

Africa Albinism Network

NEWSLETTER



ADVOCACY UPDATES

Bringing the Rights of Persons with Albinism to COSP 19

At the Civil Society Forum during the 19th Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (COSP 19), AAN Executive Director Bonface Massah highlighted the ongoing human rights violations experienced by persons with albinism across Africa.

AAN called for stronger collaboration between governments and civil society to address the deep-rooted stigma and discrimination behind these violations. The statement also highlighted persistent barriers to reporting and access to justice and called for the development and funding of National Action Plans (NAP). AAN further encouraged stronger accountability through CRPD reporting and greater collaboration across human rights and climate action to advance the rights of persons with albinism.



Renewed Momentum for the AU Special Envoy on Albinism

From 27–31 July 2026, AAN participated in the Sixth Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment (STC-SDLE-6) held in Windhoek, Namibia. A key focus of AAN's engagement was advancing the appointment of an African Union Special Envoy on Albinism, following the AU Executive Council's 2019

decision. Encouragingly, the final Ministers' Report recommended that the African Union Commission expedite the appointment of the Special Envoy.

AAN also engaged Namibian institutions on reactivating the country's NAP on Albinism, identifying practical steps towards restarting the process.

EVENTS & ENGAGEMENTS



Participants with albinism at the Botswana Learning Forum alongside the Assistant Minister for the Ministry for State President, Defence and Security, Maipelo Mophuting Dikoloti.

Botswana National Albinism Learning Forum

On 17–18 September, AAN convened the Botswana National Albinism Learning Forum in Gaborone, bringing together persons with albinism, government representatives, disability organisations and other stakeholders.

Under the theme From Awareness to Action, the two-day forum created space to discuss the experiences of persons with albinism and explore key issues across health, education, employment, social protection, justice and participation. Participants also considered regional and international frameworks, including the AU Plan of Action on Albinism (2021–2031), and identified priority areas for strengthening the rights, inclusion and participation of persons with albinism in Botswana.



The measure of progress will ultimately be seen in people's everyday experiences...when people can participate in their communities without fear or exclusion.

Maipelo Mophuting Dikoloti
Assistant Minister for the
Ministry for State
President, Defence and
Security, Botswana



Participants with the UNIE at the Zambia NAP workshop

Zambia NAP Implementation Workshop: Strengthening Collective Action

From 25–28 August, AAN and Cheshire Homes Society of Zambia convened a national workshop in Lusaka to strengthen implementation of Zambia’s NAP for the Protection of Persons with Albinism (2026–2030).

The workshop brought together OPAs, OPDs, government representatives and other stakeholders to explore NAP implementation priorities, strategic advocacy, access to justice, protection and coordination. Participants contributed to a Strategic Advocacy Plan, developed a Standard Operating Procedure for documenting attacks against persons with albinism and drafted a Commitment Charter to strengthen collaboration. The workshop also opened further dialogue with the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services on a proposed national coordination mechanism for NAP implementation. Access the [Zambia NAP fact sheet](#) to learn more.

Bringing Disability Inclusion into Africa’s Just Transition Conversations

AAN participated in the Climate Action Network Africa Strategy Meeting and Just Transition Convening in Nairobi, Kenya, which brought together members, partners and allies to reflect on the future of climate action across Africa. The convening explored how Africa can advance a just and inclusive transition, with



CAN Africa Strategy Meeting and Just Transition Convening

discussions spanning climate finance, adaptation, loss and damage, human rights, inclusive representation and regional climate diplomacy. For AAN, participation provided an important opportunity to advocate for the meaningful inclusion of disability and the experiences of persons with disabilities, including persons with albinism, in the conversations and decisions shaping Africa’s climate response.

RESOURCES & PUBLICATIONS

CRPD Guidelines on Intersectional Discrimination

The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has released guidelines on identifying and addressing intersectional discrimination against girls, adolescent girls, women and older women with disabilities. AAN contributed to a joint submission with Validity Foundation and other partners, focusing on women and girls with albinism. The final guidelines recognise violence against women with albinism that is driven by harmful myths. They also call on States to provide dermatological care, skin cancer prevention, low-vision services and accessible learning materials for women and girls with albinism. Access the [guidelines](#) and [read our submission](#)

Universal Periodic Review: Uganda and Zimbabwe

AAN submitted two joint shadow reports ahead of the fourth UPR cycle. With Women and Children with Albinism in Uganda (WACWAU), we urge Uganda to renew and fully fund its NAP for Persons with Albinism for 2026–2030. We also ask for free sunscreen

through public health facilities and for attacks and sexual violence against persons with albinism to be investigated and prosecuted. [Access the Uganda submission](#). With the National Albinism Organisations Network of Zimbabwe (NAONZ), we welcome progress such as the National Disability Act 2025 and the albinism question in the 2022 census. We call on Zimbabwe to adopt and fund a NAP for Persons with Albinism aligned with the AU Plan of Action (2021–2031). [Access the Zimbabwe submission](#)

People with Disabilities: Taking Action on Climate Change

Developed by the Harvard Law School Project on Disability, this easy-read resource supports persons with disabilities to understand climate change, its impact on their rights, and how they can take action. It combines accessible information with practical activities and advocacy ideas, emphasizing the role of persons with disabilities as active participants in climate action. Access the resource in [PDF](#) or [text-only](#) format.

To access more of our resources and publications, please visit our [resources page](#)

Monitoring Attacks Against Persons with Albinism

Attacks against persons with albinism continue to be reported across parts of Africa, affecting individuals, families and communities. AAN continues to monitor these incidents and advocate for stronger prevention, protection and accountability measures. Report an attack: If you are aware of an attack targeting a person with albinism, you can report it through the [AAN Incident Report Form](#).

Track reported attacks: Access the latest documentation of reported attacks against persons with albinism compiled by Under the Same Sun (UTSS): [extended list of reported attacks](#) and [two-page summary](#).

AAN BLOGS & STORIES



Panel discussion at the STC-SDLE-6

Five Years Later: Renewed Momentum for an African Union Special Envoy on Albinism

What could an African Union Special Envoy on Albinism mean for the implementation of existing continental commitments?

Following AAN's participation at STC-SDLE-6 in Windhoek, our latest blog reflects on the renewed momentum towards the appointment of a Special Envoy and the role such a mechanism could play in strengthening implementation of the AU Plan of Action on Albinism (2021–2031). From supporting coordination and accountability to maintaining political attention, the reflection explores why sustained continental leadership matters for translating existing commitments into meaningful change for persons with albinism across Africa. [Read the full article.](#)

Justice, Health and Dignity: What Malawi's Successor National Action Plan on Albinism Should Deliver



Deputy Minister of Education, Hon. Francis Phiso (representing the Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare), alongside Bonface Massah (Executive Director, Africa Albinism Network) at the official launch of Malawi's successor NAP on Albinism.

Malawi's second NAP on Persons with Albinism (2026–2030) marks an important step forward, but its impact will ultimately depend on implementation.

In this reflection, AAN considers what the successor NAP could mean for persons with albinism, particularly by strengthening access to justice, protecting individuals and families from attacks and improving access to essential health services. It also examines how adequate funding, effective coordination, accountability and the meaningful participation of persons with albinism can turn the Plan's commitments into tangible improvements in people's lives. [Read the full article.](#)

More Than a Seat at the Table: Reflections from COSP 19

Twenty years after the adoption of the CRPD, what does meaningful participation look like for persons with albinism?

Reflecting on COSP 19, AAN Executive Director Bonface Massah explores the growing visibility of persons with albinism within global disability discussions, while highlighting the work

that remains. From stronger accountability and more inclusive disability data to investing in the next generation of leaders and ensuring disability is part of climate action, the reflection considers what is needed to turn participation and commitments into meaningful change. [Read the full article.](#)



Representatives at the 19th Session of the CRPD advancing inclusion for persons with albinism in global frameworks.

COMMUNITY & PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

It's Just a Gene: “Can Science Replace Myths About Albinism?” Op-Ed by Gamariel Mboya



Gamariel Mboya

Gamariel Mboya challenges myths that portray albinism as a curse or a source of mystical power across sub-Saharan Africa, arguing that these beliefs fuel discrimination and violence against persons with albinism. Drawing on a research seminar hosted by Aga Khan University Tanzania, he explains that albinism results from genetic mutations affecting melanin production, commonly involving the OCA2 gene in the region. It follows a recessive inheritance pattern, for which neither parent is to blame.

Mboya highlights progress alongside ongoing challenges. He points to the World Health Organization’s addition of broad-spectrum sunscreen to its Model

List of Essential Medicines, recognising it as lifesaving rather than cosmetic. He also cites the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights ruling that directed Tanzania to compensate victims of attacks and strengthen legal protections. [Read the full article.](#)

Project TECI: Elizabeth Oyarese Moves to Advance Inclusive Education in Lagos Schools

Elizabeth Adams Oyarese, founder of Linking Circles Academy, has launched Project TECI (The Equitable Classroom Initiative), training 21 educators from two Lagos State secondary schools in low-cost, inclusive classroom practices. Delivered with the East Side Institute, Global Play Brigade, and Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD), the initiative shows mainstream schools can support learners with diverse needs without costly specialised infrastructure. Elizabeth noted that with many children with disabilities out of school in developing contexts, practical, human-centred approaches are needed now. Participating schools committed to using rights-based language and flexible teaching methods, with plans to expand the model across Nigeria. [Read the full article.](#)



Founder, Elizabeth Adams Oyarese, seated center-left at a Project TECI event

“Zero Skin Cancer” Campaign for Persons with Albinism in Kinshasa

Corbetta RDC's Mobile Clinic is running a free skin cancer prevention campaign for persons with albinism across Kinshasa, continuing through different districts from 1 September 2026 to 1 January 2027. Services include dermatological consultations, early screening for precancerous lesions, sunscreen distribution, specialised care (cryotherapy, phototherapy, surgery), and health education, delivered by trained staff with support from the Congolese Women's Fund (FFC). Follow [Corbetta RDC](#) for updates on upcoming screening locations.

Young Innovator Mwape Chimpampa Crowned Most Consistent Innovator

Mwape Chimpampa, a 16-year-old Grade 12 student at Naboye Secondary School in Kafue, was crowned "Most Consistent Innovator" at this year's JETS and TETS National Fair, winning a trophy and a Samsung tablet. Chipampe first gained attention in 2024 for developing an organic sunscreen for people with albinism. She returned this year with a new innovation to make SPF testing cheaper and safer.



Mwape Chimpampa

People with Albinism Face Barriers Accessing Disability Grants

People with albinism in South Africa often rely on the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) disability grant to afford essential skincare products that help prevent life-threatening conditions such as skin cancer. Many applicants report being denied the grant because doctors do not recognise albinism as a valid basis for eligibility, leaving them without access to lifesaving protection. Advocates are calling for clearer Department of Health guidelines, training for doctors and stronger accountability to ensure fair and consistent decisions for people with albinism seeking support. [Petition Link](#)

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

Road to COP31: Centre Disability, Centre Albinism

Ahead of COP31, AAN will convene a continental webinar on 29 October 2026, bringing together persons with albinism, persons with disabilities, OPDs, climate advocates and other stakeholders to explore disability-inclusive climate action.

The discussion will examine how climate change affects health, livelihoods, safety and participation, while exploring practical ways to strengthen disability-led advocacy and influence climate policy in the lead-up to COP31 and beyond.

Look out for upcoming posts on AAN's social media channels for more information and the link to register for the webinar.

A photograph of two young people with albinism. They are both smiling and embracing each other. The person on the left is wearing a white shirt, and the person on the right is wearing a white shirt. They are both looking towards the camera.

**YOUR SUPPORT HELPS PEOPLE WITH
ALBINISM
IN AFRICA TO
PROTECT THEMSELVES**

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