

37th Session (Virtual) of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), 15-26 March 2021

African Albinism Alliance¹ Statement on the Situation of Children with Albinism in Africa

Hon. Chairperson, all protocol observed

On behalf of The African Albinism Alliance (AAA), A newly formed consortium of organizations working in Africa to promote the implementation of the AU Plan of Action on Albinism,

We congratulate the incoming members of the committee and extend our gratitude to the outgoing members for their support in advocating for rights and welfare of children with albinism in Africa, particularly in Tanzania where reported attacks against people with albinism have decreased significantly.

Nonetheless, we remain concerned about the ongoing reports of violence against children with albinism in Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia. In the period of 2020-2021, eleven incidents have been reported in the three States. About half of these cases involved children between the ages of 0 to 12. In Malawi, two girls survived abduction, in Mozambique one boy was murdered, another went missing, and an eight month old baby survived trafficking by his parents, and in Zambia, a man who was a father of 3 children was murdered.

To date, no mastermind behind these violent crimes has ever been unmasked, prosecution remains slow and accused persons killed in

¹ A newly formed consortium of organizations working in Africa to promote the implementation of the AU Plan of Action on Albinism. For more, see actiononalbinism.org

custody particularly in Malawi, leading not only to additional violation of human rights but also loss of potential evidence for prosecution.

We call upon the Governments of Malawi and Mozambique and Zambia, to immediately put in place protection measures by adopting and implementing a national action plan guided by the AU plan of action on albinism. These plans must have a multi-year budget and must include concrete and effective measures to protect children against these crimes and further protect survivors and their family members. Affected Member States should also immediately investigate these crimes, and prosecute all perpetrators including the masterminds.

In addition, we urge the States to work with stakeholders to conduct intensive, continuous public awareness raising campaigns to educate their people about albinism to end these harmful practices and crimes against them.

Thank you.