

# HEALTHY LIFE AND LONGEVITY: WHAT'S LAW GOT TO DO WITH IT?

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# The Story About the Green Person

- Personal thanks
- Personal background
- Why am I here and the story about the green person:
- There are three major groups of factors/determinants of health, longevity or mortality in old age:
  - *Material resources (e.g. financial means, housing, clothing, living environment, etc.)*
  - *Psychosocial factors (e.g. social relationships, coping styles, individual predispositions, etc.)*
  - *Biological & behavioral factors (e.g. nutrition, genetic components, etc.)*
- My personal question as a Green Person: where can law fit in?



# True Stories from the Green Person

- The blood donation story
- The organ transplantation story
- The civil-guard story
- The common thread: Ageism



# Ageism, Human rights, and Longevity

- Ageism
- Ageism as a key social organizational aspect of “longevity lifestyle”:
  - *On the micro/individual level – “self ageism”*
  - *On the family/community level – family paternalism*
  - *On the macro/societal level – structural ageism*
- One cannot fully understand the environmental variables which relate to longevity without taking into account and critically examining its ageist aspects.



# Ageism, Longevity and Human Rights

- Is there a correlation between human rights and longevity?
- Intuitively – one can hypothesize that there is:
  - *Without the “right to health”?*
  - *Without the “right to education”?*
  - *Without the “right to social security”?*
  - *What is the real life “power” of our knowledge in fields of medicine, nutrition, physical activity, or clean and safe environment – if there is no human rights to enjoy them all?*
- From a life-course perspective, the ability to enjoy human rights – in general, and social/economic/cultural human rights in specific – may influence significantly one’s longevity.
- But do we have empirical data to support this argument?



# The Brown, Qui, & Gu (2012) Study

- There are significant methodological issues around the ability to study not only correlations but casual relationships between human rights and longevity.
- There are studies around specific personal and contextual factors, e.g.:
  - *Studies about the affects of socio-economic status and health throughout life course (7)*
  - *There are studies that investigate how community or neighborhood contextual factors affect indivial health and mortality;*
- However, these studies do not try to measure or operationalize the human rights context, i.e. to what extent human rights domains (e.g. the right to adequate food, shelter or education) are associated with health, longevity and mortaility.
- One attempt was made by **Bethany Brown, Li Qiu, and Danan Gu (2012): “Association between human rights environment and healty longevity: The case of older persons in China” *Health and Human Rights*, 14(2), 87-105.**



- The data was taken from the CLHLS – Chinese Longitudinal Healthy Longevity Survey – a nation wide longitudinal survey of healthy longevity conducted in 22 provinces in China.
- Sample: randomly sampled centenarians + for each centenarian, one nearby 70+, 80+ and 90+ was also randomly chosen,
- The analysis was based on the 2002, 2005 and 2008 waves.
- The human rights variable was measure via proxy-indicators:
  - *Personal indicators: access to adequate medical service; sufficient food; years of schooling; adequate financial sources to pay daily subsistence; access to adequate medical service; has his/her own bedroom;*
  - *Environment indicators: air quality in place of residence;*
- The dependent variable: healthy survival, non-healthy survival, and death.
- Covariates which were controlled:
  - *Individual (e.g. sex, ethnicity, urbanicity...)*
  - *Community (e.g. the GDP of the city or the district....)*

- Key findings:
- “Proxy measures of human rights environments are significantly associated with healthy survival.”
- This is the case “even when adjusting for demographic, psychosocial and behavioral factors”.
- This suggests that “universal exposure to good human rights environments improve one’s healthy longevity.”
- While these findings are not novel and support previous findings with specific variables – this is one of only few studies which try to “connect” between “human rights” environment – as a conceptual theoretical framework – and issues of health longevity.



# Some international HR Context

- This new research direction is very timely and relevant:
- Which group is different from a human rights perspective? Women; Children; Older persons; Persons with disabilities; Migrants; ?
- The only group that does not have a binding international human rights instrument (convention) is the group of older persons;
- The international struggle for a new convention;
- How do you operationalize human rights of older persons?
- The IOPHRI – International Older Persons’ Human Rights Index



# The IOPHRI Goals

- What are the aims of this project?
- To become part of existing indices
- To create and international tool for promoting older persons right
- To give common ground for international academic research network
- To allow a comparative and longitudinal perspective
- Provide a benchmark to monitor and evaluate older persons' rights worldwide
- Enable objective comparisons between countries regarding older persons' rights in order to create pressure on countries to improve the status of older adults.
- Create a tool for policy makers and advocates practicing elder law that will enable them to compare and refer what rights older persons have in other countries.
- **Doron, I., #Spanier, B., & Cox, C. Comparing older persons' human rights: exploratory study of the international older persons' human rights index (IOPHRI). *The Gerontologist* (18 pp.) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gny080>**

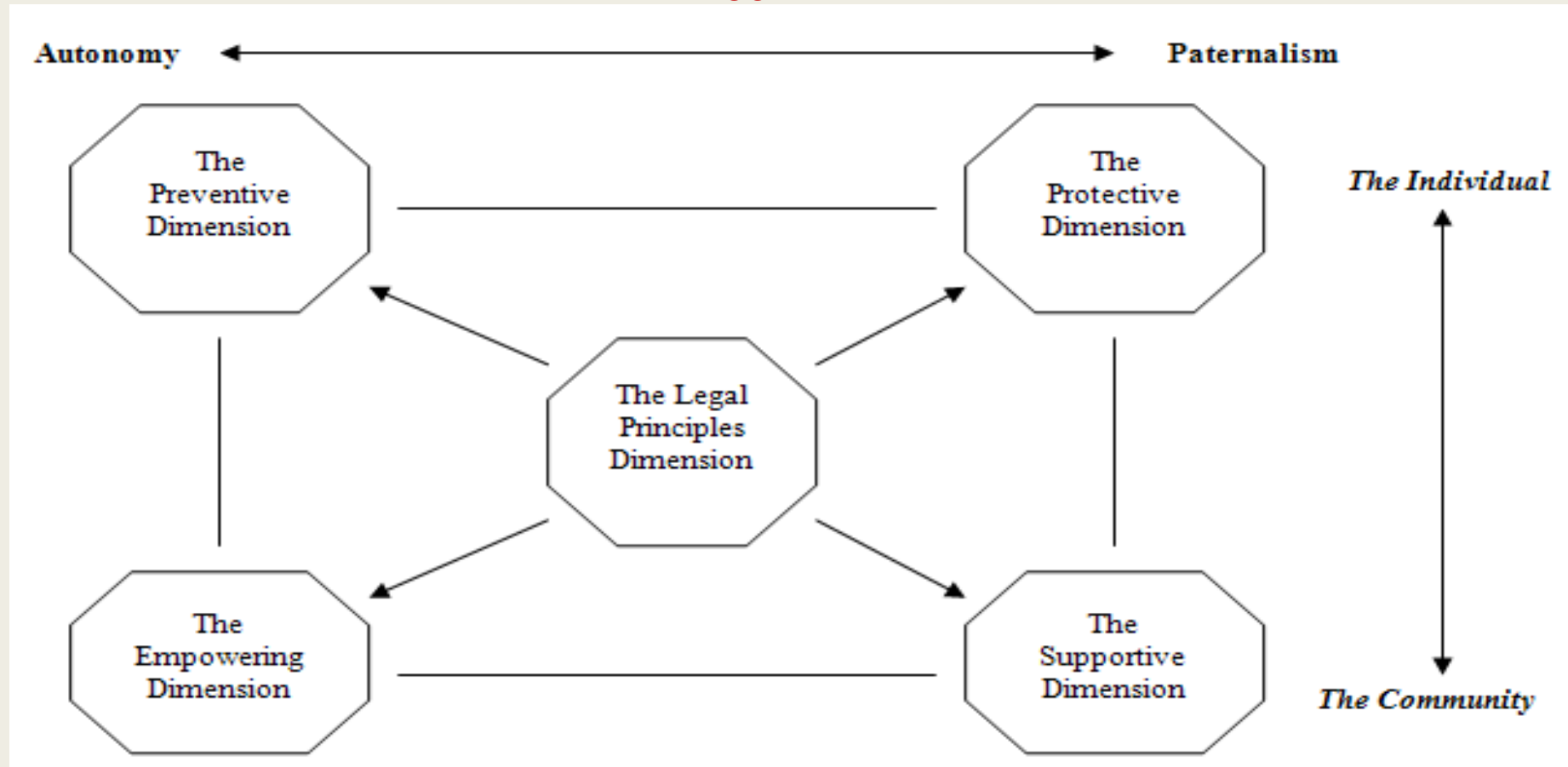


The screenshot shows the top portion of the journal's website. The header is a dark green bar with the journal title 'The GERONTOLOGIST®' in white. Below the header is a black navigation bar with white text for 'Issues', 'More Content', 'Submit', 'Purchase', 'Advertise', and 'About'. The main content area is white and features the article title 'Comparing Older Persons' Human Rights: Exploratory Study of the International Older Persons' Human Rights Index (IOPHRI)' in bold black text. Below the title, the authors 'Israel Doron, LLM, PhD', 'Carole Cox, MSW, PhD', and 'Benny Spanier, LLM, PhD' are listed. The journal name 'The Gerontologist, gny080' and a DOI link are also present, along with the publication date 'Published: 05 July 2018' and a link to 'Article history'.

# Methodology: Constructing the IOPHRI Index

## The Multi-Dimensional Model

Doron, I. (2003). A Multi-Dimensional Model of Elder Law: An Israeli Example. *Ageing International*, 28(3), 242-259.





## The Legal Focus: 10 Laws Investigated in the 5 Different Dimensions

**1. Legal Principles**  
Includes the core principles and values that apply to a wide range of events within the society

**2. Protective**  
Includes laws and legal regimes that are designed to provide special protection to older adults

**3. Supportive**  
Includes laws that support the formal and informal network that looking for older persons and their needs

**4. Preventive**  
Includes older persons' legal tools that allow them to plan for the future

**5. Empowerment**  
Includes laws and legal structures that are designed to help older persons realize their rights and implement them

# The Weights in the Coding of Older

**3** = Right fully exists

**2** = Right exists with informal or minor  
limitation

**1** = Right exists with significant or formal  
limitation

**0** = No right of this kind to older person

[http:IOPHRI.ORG](http://IOPHRI.ORG)




**The International Older  
Persons Human Rights Index**

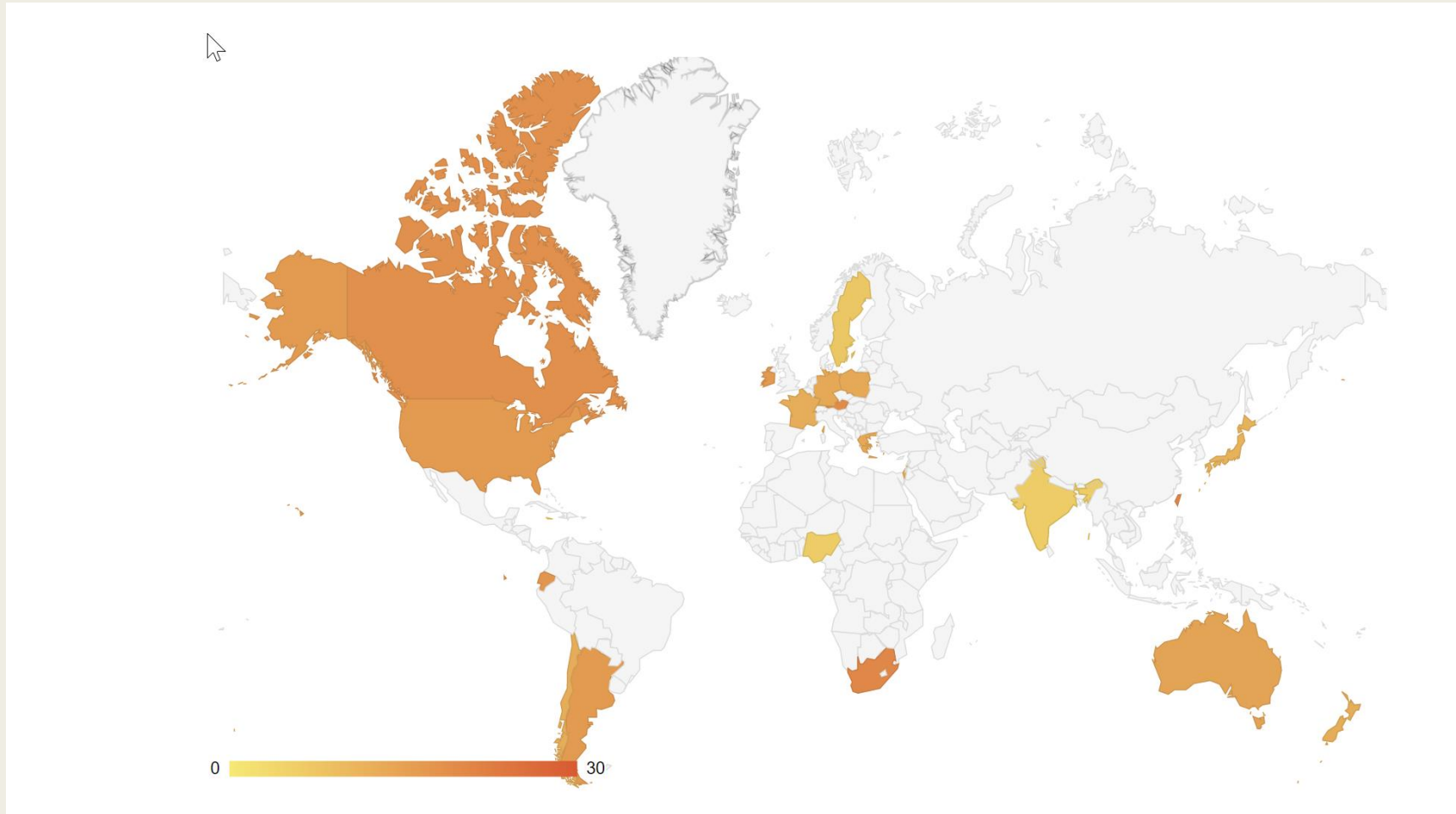
Human Rights Legal Status for Older Persons Around the Globe

Choose a country 

[SCROLL TO MAP VIEW](#) \ [TOP GLOBAL RANKINGS](#) \ [NEWS](#)











# A global picture



# Comparative Ranking

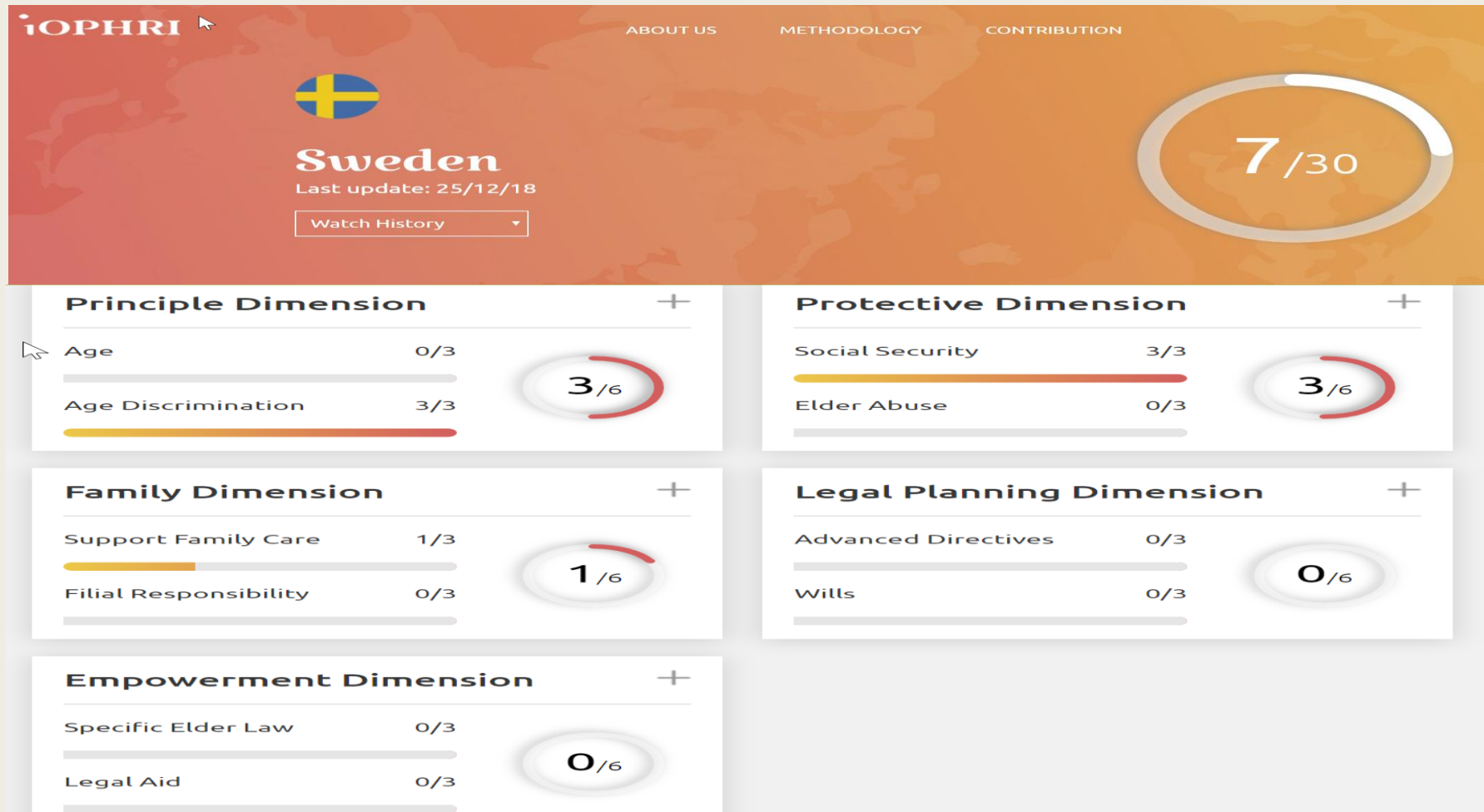


## Top Global Rankings

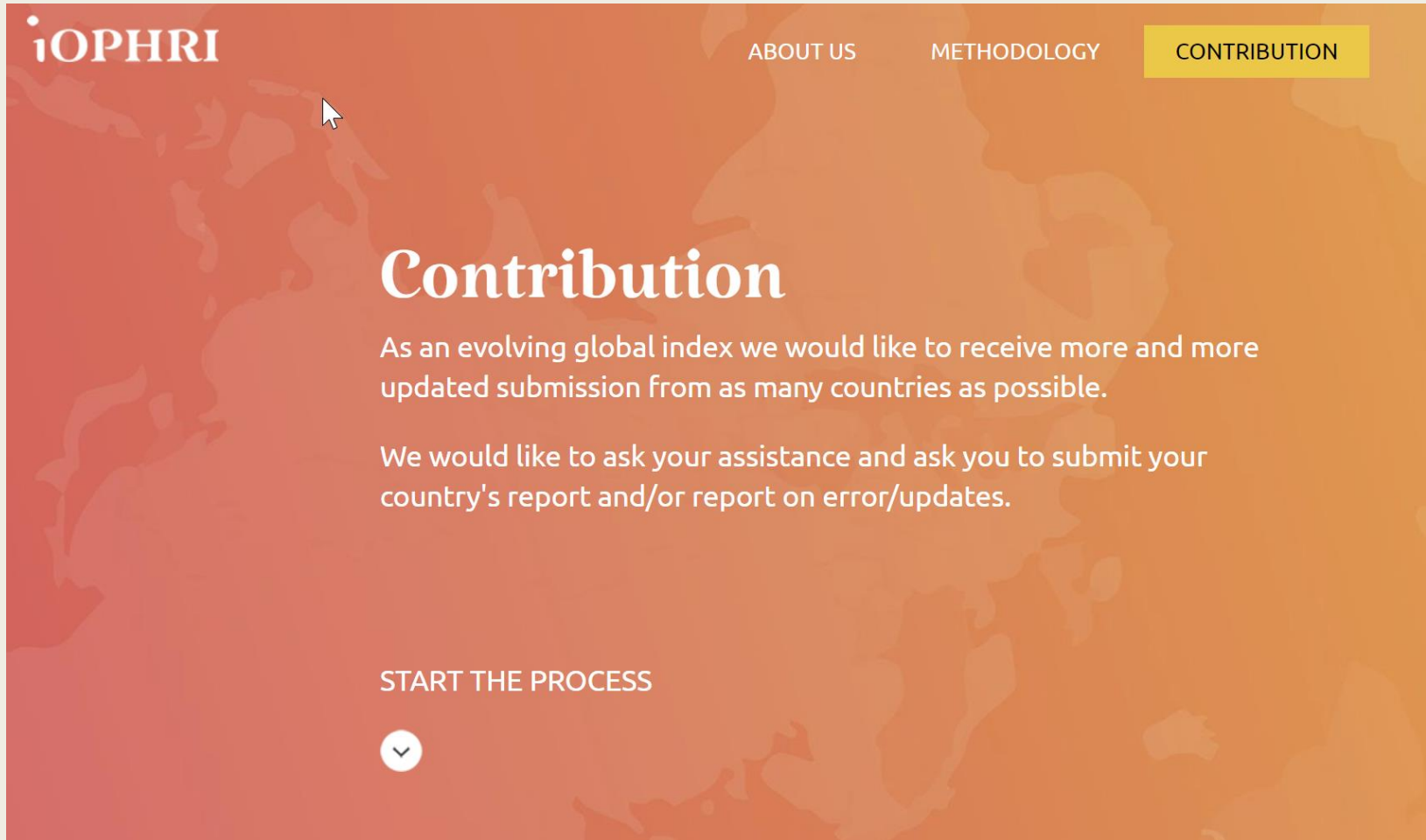
1		Taiwan	20/30	2		South Africa	20/30
3		Austria	19/30	4		Canada	18/30
5		Ecuador	17/30	6		Argentina	16/30
7		USA	16/30	8		Ireland	16/30



# A specific country report



# The ability to contribute & participate

A screenshot of the iOPHRI website's 'Contribution' page. The page has a dark orange background with a faint world map. At the top left is the iOPHRI logo. To the right are navigation links for 'ABOUT US', 'METHODOLOGY', and 'CONTRIBUTION', with 'CONTRIBUTION' highlighted in a yellow box. The main heading is 'Contribution' in large white text. Below it is a paragraph: 'As an evolving global index we would like to receive more and more updated submission from as many countries as possible.' This is followed by another paragraph: 'We would like to ask your assistance and ask you to submit your country's report and/or report on error/updates.' At the bottom, there is a button labeled 'START THE PROCESS' and a white circular icon containing a downward-pointing chevron.

iOPHRI

ABOUT US    METHODOLOGY    CONTRIBUTION

## Contribution

As an evolving global index we would like to receive more and more updated submission from as many countries as possible.

We would like to ask your assistance and ask you to submit your country's report and/or report on error/updates.

START THE PROCESS

▼

# Concluding Thoughts

- Longevity and healthy lives in old age are a multi-facet life-course phenomena.
- They can be understood only from a multi and inter disciplinary approach, taking into account the material, psycho-social, behavioral and biological aspects;
- Human rights, and the legal environment are an important factor within this complicated and complex reality which we should not ignore;
- Future developments, knowledge and understandings should be part of promoting a global movement to promote a new framework of the human rights of older persons.
- Research and evidence should be collected and analyzed with regards to the relationships between human rights and longevity.
- In other words – you “blue persons”, please get to know “green persons” as well...
- **Thank you.**

