groups, but interventions can ameliorate these risks. At the same time, older people, with the wisdom of experience, can be important assets for families and communities struggling with the effects of climate change. Both addressing the vulnerabilities and enhancing the strengths of older people can serve to meet the immediate needs and the long-term SDGs goals of (3) health and well-being (5) gender equality (10) reduced inequalities (11) sustainable cities and communities (13) climate action.

**ADDRESSING THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS**
Erin Burk-Leaver, International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, Denver, Colorado, United States

The common consequences of climate change events include: displacement, loss of sustainable shelter and housing, and limited access to medical care and other resources such as food, clean water, and sanitation services. These adverse effects coincide to an alarming degree with the human rights most essential to those in vulnerable or marginalized groups, including older populations. Whether through displacement or disruption of supply, the stressors of climate change events greatly exacerbate older populations’ vulnerability, especially when compounded by negative social determinants of health, such as existing social, political, and economic barriers to successful aging. Using the SDGs as a framework to develop policies around (13) climate action and the use of improved (9) industry, innovation, and infrastructure to create (11) sustainable cities and communities, it is possible to establish (10) reduced inequalities to promote overall (3) good health and well-being in our older populations.

**ACTION STEPS AND STRATEGIES TAKEN BY OLDER PERSONS TO PREVENT AND MITIGATE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**
Martha Bial, Fordham University, West Harrison, New York, United States

While the vulnerability of older persons to climate change is recognized by many scholars, there has been less attention to contributions older adults make to the fight against climate change, and their motivations to engage in that fight. Motivations include concern for the environment they will leave to their descendants. Contributions include freed up time, and skills gained in personal or work history to educate others on the issues and to organize and advocate for policy change. This presentation will highlight several national and international organizations of older people devoted to educating community groups, monitoring water quality and changes in wildlife habitats, and testifying before legislative bodies in campaigns for increased environmental regulation. Some of these organizations are intergenerational, providing additional benefits in cross-generational social exchange. Such activities are in line with SDGs 13 (action on climate change), 11 (sustainable cities), 12 (sustainable consumption) and 17 (expanding multi-stakeholder partnerships).

**EMPOWERING CAREGIVERS IN THE MIDST OF CLIMATE CHANGE**
Carole Cox, Fordham University, Fordham University, New York, United States

More than 2.7 million children in the United States are raised in kinship families, with the majority of these caregivers, grandparents. Nationally, 1 in 11 children is raised in a kinship family, among Black children, the ratio is 1 in 5. Many of these families struggle economically, welcoming their young relatives into small, often substandard public housing where nonexistent or inadequate heating and cooling exacerbate attempts to moderate extreme temperatures in crowded apartments. For others, responsibility for the children follows the loss of life or permanent disruption of family composition due to weather events such as hurricanes or tornados. Grandparent resilience is reflected in their commitment to the well-being of these children, especially observed throughout COVID-19. This presentation will demonstrate that a Grandparent Empowerment Program is an effective strategy to tap into their strength as advocates for adequate health care, educational opportunity, resources, and a world free from climate disruption.

Session 4625 (Symposium)

**TRANSCENDING THE CORPOREAL IN LATER OLD AGE?**
Chair: Paul Higgs

This symposium addresses the older body and later life. It focusses on the cultural and social implications of the corporeality of the ageing body. Specifically it seeks to explore the degree to which it is possible to transcend the constraints brought about by the body in later old age. Drawing the distinction between the third and fourth ages for understanding contemporary ageing the papers address three important dimensions of later old age. The first presentation by Gillearo directly addresses the corporeality of late old age noting its seeming undesirability and limitation. Gillearo posits that not only does the ageing body impact on the lived experiences of those in later old age but also acts as a cultural reference point for the representation of this period of the life course. Eliopoulos presents preliminary results from her qualitative study on social exclusion of individuals aged over 80 living in remote island environments of the Pacific Northwest. The research considers how such environments might, even in the absence of high levels of health and social care resources, mitigate some of the constraints associated with the ageing body. The chair, Paul Higgs will discuss the issue of ageism and how it is abstractly inscribed on the ageing body; often with little reference to the lived experiences of older people themselves. He will call for a more reflexive approach to ageism. Overall, the symposium seeks to draw gerontological attention to the complexities and possibilities surrounding the ageing body at later ages.

**THE 9TH DECADE AND BEYOND: THE PERILS OF THE NARRATIVE OF DECLINE**
Elaine Eliopoulos, University College London, University College London, England, United Kingdom

Twenty-three participants ranging in age from 80-102 years living on remote islands in the Pacific Northwest, USA reported the privileges of their current years. The aim of the study was to explore lived bodily experience and its impact on social exclusion. Participants utilized a