevent elder abuse. The greatest risk factor for experiencing elder abuse is social isolation. By sustaining, enhancing, and creating policies and programs that strengthen social supports in our communities, we can prevent elder abuse—and we can address elder abuse more quickly and effectively when it does occur. Let's work together to build a just society for all. (NASW, 2018b)

Moreover, the images used in NASW media and in this publication now convey individual and community strengths rather than isolation, vulnerability, and harm.

The Reframing Elder Abuse strategy relies on three primary components: appealing to the value of justice, comparing society to a building, and placing individual stories in a social context (FrameWorks, 2017a).

Various NASW publications, such as the NASW policy statement on family violence (NASW, in press), also reflect aspects of the reframing strategy. It is also worth noting that the recently revised NASW policy statement "Aging and Wellness" integrated elements from the reframing aging communications strategy, some of which overlap with the Reframing Elder Abuse initiative: ageism and other social determinants of health, population aging as a strength, and systemic solutions to challenges faced by older adults or associated with age-related demographic changes (NASW, 2018a).[6]

The remainder of this issue provides updated information about elder justice, incorporating aspects of the Reframing Elder Abuse strategy.

Defining Elder Abuse

Categorizations and definitions of elder abuse continue to vary widely, including the age at which a person is considered an older adult (NCEA, n.d.-b). Each state's definition guides service providers' responses to cases of suspected abuse (Anetzberger, 2012; Institute of Medicine [IOM] & National Research Council [NRC], 2013; NCEA, n.d.-a).

Nonetheless, efforts have been made to find a common definition within the elder justice field. The Elder Justice Roadmap is a multistakeholder initiative supported by the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The *Elder Justice Roadmap* report, a strategic planning resource to prevent and address elder abuse, has identified priorities for public and private engagement at the local, state, and federal levels (Connolly, Brandl, & Breckman, 2014a). These priorities have been categorized in the domains of education, policy, research, and direct services (Connolly et al., 2014a; NCEA, 2014).

The *Elder Justice Roadmap* report used the following definition, which drew on multiple reliable sources:[7]

> Physical, sexual, or psychological [also known as emotional] abuse, as well as neglect, abandonment, and financial exploitation of an older person by another person or entity, that occurs in any setting (e.g., home, community, or facility), either in a relationship where there is an expectation of trust and/or when an older person is targeted based on age or disability. (Connolly et al., 2014a, p. 3)

This definition excluded the concept of elder self-neglect because "conflating abuse, neglect, or exploitation that one actor inflicts on another with situations involving a sole actor is confusing and counter-intuitive to many stakeholders" (Connolly et al., 2014b, p. 2). At the same time, the report acknowledged that self-neglect "is a critical factor to consider in any discussion about" elder abuse—and that some agencies that address elder abuse also address self-neglect among older adults (Connolly et al., 2014b, p. 2).

In another effort, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention convened a group of experts to develop uniform definitions and to identify core data elements that may be used in standardizing the collection of elder abuse data on the local and national levels (Hall, Karch, & Crosby, 2016). Intentionality was a key characteristic within the group's first report, as was the concept that elder abuse violates the trust expected within a personal or professional relationship (Hall et al., 2016). However, as noted in the *Elder Justice Roadmap*, the "trusting relationship" characteristic excluded abusive behavior that occurs outside of such relationships (Connolly et al., 2014b). Furthermore, the *Elder Abuse Roadmap* definition did not address the issue of intentionality.

NCEA (n.d.-c) provides detailed information about each type of elder abuse and about self-neglect, noting that physical and behavioral indicators vary by type of elder abuse. Comprehensive biopsychosocial assessment is critical to determine whether such signs and symptoms may be attributable to elder abuse or to other causes. Social workers play an integral role in such assessment, often as members of interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary teams.[8]

Understanding the Extent of Elder Abuse

The lack of a standardized definition for elder abuse continues to present difficulties in ascertaining the extent of the problem (Hall et al., 2016). Nonetheless, research indicates that elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation are widespread.

- The most recent federal materials promoting WEAAD, observed each year on June 15, state that approximately 5 million older adults (or one in 10) experience elder abuse in the United States each year (Adams & Robertson, 2018; NCEA, 2018).

- This figure is based on the estimated elder abuse prevalence rate of 10 percent published in a recent article reviewing the literature on elder abuse (Lachs & Pillemer, 2015). The 10 percent estimate—which includes neglect, financial exploitation, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and psychological or verbal abuse, but excludes abandonment and self-neglect—is derived from three studies of adults age 60 years or older (Acierno et al., 2010; Laumann, Leitsch, & Waite, 2008; Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc. [Lifespan], Weill Cornell Medical Center of Cornell University, & New York City Department for the Aging, 2011).
- Of these three studies, the one by Acierno et al. (2010), the National Elder Mistreatment Study (NEMS), remains the most recent nationally representative study. At the same time, both this study and the one conducted by Laumann et al. (2008) focused solely on community-dwelling individuals. The third study incorporated documented case studies from agencies serving people across care settings, but the study was conducted solely within the state of New York (Lifespan et al., 2011). This limitation notwithstanding, it is worth noting that the New York study found that for every case of elder abuse or neglect that was reported, up to 23.5 cases were unreported (Lifespan et al., 2011).

Another way to examine the extent of elder abuse is to consider requests for elder justice services.
- For example, a 2012 report found that 85 percent of states had experienced increases both in Adult Protective Services (APS) caseloads and in substantiated reports to APS over the preceding five years (National Adult Protective Services Resource Center & National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities, 2012).
- Of the 14 percent of crisis calls placed to the Eldercare Locator and referred to an Enhanced Services Specialist in 2017, 32 percent addressed elder abuse (Markwood, Super, Earnest, Gotwals, & Leavelle, 2017).
- The number of elder abuse prevention and intervention services offered by Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) has increased steadily within the past decade; as of 2017, the average AAA offered seven such services (National Association of Area Agencies on Aging & Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University, 2014, 2017).

Thus, although both the incidence and the prevalence of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation are difficult to determine, the scope of the problem may be much greater than available data indicate. Differences in eligibility criteria among state APS programs exacerbate the difficulty in obtaining comprehensive data (U.S. Government Accountability Office [GAO], 2011). At the same time, the development of the National Adult Maltreatment Reporting System marks a significant step forward (Administration for Community Living, 2018).

Preventing & Mitigating Elder Abuse

For decades researchers have attempted to identify risk factors that contribute to elder abuse. Various characteristics have been identified as being associated not only with the use of abusive behavior toward older adults, but also with an older adult's likelihood of experiencing elder abuse (Acierno et al., 2010; Acierno, Hernandez-Tejada, Anetzberger, Loew, & Muzzy, 2017; Anetzberger, 2012; GAO, 2011; IOM & NRC, 2013; NCEA, n.d.-b; Rathbone-McCuan, 2013; Schiamberg et al., 2012).

One of the most compelling findings, from NEMS, has been that limited social support is a primary risk factor for elder abuse, regardless of gender, race, or ethnicity. A longitudinal follow-up study to NEMS found that a lack of social support predicted negative outcomes (such as depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder, and self-reported poor health) following experiences of five types of elder maltreatment: neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and psychological or emotional abuse (Acierno et al., 2017).

On the other hand, the follow-up study found that higher levels of self-perceived social support seemed to lessen the negative impact of elder abuse (Acierno et al., 2017).[9] Similar to the NEMS 2010 finding, this protective factor was not associated with demographic characteristics (Acierno et al., 2017). The 2017 study concluded,

> Overall, the current findings echoed original NEMS conclusions with respect to the role of social support on risk of mistreatment, *per se: "The centrality of social support to the health and well-being of older adults is the core finding of this study."* (Acierno et al., 2017, p. 267, emphasis in the original)

"Lack of social support has been shown to reliably predict both elder mistreatment and the negative outcomes following elder mistreatment" (Park & Mulford, 2018).

By sustaining, enhancing, and creating policies and programs that strengthen social supports in our communities, we can prevent elder abuse—and we can address elder abuse more quickly and effectively when it does occur.

Although financial abuse was included in the 2010 NEMS study, it was not addressed in the 2017 follow-up study. However, other research has examined the association between lack of social supports and likelihood of an older adult experiencing fraud or financial exploitation (Beach, 2018; DeLiema, 2017).

Considered together, these findings present strategic implications for the elder justice movement:

> The fact that the lack of social support has been shown to reliably predict both elder mistreatment and the negative outcomes following elder mistreatment is especially encouraging, because it represents both a promising prevention target for elder abuse and a promising intervention target to buffer against the negative effects for elders who have been abused. (Park & Mulford, 2018)

This conclusion dovetails not only with the previously referenced Reframing Elder Abuse initiative, but also with one of the 12 Grand Challenges for Social Work: eradication of social isolation (American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare, 2018). Publications emanating from this grand challenge have underscored social isolation as a risk factor for elder abuse (Lubben, Gironda, Sabbath, Kong, & Johnson, 2015) and have recommended creation of age-friendly communities to strengthen social connections (Brown et al., 2016). Strengthening of social connection among older adults is also a goal of the World Health Organization's Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities (World Health Organization, 2007, n.d.), for example, and of a recent report by the Gerontological Society of America (Hudson, 2017), among other initiatives.

Strategies to Reduce Social Isolation and to Prevent and Address Elder Abuse

- **Facilitate access to resources.** Make sure your clients and colleagues know how to find local services, including support programs for family caregivers, using the Eldercare Locator (https://eldercare.acl.gov/Public/Index.aspx or 1.800.677.1116). Be ready to connect older adults with arts, volunteer, employment, lifelong learning, friendly visitor, and other programs that enhance social connectedness.

- **Know your professional responsibilities.** Check with both your state (or jurisdiction) and your licensure board about your obligations as a mandated reporter. Consult the *Code of Ethics* (NASW, 2017) for guidance and, as needed, seek supervision and consultation.

- **Be alert to the possibility of elder abuse.** Some older adults and family caregivers may not be able to identify their experiences, or those of their family members, as elder abuse. Others may be reluctant to seek help, especially when family members or trusted service providers use abusive behavior. Keep a copy of the *Red Flags of Abuse* fact sheet (NCEA, 2017) available to help you identify behavioral, emotional, financial, and physical signs of elder abuse.

- **Don't hesitate to seek help.** If you suspect that elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation may have occurred, connect clients with the appropriate resources. Contact the Eldercare Locator or visit NCEA's directory of state resources (https://ncea.acl.gov/resources/state.html) to obtain contact information for APS and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman in your area. (This directory also includes links to state-specific laws and other relevant resources.) In emergency situations, call 911 or the local police.

- **Join or create an elder abuse team, network, or coalition.** Collaborate with practitioners, organizational leaders, or policymakers to improve elder abuse prevention, identification, and intervention within your organization, community, or state. Contact the USC Center on Elder Mistreatment (https://eldermistreatment.usc.edu/contact-us/) to find a local or state coalition in your area. If no such entity exists, read a recent NCEA blog (Anetzberger, 2018) and visit the Web site of the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (www.ncall.us/collaborative-effort/) for ideas about how to create an elder abuse team, network, or coalition.

- **Seek intergenerational allies.** Elder justice advocates have natural allies in advocates working to end intimate partner violence and child abuse. Collaborate with other service providers, advocates, and organizations to facilitate understanding, leverage resources, and advance mutual agendas. Resist policy messages that pit programs for older adults against programs for younger generations.

- **Challenge ageism.** Ageist messages and practices permeate U.S. culture and institutions. The FrameWorks projects on reframing aging (Sweetland, Volmert, & O'Neil, 2017) and on reframing elder abuse (O'Neil et al., 2017) identify cultural devaluation of older adults as barriers to communication about aging and elder abuse, respectively. Moreover, reduction of ageism is inherent to ethical, culturally competent social work practice (NASW, 2015, 2017). Thus, each of us is responsible for identifying and working to eliminate such bias within ourselves, our interpersonal relationships, our communities and organizations, and social policies.
- **Raise awareness.** The FrameWorks research found that many people remain unaware of elder abuse as a significant social problem (O'Neil et al., 2017). Using the Reframing Elder Abuse strategy, educate your clients, colleagues, families, and friends about how social isolation increases the risk of elder abuse and about systemic solutions to address the problem. Organize an event, give a presentation, create an educational flyer, or write a letter to the editor in observance of WEAAD (June 15). Use NCEA's WEAAD 2018 tool kit and other materials to spread the message.
- **Advocate for systemic change.** The elder justice movement continues to gain momentum. Yet, much work remains to fund and implement authorized programs and to pass new legislation. Visit the websites of NCEA (https://ncea.acl.gov/whatwedo/policy/index.html) and the Elder Justice Coalition (www.elderjusticecoalition.com/) for policy and legislative developments specific to elder justice. Participate in state and local advocacy with your NASW chapter and join NASW's national Legislative Advocacy Network (http://cqrcengage.com/socialworkers/home?0).

Acknowledgments

Elder Justice Resources

THE FRAMEWORKS INSTITUTE
Blog summarizing the Reframing Elder Abuse initiative (2017): http://gero.usc.edu/cda_blog/publicagenda.html

Reframing the Conversation on Elder Abuse video lecture series (created with NCEA, 2018): http://bit.ly/ElderAbuseFWA [Add to cart and, during the checkout process, enter the discount code **WEAAD2018** to access the course, free of charge, until June 15, 2019.]

Talking Elder Abuse tool kit (2017)—includes *Strengthening the Support* research memo (O'Neil et al., 2017) and Webinar (2017): http://bit.ly/EA_toolkit

NATIONAL CENTER ON ELDER ABUSE (NCEA) & UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (USC)
NCEA (funded by ACL and based at USC): https://ncea.acl.gov/

NCEA fact sheet, *Red Flags of Abuse* (2017): http://eldermistreatment.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/NCEA_RedFlagsEA_508.pdf

NCEA public service announcement, *Strengthening the Structure of Justice to Prevent Elder Abuse* (2017): http://bit.ly/EA_long (3:24) & http://bit.ly/EA_short (1:24)

NCEA World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) tool kit (includes *The Road to Elder Justice—WEAAD Virtual Art Gallery*) (2018): http://eldermistreatment.usc.edu/weaad-home/

USC Center on Elder Mistreatment: https://eldermistreatment.usc.edu/

USC Training Resources on Elder Abuse: http://trea.usc.edu/

ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING/ADMINISTRATION ON AGING
Adult Protective Services Technical Assistance Resource Center: https://apstarc.acl.gov/

Eldercare Locator: 1.800.677.1116 or https://eldercare.acl.gov/

National Adult Maltreatment Reporting System: https://namrs.acl.gov/

Cultural devaluation of older adults is a significant barrier to communication about both aging and elder abuse. Each of us is responsible for identifying and working to eliminate ageist bias.

Much work is needed to increase the salience of elder abuse and to build public and political support for systemic solutions to the problem.

National Center on Elder Abuse (background): www.acl.gov/index.php/programs/elder-justice/national-center-elder-abuse

National Center on Law and Elder Rights (funded by ACL and administered by Justice in Aging in partnership with the National Consumer Law Center, the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging, and the Center for Social Gerontology): https://ncler.acl.gov/

National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative (funded by ACL and administered by the Center for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences): www.nieji.org

Prevention of Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation: www.acl.gov/node/10

Protecting Rights and Preventing Abuse: www.acl.gov/programs/protecting-rights-and-preventing-abuse

FEDERAL OR FEDERALLY FUNDED RESOURCES

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Office for Older Americans: www.consumerfinance.gov/older-americans

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and CFPB *Money Smart for Older Adults* program: www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/olderadult.html

Federal Trade Commission—*Pass It On* campaign about scams: www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0030-pass-it-on

National Resource Center on LGBT Aging (funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; led by SAGE)—resources on elder abuse: www.lgbtagingcenter.org/resources/index.cfm?s=5

Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General—scam awareness campaign: https://oig.ssa.gov/newsroom/scam-awareness

2015 White House Conference on Aging (elder justice was one of four themes): https://whitehouseconferenceonaging.gov/

U.S. Department of Justice
- Elder Justice Initiative (EJI): www.justice.gov/elderjustice

- EJI Webinar Series (Office of Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center): www.ovcttac.gov/views/Training Materials/dspWebinars.cfm#ElderJustice

U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging (includes hearings & resources addressing elder abuse): www.aging.senate.gov/

NASW

Aging practice microsite: www.socialworkers.org/practice/aging

Blog written for NCEA regarding NASW's activities to engage the social work profession in elder justice work (2017): http://gero.usc.edu/cda_blog/WEADD/social_work.html

NASW Press: www.naswpress.org
- *Encyclopedia of Social Work* (2013 online; 2008 print): articles addressing APS, elder abuse, and social connections)
- *Social Work Speaks: National Association of Social Workers Policy Statements* ("Aging and Wellness" policy statement, 2018; "Family Violence" policy statement, in press)
- *Foundations of Social Work Practice in the Field of Aging: A Competency-Based Approach* (2nd ed.) (Galambos et al., 2018)
- *Empowering Social Workers for Practice with Vulnerable Older Adults* (Soniat & Micklos, 2010)

Specialty Practice Sections: www.socialworkers.org/Careers/Specialty-Practice-Sections
- Articles on social isolation among older adults in the Spring–Summer 2017 and Fall 2016 issues of *Aging Section Connection*
- Free Webinars on a variety of topics

Continuing education:
- National-level: www.socialworkers.org/Careers/Continuing- Education
- Chapter-level: www.socialworkers.org/About/Chapters

NASW comments to the federal government regarding elder justice:
- Elder justice recommendations for the 2015 White House Conference on Aging: www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=5rAt81Sl8_A%3d&portalid=0
- Comments regarding proposed rule to reform requirements for long-term care

facilities (2015): www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=pC96IJnNPHs%3d&portalid=0
- Comments regarding proposed rule regarding predispute arbitration agreements within long-term care facilities (2017): www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=rVC5l9q6hSA%3d&portalid=0

NASW advocacy supporting the Older Americans Act:
- Policy issue brief (2016): www.socialworkers.org/Advocacy/Policy-Issues/Older-Americans-Act
- Legislative advocacy alert supporting the Older Americans Act, which funds programs that reduce social isolation and prevent and address elder abuse (May 2018): http://cqrcengage.com/socialworkers/app/write-a-letter?3&engagementId=473733

Flyer summarizing other NASW resources related to aging: www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=_7md0e9Q2cE%3d&portalid=0

OTHER NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
American Bar Association, Commission on Law and Aging: www.americanbar.org/groups/law_aging/resources/elder_abuse.html

American Society on Aging: www.asaging.org

Elder Justice Coalition: www.elderjusticecoalition.com

Justice in Aging: www.justiceinaging.org

Leadership Council of Aging Organizations: www.lcao.org

National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys: www.naela.org

National Adult Protective Services Association: www.napsa-now.org

National Asian Pacific Center on Aging: http://napca.org/

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging: www.n4a.org

National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs: www.nasop.org

National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities: www.nasuad.org

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life: www.ncall.us

National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse: http://preventelderabuse.org

National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (includes the National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center, funded by ACL and administered by the Consumer Voice in cooperation with the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities): www.theconsumervoice.org

National Council on Aging: www.ncoa.org

National Hispanic Council on Aging: www.nhcoa.org

National Indian Council on Aging: www.nicoa.org

SAGE (Advocacy & Services for LGBT Elders): www.sageusa.org

Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (includes the National Education and Resource Center on Women and Retirement Planning, funded by ACL): www.wiserwomen.org

INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES
International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse: www.inpea.net

World Health Organization:
- Ageing and Life-Course—Elder Abuse: www.who.int/ageing/projects/elder_abuse/en/
- Elder abuse fact sheet (2018): www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/elder-abuse
- Violence and Injury Prevention—Elder Abuse: www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/elder_abuse/en/

Social justice — Reframing elder abuse — Social work profession

Endnotes

[1] The terms elder abuse, elder maltreatment, and elder mistreatment are often used interchangeably. For purposes of this publication, the term elder abuse is used most frequently to encompass various types of elder abuse, including neglect and exploitation.

[2] The FrameWorks Institute is an independent nonprofit organization with the mission of advancing the nonprofit sector's communications capacity by identifying, translating, and modeling relevant scholarly research to frame the public discourse on social problems (www.frameworksinstitute.org/mission.html).

[3] Strengthening the Support and Talking Elder Abuse were produced alongside a related set of FrameWorks materials about reframing aging and addressing ageism (www.frameworksinstitute.org/reframing-aging.html). NASW was not involved in the development of those materials.

[4] The FrameWorks research and resources on reframing elder abuse were supported by grants from Archstone Foundation, the John A. Hartford Foundation, and Grantmakers in Aging and were created in partnership with the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA). NCEA (https://ncea.acl.gov/) is funded by the Administration for Community Living (www.acl.gov/programs/elder-justice/national-center-elder-abuse) and is currently based at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California.

[5] The following organizations participate in the Reframing Elder Abuse Committee: AARP, American Geriatrics Society, American Society on Aging, Elder Justice Coalition, Gerontological Society of America, International Association of Chiefs of Police, LeadingAge, National Alliance for Caregiving, and NASW.

[6] NASW Press recently published the second edition of Foundations of Social Work Practice in the Field of Aging (Galambos, Greene, Kropf, & Cohen, 2018). Although this volume is unrelated to the Reframing Elder Abuse initiative, it includes a chapter on aging from a human rights perspective.

[7] The sources on which the Elder Justice Roadmap definition was based included definitions found in various federal and state laws and definitions developed by various entities (such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; and NCEA) (Connolly, Brandl, & Beckman, 2014b, p. 3).

[8] Although the term "interdisciplinary team" is often used in health care and social service contexts, teams that are specific to elder abuse are often referred to as "multidisciplinary."

[9] During the 2017 NEMS follow-up study, participants responded to questions about three types of social support: emotional support (such as "someone available to love you and make you feel wanted"), instrumental support (such as "someone available to help you if you were confined to bed"), and appraisal support (such as "someone available to give you good advice in a crisis") (Acierno et al., 2017, p. 258). No distinction was made among these types of social support in the study.

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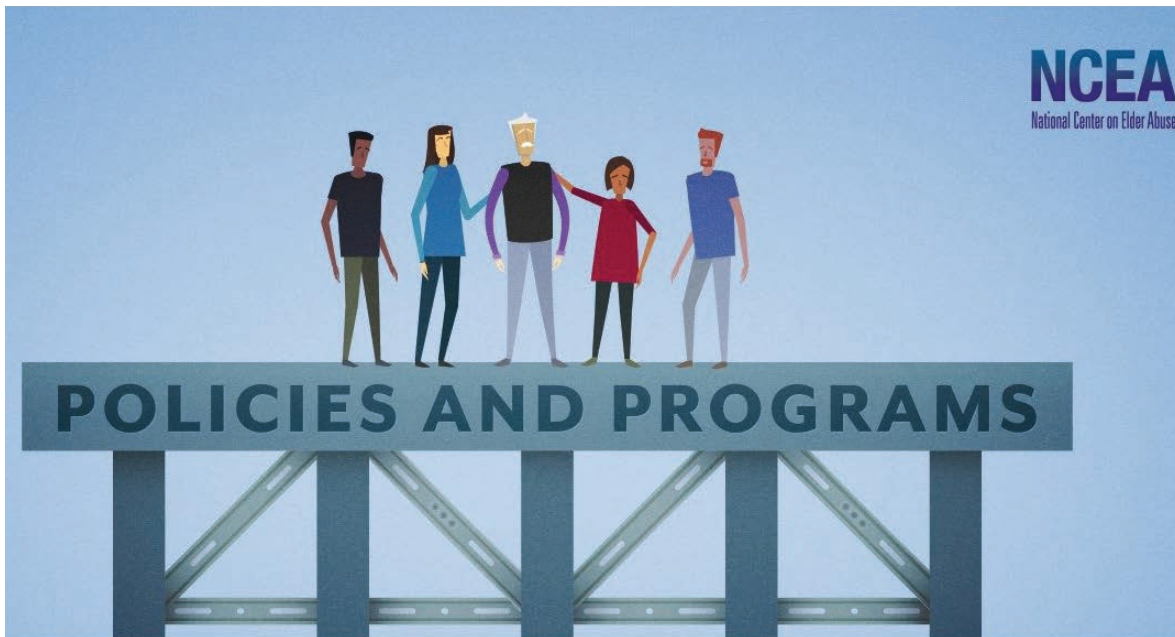
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