



**African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR)
79th Ordinary Session: Human Rights Situations in Africa
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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, wish to draw your attention to the human rights situation of persons with albinism in Africa particularly concerning their right to education.

Persons with albinism continue to encounter systemic discrimination, marginalization, and violence, impeding their ability to access quality education.

Persons with albinism often face stigma and discrimination in educational settings, leading to exclusion, bullying, name-calling and psychological trauma. This hostile environment inhibits their ability to concentrate on their studies and hinders their academic progress.

In addition, many educational institutions lack infrastructure that accommodates the unique learning needs of persons with albinism, such as adequate lighting, sunscreen provision, and reasonable accommodation including accessible learning materials such as large print textbooks. This absence of inclusive infrastructure hampers their participation and academic success.

Moreover, there is a pervasive lack of awareness and understanding about albinism among educators, students, and communities. This ignorance perpetuates harmful stereotypes and misconceptions, further isolating persons with albinism and hindering their integration into the educational system.

In light of these challenges, we urge member states of the African Union to take decisive action to safeguard the right to education for persons with albinism in Africa by implementing the following recommendations:

1. Implement inclusive education policies that specifically address the learning needs of persons with albinism. These policies should encompass provisions for accessible infrastructure, inclusive teaching practices, and awareness-raising initiatives.
2. Launch a comprehensive sensitization campaign targeting educators, students, and communities to foster understanding, acceptance, and respect for persons with albinism. These programs should dispel myths, challenge stereotypes, and promote inclusive attitudes within educational environments.
3. Equip educational institutions with infrastructure that accommodates the needs of persons with albinism, including adequate lighting, accessible learning materials, assistive devices and provision for sunscreen and protective clothing.
4. 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.
5. Lastly, we urgently call upon the African Union Commission to appoint an AU Envoy on Albinism to champion this critical cause.

Thank you.