



The Gray Panthers envisions a world where the old and the young have much to contribute to make our society more just and humane, and in which each reinforces the other in goals, strategy, and action.

When Maggie Kuhn founded the Gray Panthers in 1970, she was vigorously resisting age-related forced retirement, attracting many similarly concerned older people to the cause. It wasn't long before Gray Panthers expanded their activism and advocacy to focus on more issues, including cuts to Medicare and Social Security and protesting the Viet Nam War, the latter bringing many enthusiastic young people into the organization.

In following decades, Gray Panthers have continued to confront ageism and fight for human rights, justice, and peace for people of all ages. They advocate for inter-generational housing, single-payer healthcare, climate control, environmental sustainability, and peace between nations. Their influence has gone beyond the United States, where several chapters flourish and respond to today's critical issues. It has a strong presence at the United Nations and is one of the most active American non-governmental organizations advocating for a binding resolution on the rights of older persons worldwide. Gray Panthers has been a leader in advocating for a Convention to Protect the Human Rights of Older Persons; ensuring that the concerns of older persons are an integral part of the world changing Sustainable Development Goals; assuring that the rights of older women are specifically identified in the global effort to eliminate discriminate against women (CEDAW).

In the present-day, the Gray Panthers are at the forefront of advocacy against ageism, and for social justice at the local, national, and international levels, working cooperatively with younger people, as our motto, "Age and Youth in Action", affirms.

Recent and current efforts against ageism by Gray Panthers NYC include having spurred an audit of nursing home violations; a campaign for greater safety in transportation and street traffic patterns; working with the Department of Labor to encourage greater support of family caregivers; and leading a public forum on improving the lot of all stakeholders in the home health care arena. Gray Panthers is a founding member of the Stakeholder Group on Ageing at the United Nations.

Gray Panthers' mission statement, **Action and Advocacy Against Ageism**, underscores our belief that, "What is good for older people is good for everyone!"

<http://www.graypanthersnyc.org>

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