

## STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE RENEWED WAVE OF ATTACKS AGAINST PERSONS WITH ALBINISM IN MALAWI

The Africa Albinism Network (AAN) expresses its deep alarm, outrage, and solidarity with the Association of Persons with Albinism in Malawi (APAM) and other Civil society organizations in Malawi following the renewed and disturbing wave of attacks, grave violations targeting persons with albinism and prolonged delays that fuels trauma, fear, and impunity in Malawi.

AAN is gravely concerned by reports that:

- On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026, the grave of Maunsamatha Zakaliya, a woman with albinism who died in 2023 and was buried in GVH Kapala, Traditional Authority Nsakambewa, Dowa District, was desecrated, with perpetrators dismantling the concrete grave and amputating both hands from the elbows to the fingers.
- On 17th November 2025, Israel Mbewe, a person with albinism from Traditional Authority Nthiramanja, Mulanje District, went missing raising serious fears for his safety and life; and
- On 10<sup>th</sup> August 2025, William Kamtchitchi, a 63-year-old man with albinism from Maere Village, Traditional Authority Mbenje, Nsanje District) went missing raising serious fears for his safety and life.

These cases represent heinous crimes, gross violations of human dignity, and a resurgence of ritual-related violence against persons with albinism violence that Malawi had made commendable progress in reducing over the past two to three years.

### A DISTURBING REVERSAL OF PROGRESS

AAN notes with grave concern that these incidents come at a time when persons with albinism had experienced relative calm in recent years. This reversal raises urgent questions about protection, deterrence, political will, and accountability. Even more troubling is the recent decision by the Malawian authorities to pardon six men linked to the murder of Buleya Lule, who was himself a key witness in the murder case of Fanizo Goodson, a child with albinism. These pardons granted after the individuals served only 10 months of sentences ranging between 15 and 20 years have deeply shaken

public confidence and sent a dangerous signal that atrocities against persons with albinism may go unpunished. AAN fully shares APAM's concern that this decision:

- Undermines the integrity of the justice system;
- Questioning the legal and factual basis for the pardons granted to the six murder convicts
- Weakens deterrence against future crimes targeting persons with albinism.

The State has a heightened duty of due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute, and punish such crimes and to protect persons with albinism both in life and in death.

- AAN calls on: Civil society organizations, International and regional human rights bodies, Development partners, Religious and traditional leaders, and Malawians of goodwill to break the silence, stand in solidarity with persons with albinism, and collectively re-strategize effective responses to this renewed threat.

AAN further reaffirms the calls made in the recent United Nations Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 15 December 2025(RES/80/177) which:

- Further encourages Member States to end impunity for violence against persons with albinism, including sexual and gender-based violence, by amending laws, where applicable, and by bringing perpetrators to justice;
- Calls upon Member States to work to ensure accountability through the conduct of impartial, speedy and effective investigations into crimes and attacks against persons with albinism falling within their jurisdiction, to hold those responsible accountable and to ensure that victims, survivors and family members have access to appropriate remedies, as well as accessible therapy and psychosocial, socioeconomic, legal and medical support, as appropriate;
- Encourages Member States to adequately support programmes developed under their national action plans by providing adequate



financial and human resources to ensure their effective implementation;

### **AAN'S COMMITMENT**

The Africa Albinism Network solemnly commits to: Monitoring developments related to these cases in Malawi and across Africa; Supporting affected families in their pursuit of justice; Engaging African and UN human rights mechanisms, including Special Procedures; Mobilising regional and international advocacy to ensure Malawi does not regress on the hard-won gains made in protecting persons with albinism.

Issued by: Africa Albinism Network (AAN)

Done on 14th January 2026