



**From: Judy Lear, former National Chair and UN Representative**

**Dear Gray Panthers Network Leaders:**

I have the pleasure to invite Gray Panthers Networks to participate in a meaningful international action - to sign-on your Network's name to a statement supporting an international treaty to address Violence Against Women (VAW). The Issues Committee has unanimously agreed that Gray Panthers be notified of this opportunity. We ask you to respond to quickly to this email!

For decades, leaders in the international women's movement have worked to advance women's rights in every corner of the globe - and they have had many hard-won victories. However, there is not a specific legally binding instrument on VAW.

A newly forming group of activists, scholars, media expert, human rights attorneys have come together to work on a ban on violence against women and girls. It is called the Everywoman Everywhere Coalition and has emerged from research at the Harvard Kennedy School 's Carr Center for Human Rights' Initiative on Violence Against Women, headed by Vidja Sri. To see more, please go to their website at [www.everywomaneverywhere.org](http://www.everywomaneverywhere.org).

The Coalition has been asked by Rashida Manjoo, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, to submit a report of the work that has been done over the last 3 years, and she will present it at the 59th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which will meet in March, 2015. The Coalition would like to show its strength by having like-minded organizations sign a statement.

The sign-on statement for organizations is very simple and only provides public support for the development of a treaty. It will read:

We stand for the right to a life free from all forms of violence for every woman, everywhere. We, hereby, join the global call for an international treaty on violence against women and girls worldwide.



**The deadline for this statement is Sunday, January 25, 2015.**

The Gray Panthers - Twin Cities network and the Gray Panthers -New York City network have already signed on.

I will be glad to be the point person for this important opportunity to support an issue that is close to my heart and important to Gray Panthers everywhere. Please contact me at:

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"The best age is the age you are."  
Maggie Kuhn, Gray Panthers Founder