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## Ambassador for Malawi's albinos

**Albinos face discrimination in many African countries. Musician Geoffrey Zigoma, 29, told the BBC's Aubrey Sumbuleta how he is an ambassador for all Malawians with albinism.**

“Albinos are like any other human beings.

However, I caution other albinos against relying on other people.

We must work hard and not expect any favours.

I started playing music in a church choir and after realising my potential I decided to get into music seriously. My efforts paid off.

### Star

My first album Ndatherapano which means "I have ended here", turned me into a star in my country.

Currently, I am working on my fourth album which is going to be out next month. In this forthcoming album, I sing about the violence against women which is so rampant here in Malawi.

I wake up early and take a cup of tea to enhance my energy before going to the studio where I normally practice my music with a friend's band, the Armageddon.

Although I am an albino, my wife is black and so is my son.

### Ambassador

I have a very happy and supportive family, especially my wife who has always done a lot to encourage me.

I am an ambassador for all albinos in Malawi and I sing about this.

It is as though I am the king for Malawi's albinos because I speak out for them. I am outspoken over the



Geoffrey Zigoma is currently working on his fourth album



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discrimination we face.

People call me "mzungu" [white man] but I am not bitter about that. I think I inspire a lot of people like me here in Malawi and this in turn makes some of them work and try even harder.

An albino can do anything. I wish you could see how talented I am when playing a keyboard.

I challenge that even a normal man cannot easily compete with me in playing a keyboard.

### Inspiration

I am inspired by a fellow albino musician, the Golden Voice of Africa, Malian Salif Keita.

I am making efforts to get his contacts and meet him.

I think we can share experiences and help each other in campaigning for albinos' rights worldwide. Kaita is such a great musician and I would like to be the same and one day own my own studio.



Albinos contend with stigma as many African societies see them as bearers of bad luck

I don't have a car yet so I normally walk to most of my destinations or jump on a bus if where I am going is far.

Right now I am going to a radio station to give them a CD of my forthcoming album.

After a hard working day, I normally relax with my best friend Dan at our favourite drinking joint with a bottle of beer.

Or if I am not drinking, I like playing or watching football and basketball. ”

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