



African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR)

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Statement delivered by Africa Albinism Network on behalf of Under The Same Sun on "the human rights situations of persons with albinism in Africa"

The Africa Albinism Network, speaking on behalf of Under the Same Sun and over 200 albinism groups across Africa, draws your attention to the ongoing cases of physical attacks against people with albinism. 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.

In the last two years, 47 cases of attacks have been reported in 12 countries across Africa. These include killings and trafficking in persons and body parts. Unfortunately, Madagascar and Zambia are leading in this period with 15 and 8 cases, respectively. We note and welcome the recently adopted Guidelines of the Pan African Parliament to address accusations of witchcraft and ritual attacks as harmful practices.¹ This is a significant step towards addressing the violence faced by persons with albinism on the continent. We call upon Member States to implement these 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. We congratulate those who have already done so, or are on their way to doing so, such as Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania.

Finally, through National Action Plans, Member States should 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.

¹ Pan African Parliament Guidelines Accusation of witchcraft and ritual attacks towards eliminating harmful practices and other human rights violations. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/tools-and-resources/pan-african-parliament-guidelines-accusations-witchcraft-and-ritual>