

**NEWS RELEASE IMMEDIATE**

**ALONE support World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Conference**  
***"We must protect older people in need"***

**12<sup>th</sup> June 2014** ALONE, the charity that supports older people in need has raised its voice in support of the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Conference taking place today, June 12<sup>th</sup> in UCD. The conference ties in with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day which takes place this Sunday June 15<sup>th</sup>; the day was founded in 2006 and it is a time for raising awareness of elder abuse in its many forms.

Sean Moynihan, CEO of ALONE says of the issue, "Elder abuse can manifest itself in many forms and it can be very difficult to identify. Anything that is hidden or unregulated has the potential for the abuse of power. We must protect older people in need as much as we have changed and started to protect other groups in society."

ALONE report that the abuse is often carried out by a carer or family member that the older person relies upon, this makes the older person fearful of speaking out and losing their only source of contact, help or support.

Moynihan continues, "We need the Government to invest more money into building support systems and resources for these vulnerable older people; otherwise they will never speak out, they need to be reassured that they will be looked after once they take this brave step. This is a really delicate issue and family members or members of the public who suspect abuse are welcome to reach out to ALONE, we can provide advice, information and support."

ALONE can be contacted on (01) 679 1032 for those who have concerns about their own wellbeing, or the wellbeing of a vulnerable older person in the community or visit [www.alone.ie](http://www.alone.ie)

**ENDS**

**About ALONE:**

Established in 1977, ALONE provides vital supports to the one in ten older people who are in need. The charity provides a volunteer befriending service, campaigning services, a community response service and provides 100 age-friendly homes to older people in need. ALONE receives no state funding for their day to day activities, it is through the donations from members of the public that the organisation can carry out its essential activities.

**For more information contact:**

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