

OLD AGE KNOCKS ON GOVT'S DOORS

A group of professionals linked together by a love for the elderly and an empathy for their needs, have compiled a petition for Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh's consideration. The petition includes everything from securing a reasonable monthly pension for the elderly to amending laws for their protection.

"We will submit the petition to the chief minister and the social justice department on June 14, a day before World Elder Abuse Day. We hope the government is receptive to the idea of treating senior citizens on par with the rest of society and stop the many abuses being meted out to them by their families and society," said Sailesh Mishra, one of the seven founders of the Silver Innings Foundation (SIF).

"Everybody gets old, but we tend to abuse our elders' rights to suit our convenience.



SIF hopes to secure these rights," another SIF member, Amruta Lovekar, said. SIF, a coming together of profes-

sionals from various walks of life, has compiled the petition to target officials and citizens alike. "Apart from society, the

government and police do not take senior citizens into account. Hence there are no specific laws and facilities for them, resulting in no clear framework and a gross abuse of basic rights," said Mishra. The petition will be posted on www.silverinnings.com from May 29 to gather maximum popular support.

SIF, just one month-old, already has over 150 members. In an interesting twist, the website is being upgraded to include a blogging space for senior citizens, as also a dating service for the elderly.

SIF will organise a month-long programme from June 1 to highlight elderly issues and will have workshops on legal rights, distribution of armbands and badges and slots for dialogue between older and younger generations.

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