

**Handout 6:****‘Amplified’ domain case studies****Case study: Jane Nyawira, Kenya**

“Despite living with a disability all my life, having suffered from polio when I was eight months old, I was still able to use public transport until I was around 55 years old. But in August 2004, while attending an international theological/disability conference in Limuru, Kenya, I got very embarrassed. All the delegates, including myself were on a field trip and I wasn’t able to get off the minibus. I was carried on a clergyman’s back to be able to get off the minibus. I couldn’t use my elbow crutches and from then on and had to use a wheelchair.

Undeveloped infrastructure means I am denied the opportunity to join business or social trips. I cannot make independent decisions as to where I want to go and when without involving others because I need to be assisted. I am dependent on others and other people’s decisions.

Soon after that incident, I realised there was a need to campaign for older people’s situation to be improved, especially on the availability of assistive products. It was from then that I added older people’s rights to the disability awareness programme I began in 2002.

I have spoken at many national and international events, but my proudest moment as a campaigner is when HelpAge International and Age International organised for me to speak at the Global Disability Summit in London in July 2018. Many organisations signed up to the summit’s Charter for Change commitments towards making assistive technologies accessible.

I am currently campaigning for universal health care in Kenya, improved access to social protection, more affordable and accessible assistive devices, more accessible infrastructure, improved safety for older women and greater support for carers. I am organising awareness meetings at faith-based institutions and community centres for people with disabilities and older people together with their caregivers where I invite political and religious leaders and the media. I lobby and advocate and speak on the radio and television to get my message across.

Campaigning for older people’s rights has changed my attitude towards myself and others. I used to pity myself and feel inferior. I kept away from social gatherings. But since I started campaigning, I have gained the confidence to share my problems and opinions. I am able to encourage and counsel other older people”.

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## **Handout 6: ‘Amplified’ domain case studies *continued***

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### **Case study: Age Demands Action Partner RedCoenve, Colombia**

For the International Day of Older People (IDOP) in 2018, network member and our Age Demands Action partner, RedCoenve, focused their advocacy on improving the situation of older people in Colombia. They presented to an audience in the Columbian Congress. Their key advocacy asks were for the government to adhere to the Inter-American Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons, to improve access and quality of older people’s access to health and care, to establish a universal pension and to enhance older people’s participation in society. In total, approximately 400 participants attended the public hearing before the Congress of Colombia within the framework of the IDOP activities organised by the Colombian Member “RedCoenve”.