



**African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR)
77th Ordinary Session: Human Rights Situations in Africa
20 October – 9 November 2023, Arusha, Tanzania**

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 human rights situation of persons with albinism in Africa

Persons with albinism across Africa continue to endure daily discrimination and stigma in their interactions with society, primarily because of the colour of their skin and the pervasive misconceptions and harmful practices surrounding the condition of albinism across Africa. This has led to ongoing attacks, ritual killings, grave desecrations, and banishment from their communities. Regrettably, these harmful practices continue to persist on the continent, with our region alone reporting over 900 cases of attacks to date in a little over a decade.

Since the year 2020, we have documented 48 cases of attacks across 11 countries, with Madagascar recording 19 cases, Malawi 10 cases, and Zambia reporting 5. Alarmingly, over half of these cases have targeted children with albinism below 18 years of age. We strongly believe that many more cases go unreported due to the frequent involvement of family members. This is deeply troubling, considering that individuals with albinism are both few in number and highly visible.

Climate change is also affecting people with albinism on the continent as they are at increased risk of skin cancer and eye damage due to their heightened sensitivity to UV radiation. A majority of people with albinism continue to contract skin cancer before age 40 and many dying from this preventable condition by that age.

In addition to these pressing issues, persons with albinism across Africa continue to encounter significant barriers to access to education due to failure to accommodate their vision impairment and security concerns.

Given these challenges, we strongly recommend that Member States of the African Union who are impact to immediately:

1. implement the [African Union Plan of Action on albinism](#), by adopting National Action Plans that include comprehensive protection measures. We commend Uganda and Angola for their bold steps in adopting their National Action Plans on Albinism and urge Tanzania, Kenya, and South Africa to expedite the process of adopting their draft National Action Plans. Additionally, we call upon Malawi to review and renew the recently expired National Action Plan on albinism.
2. Adopt national legislation and policies that safeguard and support the work of human rights defenders, including those with albinism, in accordance with international and regional human rights standards, such as the [UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders](#).
3. Lastly, we urgently call upon the African Union Commission to appoint an AU Envoy on Albinism to champion this critical cause.