



Ageing in Common: An International Perspective

# CONFERENCE 2018

Incorporating the inaugural Commonwealth Elders Forum and the NCF UK Care Conference  
#EldersForum2018 #AgeingInCommon #NCF2018

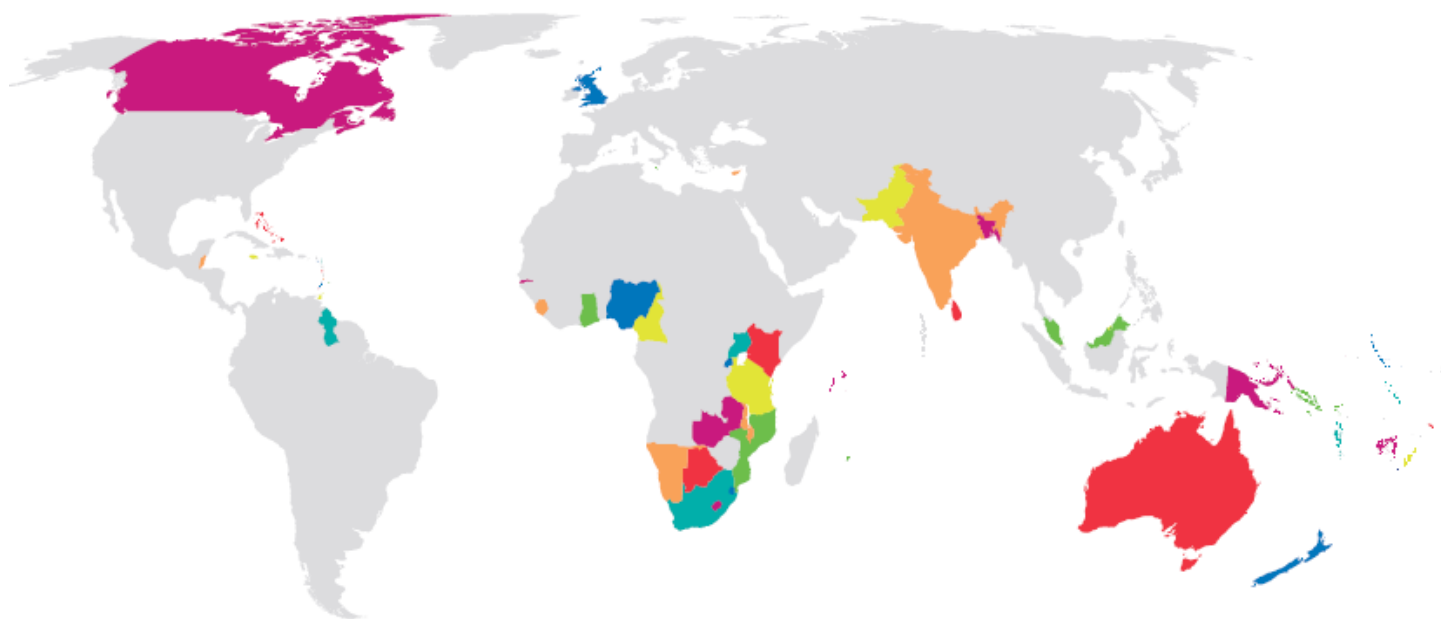


## CommonAge/QCS bursary delegates

Thanks to the generous support of Quality Compliance Systems (QCS) and international aged care providers and supporters, CommonAge developed a bursary fund for delegates from Commonwealth countries to attend the inaugural Elders' Forum, linked to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

### Nineteen bursaries awarded

The bursaries have given industry leaders in Bangladesh, Cameroon, India, South Africa, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Australia, Tanzania and Uganda a unique opportunity to work towards the WHO Decade of Healthy Ageing 2020-2030 through this exciting conference.



Connecting all ages  
across the Commonwealth



Get involved!



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## **Emily Ajiambo, Uganda**

### **Senior Gerontologist, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development**

Emily is a graduate of Southampton University with a Master in Gerontology and Makerere University with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences and a Post Graduate Diploma in Project Planning and Management. Currently, she is spearheading the process of development of an Older Persons Bill which will provide a basis for the enactment of an Older Persons Act. The Act will provide for the protection and realisation of older persons' rights in Uganda.



## **Samantha Bowen, Australia**

### **Founding Director, Acorn Network**

Samantha is committed to supporting emerging leaders and young professionals throughout Australia's aged care industry, helping employees to understand the opportunities before them and connecting them with established leaders who can support them to step up and shine. Over the past four years, Samantha has worked with organisations and individuals from across Australia through national events, and presented internationally on millennial engagement. She has even created an innovative e-Mentoring Program for Australia's aged care industry.



## **Kiki Edwards, Nigeria**

### **CEO, Dementia Care Society of Nigeria, Rossetti Care**

Chief Kikelomo (Kiki) Lanionu Edwards has over 30 years experience in elder care provision and management. She is the founder and CEO of Dementia Care Society of Nigeria (DCSoN) and the founder and Director of Rossetti Care Ltd, Nigeria. She has also established Dementia Friends Nigeria, an Alzheimer's Society initiative, and DementiaNigeria.com, to raise awareness, educate and support families of Nigerians living with dementia. Kiki has developed a network of Purple Angels and Dementia Champions to raise dementia awareness across Nigeria.



## **Anne Githui, Kenya**

### **Founder and CEO, Old is Diamond**

Anne Githui is not only a mother to a 7 year old girl but to many people over 65 years old. She wakes up everyday determined to give every senior citizen in Kenya beautiful, hopeful and dignified golden years.



Her vision started over nine years ago after she lost her grandmother and discovered that her grandmother's depression and the age related illnesses were a result of loneliness. After this discovery she started on a mission to help the elderly in her community. A year later, family and friends joined her in the cause and that is when "Old is Diamond" ([www.oldisdiamond.org](http://www.oldisdiamond.org)), an NGO registered in Kenya, was born.

## **Joyce Kairu, Kenya**

### **Founder and CEO, Purity Elderly Care Foundation**

Joyce funded the Foundation in honour of her late mother Purity Wanjiru. Her age and condition prompted Joyce to leave her well paying job as a project manager in South Africa and she now serves the very vulnerable elderly people of society who are neglected, abandoned, sickly, lonely in Kenya. Her motto is Dignity to the Old and her supporters are referred to as Great Ambassadors of Dignity to the Old. Joyce was feted on International Women's Day in 2014 and in 2017 received a Special Commendation for Ageing Services from the Global Ageing Network at a conference held in Montreux, Switzerland. In March 2018 she received an award on International Women's day in Kenya.



## **Nirupa Kasserchun, South Africa**

### **Fundraising Manager, Association for the Aged**

Nirupa is a passionate humanitarian committed to serving South Africa's vulnerable. She has served the NGO industry for over 12 years, fundraising for projects in South Africa, Mozambique and India. Driven by her passion for creating a better tomorrow for all vulnerable persons, Nirupa joined TAFTA in 2016. Frustrated by the minimal support provided to the aged by the private sector and governments, Nirupa is now working towards profiling the sector as developmental with new opportunities.



## **Andrew Kavala, Malawi**

### **Country Director, Malawi Network of Older Persons' Organisations (MANPO)**

Andrew has held various senior programme/management positions in different national and international organisations. He is one of the Founding Directors for Southern Africa Regional Age Network, a sub-regional network working to promote and improve the well-being and dignity of people of all ages throughout Africa, currently operational in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Swaziland. Andrew is also the Chairperson for the National Platform for Social Protection in Malawi.





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## Mehedi Khan, Bangladesh

**Assoc Professor, Dept of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka**

Mehedi conducts different academic activities on population ageing issues, including academic courses at undergraduate and graduate levels, and research activities on broader population ageing issues. He is a resource person on ageing issues in training programmes for government and non-government officials. He has presented research findings at national and international conferences, and has had a number of research articles on ageing issues published in peer-reviewed journals at home and abroad.



## James Kinuthia, Kenya

**Director, Forshifts Home Care Services and St James Home for the Aged**

A clinical medicine and community health graduate, James is currently running Home Health in grassroot level villages. He attended a certified 'In-Situ' geriatrics and gerontology training by INIA-UN Malta, and an elderly medicine introductory course in Nairobi. His objective is to reach out to communities with the much needed skilled elderly care to the standards stipulated under WHO guidelines. He is keen to partner with international organisations and build cohesive working networks to improve elderly care in Africa.



## Sarah Lamba, Tanzania

**Director, Youimpact Company Ltd**

The Youimpact volunteer community uses its free time to implement activities within Save-Elders. It uses social media platforms for communications and to raise awareness. As the members are all working in other jobs, or students, they meet at weekends and on public holidays to do Youimpact programs. This is why they say "we are utilising our free time to community in need". Phase one on awareness of the Save-Elder program has been completed and they are now heading to the action-oriented phase where the team implement tangible project such as 'choo-chamzee', the installation of washrooms and solarforall in older people's homes.



## David Mark, Nigeria

**Coordinator, Family Ark Mission**

David's interest in elder care came from his mother, Major Olunmi Idowu Okusanya, the founder of Family Ark Mission (Agency for the Aged) after she asked him to follow in her footsteps. It was a career-changing decision and he embarked on a doctoral research study to compare government policy on care for the aged in South Africa and Nigeria. He organises the annual World Elders Day in Lagos which attracts over 800 people. He also hosted the first National Ageing Conference in collaboration with Pass It On Network (for which he's the Nigerian Liaison), Christ Livingspring Apostolic Ministry (CLAM) and the Lagos State Ministry of Health.



## Sailesh Mishra, India

**Founding President, Silver Innings**

A social entrepreneur and mentor and an international social activist working for the welfare of senior citizens whose organisation, Silver Innings, is working towards creating an elder friendly world where ageing becomes a positive and rewarding experience. In 2005, he left his well paid corporate job to follow his passion to work with senior citizens, whom he believes are the most neglected and ignored segment. His work in the field of dementia is to be commended. He has won several awards, including the national award Karamaveer Puraskar in 2008 and Karmaveer Jyoti in 2016 and has participated in various summits. His remarkable work in the field of dementia and elders rights advocacy has brought him accolades, respect and support from many renowned organisations around the world.



## Agatha Naamala, Uganda

**Community Development Officer, Geriatric Respite Care Foundation**

Agatha was one of the research officers commissioned for the small-scale qualitative investigation of older adults' experiences of health and old age in three urban city settings in sub-Saharan Africa, Kampala (Uganda), Bamenda (Cameroon) and Conakry (Guinea) by the Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC) Department of Ageing and Life Course, World Health Organization. Besides ageing issues, Agatha works in the promotion of the less privileged children in Kampala District, is a Save the Children Co-ordinator Makindye Urban Municipality and a Community Welfare Development Initiative (CODI) Co-ordinator for Kampala schools. She is a founder of a learning centre for people with neurological disorders at Munyonyo.







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## Arthur Namara, Uganda

**Director, HENU-Health Nest  
Uganda/Medical Research Council Unit**

Arthur is a member of the Uganda National Council for Older Persons, Chairperson of Research and Documentation Committee - National Council for Older Persons in Uganda and Community Liaison Officer for Medical Research Council Unit on HIV/AIDS in Uganda. With the support of the Constellation, he led the introduction of Community Life competence approach to issues of older persons in Uganda. He also led a team of volunteers to assess EasyCare tool in addressing issues of older persons in Uganda. On behalf of Health Nest Uganda Arthur received the Jack Watters Memorial Award 2016 for strengthening responsiveness to older persons' issues and concerns in Uganda using an innovative approach



## Francis Njuakom, Cameroon

**Director Community Development  
Volunteers for Technical Assistance  
(CVDTA)**

Francis is a leading eldercare crusader, with 21 years of championing positive messages on ageing in and out of Africa. He has chaired and presented papers on ageing issues in conferences across Europe, Australia, United States and Africa, and coordinates and advises Nouvelle Planete Swiss projects in Cameroon. As a member of the Cameroon Ageing Committee, he has received more than five media awards in Cameroon. Francis is a Director on the Board of the International Federation on Ageing (IFA). In May 2016 the President of Cameroon raised him to the prestigious rank of "Knight of Cameroon Order of Valour" for his many years of successful eldercare services in Cameroon.



## Blessing Ojembe, Nigeria

**Unit Head, Hands-on Preferred Medicare  
Services Limited**

Blessing is currently engaged in research and social activities that promote the health and well-being of older adults in the Nigerian context. Her interest spans across loneliness and social isolation in old age, ageing and homelessness, social care for older adults and social determinants of health among older adults. She has carried out two research projects - on the experience of loneliness among older Nigerian adults and the experience of older adults in Nigeria using technology to reduce loneliness. Both works have been submitted for publication in two different ageing related journals. She's a member of the Nigerian Association of Social workers (NASoW) and the British Society of Gerontology.

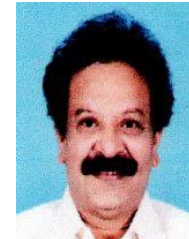


## Mada Prasad, India

**Disaster Manager, Coastal Area Disaster  
Mitigation Efforts (CADME)**

Has over 22 years of experience in disaster risk reduction in India, developing strategies for community based disaster risk management and training, and school safety interventions.

Mada has been a climate change specialist for over 15 years, working on low-carbon farming, integrating disaster risk reduction with climate change interventions. He has trained over 560 task force groups in 480 vulnerable villages to mitigate the effects of impending disasters.



**Tamwo Kuate Edgard Rostand Cameroon  
President/General Director,  
Commonwealth Ageing-Retired People's  
Association**

Tamwo Kuate has worked with network members to advocate for governments to expand tax-financed, non-contributory social pension schemes and other forms of social protection, and helped with their design and implementation. He has empowered older people's groups to make sure governments are more accountable on the delivery of social protection schemes too. For older people who want to run their own enterprises, the organisation has also provided loans and grants, agricultural inputs and small-business training to enable them to earn a living. Tamwo Kuate has also developed staff to provide expertise on the design, implementation and monitoring of social protection and social pension schemes.



## Nancy Wagacha, Kenya

**Executive Director, Wells of Hope Centre**

Wells of Hope Centre is a community-based organisation which works in a holistic way to give older women the skills and knowledge to help reduce poverty and encourage independence.

It is currently running 'Economic Empowerment' lessons, teaching women skills to earn a living from crafts and is also giving lessons on micro-finance. Nancy is a graduate of United State University Africa and a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). She has a keen interest in the quality of care of the elderly and hopes to start a National Care Forum of Quality Homes and Services for the Aged in Kenya in the future.

Nancy has authored two books: *Challenges facing the elderly in Africa* and *10ps of Faith Focus In Purpose Living*.

