

**African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR)**  
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**Africa Albinism Network statement on "Protecting Human Rights Defenders: Strategies for Addressing Impunity and Ensuring Accountability"**

The Africa Albinism Network, which includes Under the Same Sun and over 200 albinism groups across Africa, draws your attention to the challenges faced by human rights defenders with albinism, particularly in countries where physical attacks against persons with albinism occur. Human rights defenders with albinism have been subjected to death threats and attempted kidnappings, forcing them to flee their homes out of fear for their safety and that of their families. Unfortunately, many of these threats are not investigated by the authorities.

We strongly recommend the adoption of national legislation and policies that protect and promote the work of human rights defenders, including those with albinism, in line with international and regional human rights standards, including the [UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders](#).

Harmful practices against persons with albinism, such as attacks, and ritual killings, continue to be a pervasive problem on the continent. In our region there are over 900 cases of attack reported to date. We believe that many more cases go unreported due to the frequent involvement of family members. This is disturbing because people with albinism are few and very visible.

We note and welcome the recently adopted Guidelines of the Pan African Parliament to address accusations of witchcraft and ritual attacks as harmful practices.<sup>1</sup> This is a significant step towards addressing the violence faced by persons with albinism on the continent.

Persons with albinism are also particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change in Africa. Climate change affects persons with albinism in two keyways: through the depletion of the ozone layer and the increase in temperature. They suffer from the increased risks of skin cancer and eye damage due to their sensitivity to UV radiation.

We call upon Member States to implement the PAP Guidelines, and ratify the Africa Disability Protocol, which sets the general standards against harmful practices affecting people with disabilities, including people with albinism.

To put a permanent end to the attacks targeting people with albinism, we call on Member States to immediately implement the African Union Plan of Action on albinism, through National Action Plans on albinism that include protection measures and also invest in measures to include people with albinism in the health system to prevent the alarming rate at which persons with albinism die



of skin cancer due to exclusion and discrimination in the health systems as well as due to climate change.

Thank you