



## **Recommended Actions for the Tanzanian Government: An adequate response to Persons with Albinism in Tanzania.**

1. The following steps can provide adequate responses to the areas of need:
2. *Immediate Investigation and Prosecution:* Conduct fact finding and investigative missions where there is evidence of grave and widespread incidents of violence and discrimination against persons with albinism. The demand and funding of this violence by the consumer is yet to be addressed.
3. *Justice:* The right to freedom from discrimination would require that the government ensure that persons with albinism are afforded equal protection under the law and in practice. The government is to ensure that their laws, policies and practices address the specific needs of persons with albinism.
4. *Legal Reform Where Laws on Witchcraft Lack Clarity or Create Loopholes:* Review legislative instruments and adopt a comprehensive strategy, strengthen the legal response to crimes against persons with albinism and bring perpetrators to justice, through prompt and impartial investigations.
5. *Reinforced Security:* Reinforce existing security structures in communities. This should include reinforcing security in schools and centres holding children with albinism displaced by attacks. In these schools, frequent inspections for abuse and discrimination against students with albinism must be conducted and all perpetrators must be penalized to the full extent of the law.
6. *Rehabilitation and Redress:* Actualize the victims' right to justice through immediate investigation and prosecution of cases of attacks and human rights violations against persons with albinism. Supply redress to victims of attacks and their families including medical and psychosocial support including relocation of children to safe schools – safe from further attacks and other human rights violations.<sup>1</sup> It also includes “effective remedy” and “reparation”,

---

<sup>1</sup> Convention on the Rights of the Child, article 39.



entailing the full scope of measures of restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition.<sup>2</sup>

7. *End Impunity*: Without effective and affordable access to justice, persons with albinism are denied the possibility of claiming their rights and contesting the abuses or human rights violations to which they are exposed.
8. *A National Antidiscrimination Policy*: Adopt firm measures and policies to address the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination affecting persons with albinism, including by ensuring they have adequate access to health care, social services, employment and education supports that accommodate visual impairment and skin cancer.<sup>3</sup>
9. *A National Government Services Policy for Persons with Albinism*: Implement a policy that will be effective in combining the multiple aspects of government services that touch on albinism into one document which would serve as a guide for impugned service providers, enabling a collaborative and holistic response.
10. *Violence and Security*: Develop national institutional mechanisms for the protection and promotion of rights of persons with albinism, including by ensuring that national human rights institutions effectively address the human rights situation of people with albinism.
11. *Health*: Educate health care practitioners about albinism. Develop a program of early intervention for parents who give birth to children with albinism through which parents are educated about the needs and welfare of their child's genetic condition. Under The Same Sun would be willing to assist by providing scientifically accurate, socially sensitive information to support this venture.
12. *Society*: Education the general public about albinism. The government needs to intensify the root causes of attacks and discrimination against people with

---

<sup>2</sup> See Committee Against Torture, general comment No. 3 (2013) on implementation of article 14 by States parties, para. 2.

<sup>3</sup> See Nigeria policy



albinism, notably by proactively combating superstition and stigma vis-à-vis albinism, including through sustained awareness-raising campaigns on the scientific truths about albinism and on the inherent dignity and human rights of people living with the condition. Under The Same Sun would be willing to assist by providing scientifically accurate, socially sensitive information to support this venture.

13. *Educators:* Educate and train all teachers on reasonable accommodation and best practices for assisting a student with albinism in the classroom. A Quick Guide for Educators of Persons with Albinism has been developed by Under The Same Sun and the same has been adopted into the Ministry of Education. It is essential that this Guide be distributed and used as a curriculum throughout the country since it provides very practical and easy “to do” steps which assist a child with albinism in the classroom including:

- a. Re-organize the classroom so that child with albinism is positioned in front of the class and moved closer to the blackboard as needed. They ultimately have to ask the PWA if they can see better from the right, left or centre of the room.
- b. Re-positioning must be done so that the person with albinism is **not** staring into sunlight in order to see the blackboard better.
- c. Re-positioning may not work where vision impairment is highly significant. If so, the following note is crucial.
- d. Use large print: Teacher’s notes on the blackboard, exams, assignments and other printed/photo-copied hand-outs must have large enough print. If there is no access to computers or copiers for large print access, the next step is helpful.
- e. Assign a diligent student to lend their notes to the student with albinism to copy.
- f. Extra time should be considered for exam-writing. (Actual time plus half of actual time is suggested). This is especially important if the exam questions are provided in small or regular print, and if the exams questions are re-used/faded copies.

14. *Students:* Educate all students in the public school system on a yearly basis in the classroom setting about a factual and medically based understanding of



albinism. It is essential that this information be made part of the academic curriculum. The material could be taught in a one hour presentation that is offered each year on June 13 in recognition of International Albinism Awareness Day. Under The Same Sun would be willing to assist by providing scientifically accurate, socially sensitive information to support this venture.

15. *Integrate Discourse and Action Concerning Particular Vulnerabilities Faced by Women and Girls:* Take urgent and appropriate measures to support and provide for the needs of girls and women, particularly those in vulnerable circumstances due to albinism, many of whom have dropped out of school, suffer from isolation, abandonment, economic distress and are susceptible to rape due to the myth that sex with a female with albinism will cure AIDS.
16. *Further Research:* More study is required to gather relevant data and statistics on the human rights violations against people with albinism; children in particular.