

Albinism is a rare, non-contagious, genetically inherited condition present at birth characterized by a lack of pigmentation (melanin) in the hair, skin and eyes. Almost all people with albinism are visually impaired and are at risk of developing skin cancer. Albinism occurs regardless of ethnicity or gender. Both parents must carry the gene for it to be passed on, even if neither have albinism themselves. It is important to note that a child with albinism received the defective information from both parents and that it is common for parents with normal skin colour to have a child with albinism.



It is estimated that there are about 25,000 PWA in Zambia. In Africa it is estimated that 1 in every 5,000 to 15,000 people have albinism with some populations having estimates as high as 1 in 1,000.



Hundreds of attacks including murder, mutilations, grave robberies, sexual violence, kidnapping and trafficking of persons and body parts have been reported across Africa. PWA are subjected to name-calling and exclusion, which impacts negatively on their rights to equality, dignity and access to equal opportunities. This stigma is compounded by a lack appropriate services, unsupportive legislation, inaccessible environments, poverty and social exclusion. In most communities the woman is wrongly blamed for being the cause of the albinism, a misconception that leaves mothers ostracised and abused.

Many women and children with albinism face a heightened risk of domestic and sexual violence. Many PWA are trapped in poverty as they face multiple barriers to accessing an education, securing a livelihood and fully participating in society.

In response to the widespread disappearances and killing of people with albinism in Tanzania, Burundi and other East and Central African countries, the United Nations officially declared PWA “persons with disabilities” in 2008.





ABOUT US

Albinism Multi-purpose Cooperative (AMC) was established in 2017 to represent Persons with Albinism (PWA) in Zambia; this representation will mainly focus on acting as their voice in all spheres of life especially in the socio-economic sectors, where they are marginalized and stigmatized. AMC is affiliated to ZAPD (Zambia Agency of Persons with Disabilities) and ZAFOD (Zambia Federation of Disabilities)

OUR VISION

“Full acceptance and integration of Persons with Albinism in society.”

Our Mission is to promote the realization of equal rights for PWA in Zambia and to facilitate their full inclusion in all aspects of life

Creating awareness about albinism to end stigma and discrimination

Raising funds to advance PWA’s economic, educational and social wellbeing.

Empowering PWA to be economically self-reliant by connecting them to job opportunities and entrepreneurship development

Advocating for the appointment of PWA to public office

Working with various stakeholders to provide free access to adequate sunscreen, eyeglasses and protective clothing

Working with government to come up with effective data collection on PWA

Partnering with other Disability

Organisations and Institutions to assist and empower PWA.

PWA suffer from visual impairments and need corrective aids like glasses and magnifiers. Low melanin means they are at risk of cancer from the sun’s radiation so they need to practice sun safety: apply sunscreen, avoid mid day sun, wear wide brimmed hats and caps, long sleeved clothing and have regular skin checks to detect early signs of cancer.



CONTACTS

Telephone: RAM AUERBACH +260 964 002090

CHOOBE MAGANDE +260 976549590

Facebook Albino@albinoilife

Email: Albinismmultipurpose@gmail.com

info@Albinismmultipurpose.org

www.Albinismmultipurpose.org

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