

Vote Against Ageism

Joe Biden's age isn't the problem. We are.

Aging isn't for cowards. Longevity is a blessing that should be celebrated, not ridiculed. Longtime fans will view aging in a different light in her new column, called "Startling One."

By Mary Mitchell | Sept. 2023 5:00pm EDT

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Is Nikki Haley Guilty of Ageism with Her "Grumpy Old Men" Ad?

BU School of Social Work aging and gerontology expert says teasing and mocking the elderly has become normalized—and that's not okay



the investigation into his handling of classified documents. Instead of simply stating the facts, Special Counsel Robert Hur used ageist stereotypes as reasons not to bring criminal charges against the President. But did he have a trained professional determine if the President is in fact mentally incapable? Now, instead of his accomplishments as a U.S. Senator, Vice President and the last few years in the White House, the discussion is full of ageist stereotypes that were put into the Special Counsel's report.

Despite how old they were, there are many examples of individuals accomplishing incredible achievements. Laura Ingalls Wilder began writing "Little House on the Prairie" at age 65; Yuichiro Miura climbed Mount Everest when he was 80 years old; and after surviving cancer, Harriette Thompson ran her first marathon at the age of 76.

With popular mediums like Disney movies and others continuing to depict older people as villains who

are losing their memory, it should not come as a surprise that there are negative attitudes toward older people. But as we have shown in our Ageless New York campaign, there are many older people who are accomplishing athletic feats, becoming entrepreneurs, and expressing themselves through art. These stories are rarely told. Instead, older adults are continuing to be portrayed negatively, and the cycle of discrimination continues.

And when ageism is allowed to continue, it affects an individual's self-worth. As more older adults become a larger part of our communities, we must make sure people are aware of the harm ageism is causing to their neighbors.

No matter how old someone is, everyone has forgotten a name or misspoke. It happens to the best of us, and we should not be embarrassed or ridiculed when it does. Instead, we should recognize that it may have nothing to do with age, and celebrate the contributions

older adults make to our society, and appreciate the lessons we are able to learn from them.

This presidential election, let's put away ageist stereotypes that bring our country down, and instead focus on the ideas that will lift everyone up, no matter how old we are lucky enough to become. Doing so will move the entire country forward and show the next generation that everyone has an important role to play in our society.



NYC Department for the Aging
Commissioner
Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez

Wherever you look, ageism continues to lift its insidious head into our society. Right now there is a fever pitch in politics and our economy, causing a negative impact for everyone.

Today, two presidential candidates are having their abilities and judgement reduced to their age. Both President Joseph Biden, 81, and former President Donald Trump, 77, are some of the oldest individuals to ever lead our country, and it

is being held against them. Recently, Republican primary presidential candidate Nikki Haley, released a television advertisement depicting both of them as two Grumpy Old Men and unfit for office. Whatever you may think about either men, this depiction undermines all older people by continuing to insist that after a certain age, we are less than capable.

Ageism is even being used to disparage President Biden in