



African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR)

85th 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 situation of persons with albinism in Africa"

Honourable Chairperson, Commissioners of the African Commission, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

The Africa Albinism Network delivers this statement on behalf of Under the Same Sun and over 200 albinism groups across Africa. We welcome the 85th session and commend the Commission for dedicating this year to the theme "Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations."

Persons with albinism continue to endure severe human rights violations across the continent. They are victims of ritual killings, mutilations, trafficking of body parts, and entrenched discrimination in education, employment, and healthcare. Many die prematurely from preventable skin cancers due to lack of access to sunscreen and treatment. Women and children with albinism face multiple layers of exclusion, including violence, abandonment, and exploitation. These harms create generational trauma, poverty, and fear.

The human cost of these violations is devastating. In May 2024, *two-and-a-half-year-old Asimwe Novath* was brutally abducted and murdered in



Tanzania, with her body mutilated for ritual purposes. Her tragic case is not isolated, it reflects the plight of over 700 others who have endured similar atrocities, including 240 murders, 293 survivors living with one or both limbs amputated, and 66 grave exhumations. Alarming, 90 percent of these attacks target women and children with albinism across Africa.

Reparations provide an opportunity for recognition, healing, and justice. They must be inclusive, gender-sensitive, and tailored to marginalized groups, including persons with albinism. Reparations for our community go beyond financial compensation, they encompass restitution, rehabilitation, satisfaction, and guarantees of non-repetition.

We therefore call on the African Commission and States Parties to:

1. Promote the ratification of the Africa Disability Protocol
2. Promote the development and adoption of the AU Plan of Action on albinism by member states.
3. Ensure access to healthcare by including sunscreen, eye care, and skin cancer treatment in national health insurance schemes and reparation packages.
4. Guarantee accountability for attacks against persons with albinism by strengthening investigative and judicial mechanisms and ensuring perpetrators face justice.
5. Adopt a gender-sensitive approach that prioritizes the specific needs of women and children with albinism in reparations programs.



6. Ensure meaningful participation of organizations of persons with albinism in the design, implementation, and monitoring of reparations processes, in line with the principle of “nothing without us.”
7. Strengthen access to inclusive and equitable education for children with albinism, including reasonable accommodation such as assistive devices, accessible learning materials, and safe school environments.
8. Integrate the impact of climate change on persons with albinism, particularly increased exposure to harmful UV radiation into national climate adaptation plans and ensure access to protective measures within reparation and resilience programs.

Reparations for persons with albinism are not acts of charity. They are acts of justice, long overdue, and urgently needed. To exclude them from Africa’s reparative justice journey would be to perpetuate the very injustices reparations are meant to heal.

I thank you.