

EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR FAMILY CARERS



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Understanding the Charter

- Drafting process started in 2005.
- Few policies at EU and national level, despite importance of family care.
- 80% of long-term care provision in Europe is provided by family carers.
- Collective effort, from local and personal experiences.

- With the aim of :
 - Developing a set of recommendations.
 - Promoting policy developments.



This raises one question

“How can a highly complex and varied set of circumstances be effectively addressed by a Charter of only ten points?”

- The Charter is based on principles.
- It does not seek to address every specific challenge.
- It aims to guide the design of appropriate responses for all family carers
- It aims to be a reference tool for all stakeholders involved.



Key principles and overarching objectives

Key principles :

- Human rights-based approach.
- Long-term care is the primary responsibility of governments.
- Personal choice of becoming a family carer.
- Protections should be provided to all family carers, regardless of the cause for the need of care.

Overarching objectives :

- Promoting the provision of accessible and appropriate community-based services, as well as the formal recognition of the role of family carers and their rights.



The ten points of the Charter

1. Definition

- Various terms, related situations.
- “Family care” highlights a specific reality.
- The Charter is broader and encompassing.

2. Family care should be a choice

- Should not arise from necessity.
- Mutual choice of the carer and person in need of care.
- Should be compatible with work.
- Should be open to reassessment.



The ten points of the Charter

3. The duty of governments

- Family care does not absolve governments from providing long-term-care.
- Long-term care provision based on family care is not sustainable and has economic and social consequences.

4. Integration in healthcare

- Family carers should be meaningfully involved in health care processes.
- They should have access to healthcare services themselves.



The ten points of the Charter

5. Social role of family carers

- The recognition of their role is the basis for the provision of appropriate rights, protection and support.

6. Age dimension of care

- Specific categories carers are often invisible and particularly vulnerable.
- In the EU, between 4% and 10% of carers are aged less than 18 years old (depending on the member state).
- 16% are over 65 years old.
- Young and old carers should receive support tailored to their circumstances.



The ten points of the Charter

7. Wellbeing of family carers

- Broad and profound role for our welfare systems.
- Interrelation of with the wellbeing of the person in need of care.

8. Importance of respite

- Tailored to the wide range of life circumstances family carers face.
- For instance, in terms of duration, location, standard or specialised setting.



The ten points of the Charter

9. Information and training

- Family carers should be informed about their rights.
- And have access to trainings and information to fulfil their roles.
- Adverse effects can be avoided.

10. Assessment and monitoring

- Involving those in need of care, alongside their families or representative organisations.
- Key to the development of a broad range of diversified, carefully tailored measures.





Thank you