

April 12, 2019

Dear Workgroup Members,

Last October, Dr. Nora Baladerian and I attended the World Congress on Adult Guardianship which was held in Seoul, South Korea. Representatives from more than two dozen nations exchanged views about issues such as guardianship reform, supported decision-making, and abuse of seniors and people with disabilities.

When I was given a few minutes to speak to the hundreds of people at a [plenary session](#) near the end of the conference, I took the opportunity to share my displeasure that California conservatorship proceedings have not been revamped in decades and that officials here are resisting change. I told the assembly that when the next World Congress occurs in 2020 that I would like to be able to report some progress in California.

Here are links to some of the papers that were submitted to the World Congress by representatives from a variety of nations. Progress is occurring globally, we can learn from it, and perhaps apply some of that information to our reform efforts here in California.

The first link is to the full paper. A second link (excerpts) includes only key portions of the paper. Reading either is optional, but browsing through the excerpts will give you a flavor of what is happening around the world to reform guardianship systems to better protect the rights of seniors and people with disabilities.

[Argentina and Ireland](#) – [Excerpts](#)

[Australia](#) – [Excerpts](#)

[Canada](#) – [Excerpts](#)

[Canada \(British Columbia\)](#)

[England](#) – [Excerpts](#)

[England and Wales - 1](#) – [Excerpts](#)

[England and Wales - 2](#) – [Excerpts](#)

[Germany - 1](#) – [Excerpts](#)

[Germany - 2](#) – [Excerpts](#)

[Hong Kong](#) – [Excerpts](#)

[Netherlands](#) – [Excerpts](#)

[Scotland](#) – [Excerpts](#)

[Switzerland](#) – [Excerpts](#)

[Taiwan - 1](#) – [Excerpts](#)

[Taiwan - 2](#) – [Excerpts](#)

[United Kingdom](#) – [Excerpts](#)

The world is passing us by when it comes to incorporating human rights into guardianship systems. Perhaps our study, and resulting report and recommendations, will help officials in California begin to catch up and move from a medical model (based on status or diagnosis) to a human rights model (based on abilities through SDM) of legal capacity – or at least a hybrid of the two.