**ACTION ON ALBINISM IN AFRICA**

**Consultative Working Group Meeting**

**Maazoni Lodge, Kenya**

**14th – 15th, November 2016**

**Introduction**

The meeting was hosted in collaboration between Open Society East Africa and Open Society Southern Africa and UN Independent Expert of Rights of Persons with Albinism.

The meeting is to refine measures discussed in Tanzania in June 2016 during the first action plan developed to deal with attacks, violence and discrimination inflicted upon persons with albinism. People with albinism are deserving of dignity as any other human being. They have the right to live free from discrimination, deprivation and fear.

The Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) has rallied behind efforts towards developing and implementing measures that can support venture protection and accountability and anti- discrimination.

Opportunities to strengthen realization of rights to persons with albinism include the increasing attention on issues and challenges of person with albinism in universal global view and treaty bodies’ recommendations which provide essential guidance to national effort and are key to throw light on specific vulnerability of women and children with albinism, and the need for better documentation and data collection; a fundamental guide that has to be addressed and ultimate key to hold duty bearers to account.

**Background and Context**

Issues affecting the rights of persons with albinism have significantly been featured in the UN recommendations that enjoy the government of Kenya support.

There are a range of treaty bodies that deal with this issue and recommendations. They attest to the fact that, discrimination and attacks against persons with albinism cut across a wide range of human rights obligations. The treaty bodies and the UN mechanism offer a number of measures that have been put on the radar systems of government.

It is important to build on these recommendations in refining and analysing the catalogue of measures.

* The Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2015 asked Kenya to investigate and create shelters and services redouble efforts to create awareness by ensuring involvement of organizations working with persons with albinism in its campaign efforts in civil and political rights where Kenya is preparing a report to be tabled next year. This also raises issues on persons with albinism to eradicate trafficking and ensure persecution of affected perpetrators and adequate compensation once sanctions are applied.
* Convention Against Torture talks about desegregated data on the number of complains, investigation and persecution and sentences on acts of child trafficking and issues of handling rehabilitations.
* Convention of Rights of the Child stated specific measures, which are awareness raising on cases involving children so no perpetrators can escape with impunity and provide victims with rehabilitation and redress.
* Sustainable Development Goals**:** which promises not to leave anyone behind. We have to collectively ensure efforts and plans to implement SDG’s integrate with the rights of persons with albinism on issues of visual impairment to schools, access to health care, trafficking of body parts. These are advocacy opportunities and programmatic opportunities.
* Critical role of Civil Society: an empowered civil society that can reach out to every single woman man and child in remote rural and urban areas. We need civil society to educate the public, challenge traditional and cultural misconception about albinism. We need civil society to fight witchcraft beliefs and practices and to support judicial response to end impunity and ensure persecution.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Malawi -** has experienced gross human rights violations where persons with albinism have been abducted, killed and exhumed. From 2014 to date, about 107 cases were reported of murder, missing persons and abductions. The victims are mostly women and children. The government of Malawi instituted a taskforce given the mandate to strategize and coordinate response action including a National technical committee on abuse of persons with albinism, which highlights six intervention areas:

1. Education, awareness and training
* Sensitization to address myths and misconception and foster behaviour change towards persons with albinism.
* Engagement with the media, policy makers and religious leaders
* Training on media houses on how to report on issues of persons with albinism.
1. Internal Security
* Mobilization of local leaders to take responsibilities protecting people with albinism
* Strengthening of community Policy structures
* Protecting members with albinism
1. Investigative Research and continued human right monitoring and reporting
* Investigative Research and continued human right monitoring and report
* Investigation has to be well spaced to research to identify what’s causing the attacks.
* Lack of data since they were depending on estimation so need to carry out national survey.
1. Administration of justice and victim assistance
* Support the trial prosecution team
* Appealing short sentences handed to perpetrators.
1. Legislation
* Review laws in existence to address gaps in the issue
* Put in place systems to support families and victims
1. Empowerment of Persons with albinism in Malawi
* Provision of suns cream lotion and protective clothing
* Commemoration of international albinism day
* Build capacity of association of person with albinism

**Mozambique -** a national plan was approved in November 2015 following incidents between 2012-2015 of attacks and killings. The plan included both short term and long-term action shows the government commitment whose main objective is to protect person with disabilities.

The national plan which comes with a budget approved by the government for five years focuses more on the preventative measures i.e. creating of awareness, pamphlets, visiting and providing legal assistance to persons with albinism. The plan seeks to adopt laws to protect persons with albinism, for example the traditional healers act and also the plan can be updated anytime even before the expiry of the period stated.

**Kenya** – has been able to create awareness through the media and public rallies against ritual killings. Political goodwill from the government has also enabled our accountability. We work through targeted workshops and support programs with various partners in different sectors that cater to education, health, and employment needs of persons with albinism in Kenya. We have also secured the allocation of a specific budget for people with albinism from 2010. We have also been able to secure $1M through a petition in parliament education assessment resource centers. We are going to create a directorate of special needs education for the first time in the Ministry of Education because we have had challenges of our issues not being taken seriously.

**Nigeria -** employed four strategies in policy advocacy as it relates to advising. They identified international development partners that share common interests. Theyfollowed the lobbying process, worked with those in government to reach the president. They also used media advocacy and activism through petition writing and engaging the government. Free skin cancer treatment was provided to 2,475 persons with albinism. 389 persons with albinism received scholarship grants (including one opportunity abroad). An curriculum was developed for students with albinism, and additional time was granted to complete examinations.

**GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Feedback from sessions 1 - 4**

The purpose of sessions 1 - 4 was to identify the priority areas under the Prevention and Protection, Discrimination and Accountability measures, including key actors and the timeframe in which the areas were to be implemented. The tables below are the summary of areas as identified by groups 1, 2 and 3.

**1 - Preventive Measures**

**Group 1:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority Area** | **Key Actors** | **Time frame** |
| 1. **Strengthen awareness raising campaigns**
 |
| * Demystifying albinism seen as part and parcel of strengthening awareness campaigns
* Data collection seen as an activity under awareness raising campaigns as data is required to show the extent of the concern and reasons why awareness is required
* Promoting community involvement and the creative use of the media also incorporated into this priority
 | * Government
* NGOs
* Communities of persons with Albinism
* NGOs
* Families of persons with albinism
* Faith based institutions
* Schools
* Hospitals/health care providers
* Private sector
* Public and private media
 | * Immediate/ Short term and on-going implementation
* Long term
 |
| 1. **Address the root causes of attacks**
 |
| * Demystifying albinism in order to weaken and eventually eliminate the demand for body parts
* Ensuring convictions and adequate sentencing of those demanding body parts (in addition to those supplying the parts) as a deterrent to further attacks.
* Advocacy, including through research
* Data collection, demystifying albinism and promoting community involvement and creative use of media seen as activities aimed at addressing the root causes
 | * INGOs
* IGOs
* Justice and security sector
 | * Medium term
 |
| 1. **Needs assessment and addressing the needs of persons with albinism**
 |
| * Data collection, Community involvement are activities for needs assessment and addressing needs of persons with albinism
 | * Government
* CBOs, families, schools, health care providers
* Private sector
* INGOs and IGOs
 | * Short term for assessment
* Medium to long term
 |

**Group 2: Preventive Measures**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority area** | **Key Actors**  | **Time frame** |
| 1. **Demystify albinism**
 |
| * To streamline and simplify, preventative measures including demystifying, strengthening awareness and promoting community involvement
 | * Civil society
* Local and International Governments advocates
* Local communities and influencers.
 | * Immediate/short – medium term
 |
| 1. **Address the root causes of attacks**
 |
| * Including through data collection to evaluate and address the needs of persons with albinism.
 | * Research institutes,
* Universities, Think tanks, Government,
* AIMS, TASAF,
* Civil society
* Health professionals
 | * Medium / long term
 |

**Group 3: Preventive Measures**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Priority Area | Key Actor | Time frame |
| 1. **Data collection**
 | * CSOs,
* MDAs responsible for persons with albinism,
* MDAs responsible for statistics
 | * Short term
 |
| 1. **Needs assessment and addressing the needs of persons with albinism**
 | * CSOs,
* MDAs responsible for persons with albinism,
* MDAs responsible for education, finances and protection of citizens
 | * Short term
 |
| 1. **Awareness raising campaigns**
 | * CSOs,
* MDAs responsible for persons with albinism,
* MDAs responsible for information and communication
 | * Medium term
 |
| 1. **Demystifying albinism**
 | * CSOs,
* MDAs responsible for persons with albinism,
* MDAs responsible for health, education, information and communication
 | * Medium term
 |
| 1. **Community participation and creative media**
 | * CSOs,
* MDAs responsible for persons with albinism,
* MDAs responsible for health, education, information and communication
 | * Medium term
 |
| 1. **Address root causes of attacks against persons with albinism**
 | * CSOs,
* MDAs responsible for persons with albinism,
* MDAs responsible for information and communication)
 | * Medium term
 |

**2 - Protection Measures**

**Group 1:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority Area** | **Key Actor** | **Time frame** |
| 1. **Ensuring accessibility to effective police services nationally and across borders, including through visible policing, hotline, cross border cooperation, relevant training of police and other security agents**
 |
| * Accessibility of police services through visible policing, easy mechanism to report case, sharing of best practices, a Hotline toll free, training of police, etc.
* Facilitate cross border cooperation through systematic check of persons travelling with persons with albinism, training for border patrol, cross border cooperation agreements, close work with Interpol, mutual legal assistance, strategies of integrated border management
* Train police, and border guards and strengthen investigation to gather proof, including regarding organised crime
* Establish a database to understand with certainty where the body parts are found and study the routes and tendencies in body parts trafficking, as well as networks involved.
* Law enforcement agencies as well as community leaders, as well as migration officers should be trained and empowered to report any incident, threat or attack against persons with albinism.
* Empower persons with albinism to prevent and address incidents of violence
 | * Ministries,
* Departments and Agencies (MDA) responsible for policing, security, cross border services and international cooperation in criminal aspects; Interpol
 | Short to medium term  |
| 1. **Conduct a security needs assessment and implement the security measures, with specific consideration for women and children**
 |
| * Conduct safety and security assessments of the child taking into account home security, community support, and family support structure and on that basis take measures to ensure secure accommodations for PWA and their families, and in extreme cases consider moving child or family with their consent to a safer area within their community
* Establish community task forces and watch committees at community level to ensure the protection of persons with albinism
* Concrete measures also include: build strong graves, and ensure that houses of PWA are equipped with doors, locks, iron bars on windows, and broadcast knowledge on albinism through an accessible mobile phone hotline, to appoint early intervention focal point at clinics, hospitals, midwives, community nurses and traditional leaders or to carryout periodic visits to assess the situation child and their family (social services)
* Ensure safety of schools (fences, train the teachers, peer support, etc.
* Measures under iii for protecting women and children
* Develop programs consisting of ring of protection consisting of trusted relatives and friends who can walk a persons with albinism when there is a risk, who can take care of the crops/business of a persons with albinism if an urgent measure is necessary at a time where the person with albinism cannot leave his house safely, etc Similarly, permit employees to have schedules that avoid their walking to work in the dark
* Provide mobile phones to people with albinism and their families containing contacts for police among others and equip persons with albinism, including children with albinism with toolkits of torches and whistles to ensure their safety

  | * MDA for social welfare, disability
 | * Short/ Immediate term
 |
| 1. **Creating networks for information gathering, advocacy and promotion of rights at local, provincial and national level**
 |
| * Strengthen women’s groups in the community to share concerns and support each other and train women in general on albinism (as potential mothers of children with albinism)
* Empowerment of health care workers and midwives to pass the right messages to the family from the birth of a child with albinism onwards to both the father and mother of the child with albinism, including relevant information on health, information and other protection information
* Involve traditional leaders to support the families of persons with albinism (ensure that education and information is provided) Involve traditional leaders to support the families of persons with albinism (ensure that education and information is provided)
 | * MDA for social welfare, information, rural development,
* National Human Rights organizations,
* NGO boards,
* NHRIs
* Local government
 | * Short term and on-going
 |
| 1. **National, regional and international legislative review to ensure body parts are included in legislation against trafficking**
 |
| * Identify national, regional and international legislation applicable, and review existing legislations
* Develop regional instruments targeting specifically these practices
 | * Parliaments
* Ministry of justice,
* Law reform commission,
* NHRIs
 | * Medium term
 |
| 1. **Empowerment of health care workers and midwives government**
 |
|  | * MDA health
* Community development,
* Local government
 | * Short – medium term
 |
| 1. **Include persons with albinism in social protection, legal aid, economic empowerment and child welfare programmes to alleviate poverty and ensure care and protection of children with albinism**
 |
| * Legal/social aid, economic empowerment programmes for persons with albinism and family members, accessible health care, and strengthening the social workers involvement
* For children with albinism rejected by their families, consider adoption, foster care or guardians (rejection may include neglect and ill-treatment of children with albinism by their parents which will require sensitisation of parents or taking child away from parents to a safer place if this is in the best interest of the child)
 | * MDA finance, welfare, local government
 | * Medium to long term
 |
| 1. **Psychosocial support for victims of attacks and their families**
 |
| * Gap under empowerment people with albinism to prevent and address incidents of violence
 | * MDA health,
* Social welfare, education,
* Human rights,
* Police,
* Local government
 | * Immediate/ short term
 |

**Group 2: Protection Measures**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority Area** | **Key Actors** | **Time frame** |
| 1. **Promoting the rights to life, to security of person and not to be subject to torture or ill-treatment**
 |
| * Establishing how the measure is implemented, either through the creation of new mechanisms or the utilisation of existing ones: there should be country-specific measures because contexts vary
* Alignment between stakeholders: DPP uses police to collect data; CSOs go to communities as friends, exposed to intelligence that police wouldn’t necessarily obtain; implementers should therefore be CSOs in partnership with public prosecutors
* DPP and CSOs define incidents differ – DPP, an incident that has been reported to the police; but sometimes that threshold of police contact isn’t reached and so something the CSOs recognise as an incident wouldn’t qualify as that for the DPP – so we need harmony and alignment between actors to reach agreed standards and definitions to create statistical continuity
 | * CSOs
* Public prosecutors
* Community task forces and watch committees
* Social welfare dept.
* Government
* Police;
* Health professionals (midwives at birth; nurses in infancy; care providers throughout life)
* Government
* Security sector;
* Health and Education sectors
* Ministry of Foreign Affairs
* Private health and education providers
* Ministries responsible for Home / Internal Affairs
* Customs
* Department of Housing in collaboration with international actors and development partners.
 | * Immediate and continuing
 |
| 1. **Family**
 |
|  | * Ministries responsible for Health, Education, Social Development, Social Security and Justice
* Local government authorities
 | * Immediate and continuing
 |
| 1. **Women and Children**
 |
| * Engaging men (with and without albinism) to protect women and children
 | * Ministries responsible for Social Welfare
* Community Development,
* Schools,
* NGOs,
* CSOs,
* Community alert systems
 | * Immediate and continuing
 |
| 1. **Empower persons with albinism**
 |
| * Modern security protection systems, some discussion of the difficulty of using mobile phones with low vision under duress; spoke about making this easier by having some sort of emergency response mechanisms on mobile phones, a system that has been trialled in Tanzania, whereby you press 1 on a phone and it automatically sends your GPS location to 7 people, including family and local government and law enforcement; possibility of GPS-enabled tracking bracelets for children; complications attached to this, big fish hacking into central server
 | * Ministries Responsible for Justice, Constitution, Information and Media; National Human Rights Institutes
* Distribution of mobile phones by above govt. depts. and partners
 | * Immediate and continuing
 |
| 1. **End trafficking**
 |
| * Cross-border cooperation and close work with Interpol
 | * Ministry Responsible for international Affairs, Customs, if in regional mechanisms or bodies there are a department responsible for cross-border relations then those should be engaged
 | * Immediate
 |
| 1. **Monitoring and reporting**
 |
|  | * Community leaders
* Local government leaders
* Law enforcement agencies
 | * Immediate and continuing
 |
| 1. **Protective Measures around Skin Cancer**
 |
| This cuts through Prevention, Protection, Discrimination and Accountability; the point of health – in Vision but even more profoundly in Skin Cancer – should be central – good health is the cornerstone of economic empowerment, it’s the foundation of educational participation, everything else is predicated on health |

**Group 3: Protection Measures**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Priority Area | Key Actor | Time frame |
| 1. **Promoting the rights to life, to security of person and not to be subject to torture or ill-treatment**
 |
| * Actualisation and accessibility of all attack reports
 | * Ministry of communication and information
 | * Short term
 |
| * Conduct safety and security assessments of the child
 | * MDAs responsible for social affairs
 | * Short term
 |
| * Establish community task forces and watch committees
 | * Ministry of territorial administration i.e. MDAs responsible for safety and security/ police)
 | * Short term
 |
| * Securing schools
 | * MDAs responsible for education
 | * Medium term
 |
| * Accessible and visible policing
 | * MDAs responsible for security ; communication and information
 | * Medium term
 |
| * Cross-border cooperation
 | * MDAs responsible for foreign affairs and justice
 | * Medium term
 |
| * Integration of persons with albinism into social services action plans
 | * MDAs responsible for social affairs, health and labour
 | * Medium term
 |
| 1. **Adopt specific measures to end trafficking in body parts**
 |
| * Identify national, regional and international legislation applicable, and review existing legislations to ensure that body parts trafficking is directly covered
 | * MDAs responsible for social affairs and parliament
 | * Medium term
 |
| * Train police, and border guards and strengthen investigation to gather proof, including regarding organised crime
 | * MDAs responsible for security and justice
 | * Medium term
 |
| * Establishment of regional instruments
 | * Pan African Albinism Alliance and the African Union
 | * Medium term
 |
| * Establishment of a database
 | * MDAs responsible for security
 | * Medium term
 |
| 1. **Empower people with albinism to prevent and address incidents of violence**
 |
| * Better information on existing frameworks and legislation
 | * CSOs, INGOs, MDAs responsible for social affairs
 | * Short term
 |
| * Awareness and involvement of persons with albinism of the different initiatives regarding albinism
 | * CSOs, INGOs, MDAs responsible for social affairs
 | * Short term
 |
| * Develop programs consisting of ring of protection
 | * MDAs reponsible for planning, CSOs, INGOs
 | * Short term
 |
| * Provide mobile phones to people with albinism
 | * CSOs, INGOs, MDAs responsible for social affairs and security
 | * Short term
 |
| 1. **Increase monitoring and reporting of attacks against persons with albinism**
 |
| * Training of law enforcement agencies as well as community leaders, as well as migration officers
 | * MDAs responsible for social affairs and security
 | * Short term
 |
| * Increase community awareness on legal processes
 | * CSOs, INGOs, MDAs responsible for social affairs and justice
 | * Short term
 |
| * Considering the use of plea bargaining
 | * MDAs responsible for social affairs and security
 | * Short term
 |
| Continuously monitor and evaluate the impact of the implementation (or lack thereof) of the specific measures |
| 1. **Support the protective role of the family**
 |
| * Strengthening the capacities of health care workers and midwives to communicate appropriate messages to the family from the birth of an albino child to both the father and mother of the child, including relevant data on Health, access to information and other information related to the protection of
 |
| * Legal / social assistance, economic development programs for persons subject to albinism and their family members, accessible health care, and capacity building for the involvement of social workers
 |
| * Involvement of traditional leaders in supporting the families of people subject to albinism (paying special attention to training and information)
 |
| * Inclusive education for people subject to albinism throughout the country (so that albino children can stay with their families)
 |
| * For children with albinism rejected by their families, consider adoption, a host family or guardians
 |
| 1. **Adopt specific measures aimed at protecting women and children**
 |
| * Approval-based security strategy, ensuring that albinos are welcomed into their communities, well integrated and understood, and that the community trusts them and understands the risk to them and Assessment of risks at local level
 |
| * Particular attention should be given to ensuring that peer support is organized, for example to ensure that children with albinism do not travel alone if the risk is high, in order to avoid isolated roads, to establish a "companion system" School, to inform people about their whereabouts and so on. Since the safety of children with albinism can not be assured by their parents at all times, such peer support must be planned and coordinated
 |
| * Community vigilance with clear warning systems, including whistles for albinos, mobile phones and telephone lines (with toll-free numbers), given that sometimes the perpetrators are parents or members of local communities, In close collaboration with the Community Police
 |
| * Strengthening of women's groups in the community to exchange their concerns and support each other, and training women in general on albinism (as potential mothers of children subject to albinism)
 |

**3 - Accountability Measures**

**Group 1:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority Area** | **Key Actor** | **Timeframe** |
| 1. **Need for a comprehensive strategy to guarantee the protection of persons with albinism**
 |
| * Adopt a multi-sectorial approach to existing structures and mechanisms to ensure systematic prosecutions
* Create representation of persons with albinism in the regional body.
 | * DPP, Ministries of Justice, Internal affairs, Education, Health,
* CSO’s
* Human Rights Monitoring Bodies.
 | * Medium to long-term
 |
| 1. **Take the necessary legislative measures to criminalize harmful practices**
 |
| * Review of criminal legislation to define and properly address crimes and harmful practices against persons with albinism
* Amendment of national witchcraft laws and traditional healers legislation to regulate their profession and adoption of a regional witchcraft and traditional healers treaty or protocol to ensure oversight by the African Union.
* African countries to coordinate and promote mechanisms and guidelines at regional level.
 | African Union, ECOWAS, EA, yIGGAD, and the state i.e. Ministries of Internal Affairs, Safety, Security and Justice | Medium to long term. |
| 1. **Adopt measures to fight impunity for attacks against persons with albinism**
 |
| * Build capacity of human rights organizations and organizations of persons with albinism at local level to monitor violations.
 | * CSO’s,
* NGO’s
* International NGO’s
* National human rights institutions
* Ministry of Justice.
 | * Short term
 |
| * Increase the capacity of law enforcement and prosecution providing them with the right kind of tools to complete in depth investigations
 | * Ministry of Internal Affairs,

Justice, Safety and Security, Prosecution,* The community itself
* Anti-corruption units,
* Academics .
 | * Short to medium term
 |
| * Ensure that measures are taken at regional level to facilitate extradition and law enforcement cooperation initiatives ratify extradition protocols and mutual legal assistance agreements
 | * Ministry of Internal Affairs,

Justice, Safety and Security, Prosecution,* The community itself
* Anti-corruption units,
* Academics
 | * Long term
* Data should be immediate to continuous
 |
| 1. **Strengthening of law enforcement and response to crime affecting persons with albinism**
 |
| * Provide community legal education to explain evidence gathering processes
* Issue sentencing guideline to the Judiciary
* Establish capacity at the police and department of public prosecution
 | * Ministry of Internal Affairs,

Justice, Safety and Security, Prosecution,* The community itself
* Anti-corruption units,

Academics | * Long term
 |
| 1. **Ensuring redress and reintegration of victims**
 |
| * Putting in place exit strategies in centres for victims
* Avail psychosocial support to persons with albinism
* Cover all cost of medical treatment including surgeries, prosthetics and rehabilitation and hospices, including suns cream and skin cancer
 | * Ministry of health,
* Community development,
* Gender and development and human rights institutions
 | * Immediate to long term
 |

**Group 2: Accountability Measures**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority Area** | **Key Actor** | **Timeframe** |
| * There is a need for a comprehensive strategy to guarantee the protection of persons with albinism and address discrimination
* Adopt measures to fight impunity for attacks against persons with albinism, including investigation and prosecution and strengthen law enforcement response to crimes affecting persons with albinism
* Ensure redress and the reintegration of victims
* Take the necessary legislative measures to criminalize harmful practices
 | * Government agencies,
* Organisations for persons with albinism,
* Ministries and department in charge of Judiciary, DPP and Ministry in charge of Judiciary in different countries.
 | * Short and medium term
 |
| * Increase the capacity of law enforcers, police and department of prosecution.
* Ensure redress and reintegration.
 | * Government agencies in charge of social affairs, health and justice.
* Police department
 | * Short term and Medium term
 |
| * Taking necessary legislative measures to criminalize harmful practices.
 | * Government,
* Parliament,
* Law reforms organs,
* Ministry of interior,
* National Human Rights Commission and
* Department dealing with law reforms
 | * Medium term.
 |
| * Emphasis should be given to education and discrimination. The final document should focus on education.
 |

 **Group 3: Accountability Measures**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Priority Area | Key Actors | Timeline |
| 1. **Development of necessary legislative provisions to establish harmful practices as criminal offenses**
 |
| * Possibility of reviewing criminal legislation to adequately define and deal with these types of crimes and harmful practices. Possible extension of relevant provisions on assassination, kidnapping and other relevant crimes with an inclusion of aggravating factors in the provision
 | * Ministry of Social Affairs and
* Ministry of Justice
 | * Short term
 |
| * Modification of witchcraft laws and legislation governing the profession and ensuring control of traditional healers
 | * Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Justice
 | * Medium term
 |
| * African countries are required to coordinate and promote mechanisms and guidelines at the regional level
 | * Ministry in charge of social affairs;
* Ministry in charge of foreign affairs;
* Ministry of Justice ; Ministry of Security
 | * Short term
 |
| 1. **Adopt measures to combat impunity for attacks against persons with albinism, including investigations and prosecutions**
 |
| * Strengthening the capacity of human rights organizations and organizations of persons with albinism at the local level to monitor violations
 | * Ministry of Social Affairs;
* Ministry of Finance; OSC;
 | * Short term
 |
| * Capacity building in law enforcement and prosecution through the provision of adequate tools / equipment to complete an in-depth investigation (including DNA testing, etc.) To establish the entire chain that led to the attack, including the complainants. Training of law enforcement forces on the effective use of legislation, capacity-building of Community policing initiatives, with particular emphasis on the launch of investigations for alleged corruption cases
 | * Ministry of Justice health justice;
 | * Short term
 |
| * Ensure that measures are taken at the regional level to facilitate cooperation, extradition and policing initiatives. Ratify protocols and agreements on extradition and mutual legal assistance
 | * Ministry of Justice; foreign Affairs ;
 | * Medium term
 |
| * Possibility of appointment of a special prosecutor in charge of attacks against persons subject to albinism and the implementation of witness protection programs in the event of attacks
 | * OSC Justice; Social Affairs
 | * Medium term
 |
| * Complete and accurate records of cases of attacks on persons subject to albinism and related offenses
 | * OSC; Security
 | * Short term
 |
| 1. **It is necessary to set up a comprehensive strategy to guarantee the protection of persons with albinism and to combat discrimination against persons with albinism**
 |
| * Emergency resolution of problems related to attacks and acts of violence against persons subject to albinism
 | * Justice ; OSC ;
 | * Short term
 |
| * Adoption of a multi-sectoral approach involving all relevant sectors, including health, education, disability, justice, social affairs, the police, the DPP, and groups, including religious leaders, traditional authorities, Traditional healers, service delivery agencies to people prone to albinism
 | * State; OSC
 | * Medium term
 |
| * Use of local, community, regional and national structures and arrangements in the implementation of specific measures to combat these attacks and the provision of health care services and the establishment of vigilance / Of liaison officers in all communities
 | * Ministry of Health; Internal security; OSC
 | * Medium Term
 |
| * Particular attention is paid to the systematic initiation of legal proceedings for all cases of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism
 | * Ministry of Justice ; OSC
 | * Medium Term
 |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Strengthening the response of law enforcement forces to offenses against persons with albinism**
 |
| * Community legal education to explain the process of gathering evidence, as well as the different stages of a trial
 | * Justice ; OSC
 | * Short Term
 |
| * Guidelines for Judicial Convictions to clarify the context and recommend factors to be taken into account
 | * Justice ; OSC
 | * Medium Term
 |
| * Capacity building for police and prosecutors to work on cases of persons subject to albinism (e.g. special cells for vulnerable groups and genres)
 | * Justice; security
 | * Medium Term
 |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Compensation for injury to victims and their reintegration**
 |
| * Establishment of exit strategies from the victim's reception centers, with particular attention to the fact that albinos are only accommodated in an emergency, and for a maximum of 6 months, making contact with families through programs of family councils and family reunification to host their members in centers (involvement of organizations such as the Red Cross in these programs), and organization of follow-up visits for families and Children have been reunited with their families
 | * Ministry of Social Affairs ; OSC;
 | * Medium Term
 |
| * Psychological support to albinos at their request (victims of attacks or others), in search of reparation, but also to strengthen their self-esteem
 | * Ministry of Social Affairs ; OSC
 | * Short Term
 |
| * Full coverage of the costs of medical treatment, including surgery both immediately after the attack and over time, as well as the cost of operating and prosthetics.
 | * Ministry of Social Affairs ; Health; International NGOs;
 | * Medium Term
 |
| * Efforts should be made to ensure that the victim has access to legal support for adequate representation in the Court, so that the views and concerns of victims are presented at the appropriate stages of criminal proceedings and appropriate procedures for access to compensation and reparations for victims.
* Establishment of a Victims Support Fund to cover the possible costs of medical and psychological assistance and the relocation of the victim if necessary and efforts to access economic tools and programs to rehabilitate persons with albinism, especially after the attacks
 | * Ministry of Justice; Social Affairs
 | * Medium Term
 |

**4 – Discrimination Measures**

**Group 1: Discrimination Measures**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority Area** | **Key Actors** | **Timeframe** |
| 1. **Address all forms of discrimination and stigma in regard to persons with albinism in the society.**
 |
| * Awareness and training on all levels on the rights and needs of persons with albinism including in the primary school curriculum and the health care curriculum, in all relevant levels.
* Ensure the full inclusion of issues of persons with albinism in disability policies
 | * CSO’s,
* NHRIs,
* Ministry responsible for Education, Health, Social welfare, local government authorities and the parliament
 | * Immediate to short-term
 |
| * Adapt the educational system to be fully inclusive, develop scholarship programs, ensure free and accessible health and social care including ophthalmology and dermatologic services
 | * Long term
 |
| 1. **Address intersecting forms of discrimination faced by women and children with albinism.**
 |
| * To increase acceptance in the community and family. Fight abandonment, self-discrimination
* Ensure participation of women with albinism in all processes, empower women and mothers of children with albinism to ensure independent living, and establish support groups including maintenance system for mothers and children with albinism by the father.
* Importance of training women and spouses on albinism through health workers and midwives.
* Demystification beliefs centred around women with albinism because of those beliefs that lead to break ups and abandonment.
 |  |  |
| 1. **Include the situation of persons with albinism into human rights national action plans to combat discrimination**
 |
| * Engage National Human Rights Institutions and Civil Society Organizations to address explicitly and directly issues of persons with albinism and to monitor specific actions of the government through a specific focal point persons with albinism
* Document best practices to ensure the full inclusion of persons with albinism in various countries.
 | * National human rights institutions, civil society organizations and the parliament.
 | * Medium to long term
 |

**Group 2: Discrimination Measures**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority Areas** | **Key Actors** | **Timeframe** |
| 1. **To have an inclusive society fighting all forms of stigma to persons with albinism so that they have adequate health care, social services, employment and education and the education should be inclusive education.**
 |
| * Awareness and training at all levels on the rights of persons with albinism in the education and health systems as well as traditional healers and community leaders
* Ensure access to social services by persons with albinism, recognizing the link to poverty, discrimination and vulnerability to attacks and access to employment, mentorship and empowerment including through affirmative action measures in public sectors.
* Ensure full inclusion of persons with albinism in persons with disabilities policy and conduct a needs assessment of albinism as a lesser known disability and integrate findings in disabilities initiative findings.
* Adopt and implement national legislation and national plan of action to protect persons with albinism from discrimination.
 | * Ministry of information, health, education, social welfare and gender.
 | * Short to medium.
 |
| 1. **Addressing intersecting forms of discrimination faced by women and children with albinism**
 |
| * Particularly for women with albinism to increase acceptance in the community and family and fight against self-discrimination, family discrimination, work discrimination, in marriage, schools, community
 | * Albinism groups, social welfare, government, ministry of health and development partners.
 | * Short and medium term.
 |
| * Ensure the participation of women with albinism in all processes. Empower women with albinism and mothers of children with albinism and create support group of women with albinism.
 | * National human rights institutions,
* Human rights groups, parliament development partners.
* On sharing the best practices we suggested the albinism organizations in the region, government ministries, regional and international groups
 | * Short to Immediate and on-going
 |
| * Training women on livelihood, business, self-care albinism issues to protect future children with albinism
 |
| * Document best practice to ensure full integration of people with albinism in various countries.
 |

**Group 3 – Discrimination Measures**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Priority issues | Key Actors  | Timeline |
| 1. **Integration of the condition of albinos into national action plans on human rights or action plans to combat discrimination.**
 |
| Integration of albinism into all national human rights action plans (revision of national action plans if necessary) and adoption of a rights-based approach | CSOs (advocacy); Ministry of Social Affairs; Health; Planning; Ministry for Human Rights | Short term |
| Mobilization of national human rights institutions in a genuine and complaisant struggle to deal with the problems of persons subject to albinism and to monitor the specific actions of the government by an agent Special Liaison for persons subject to albinism within the NHRI | OSC; Ministry of Human Rights; UN agencies; | Short term |
| Document best practices to ensure the full integration of people subject to albinism in various countries | OSC; social Affairs ; Ministry of Human Rights; UN agencies | Short term |
| 1. **Fight against all forms of discrimination and social stigma affecting persons subject to albinism, in particular by ensuring that they have adequate access to health care, social services, employment and Education (by encouraging inclusive education)**
 |
| Sensitization and training at all levels on the rights of albinos, in particular in the curricula of primary schools and vocational schools of health | OSC; Ministry of Education; social Affairs ; human rights | Short term |
| Ensure the access of albinos (PWA) to social services (taking into account the link between poverty, discrimination and vulnerability to attacks) and access to employment, in particular through positive discrimination measures Such as quotas in the public sector, etc.) | Social Affairs ; job ; private sector ; public function) | Medium Term |
| Adaptation of the education system to be fully inclusive, development of scholarship programs, provision of free access to health care and social services (including adequate ophthalmology and dermatology services) | Ministry of Education ; health | Medium term |
| 1. **Fight against the cross-cutting forms of discrimination faced by women and children with albinism**
 |
| To sensitize women and children with albinism to improve their inclusion in the community and within the family and to combat self-discrimination, discrimination within the family, discrimination in marriage, At school, in the workplace, in the community, | OSC; Medias; Ministry for Women and Children; | Short term |
| Ensure the participation of women with albinism in all processes, self-determination of women and mothers of children with albinism to ensure independent living, and create support groups for women and children with albinism | OSC; Ministry for Women and Children | Short term |
| Training of women with albinism for the protection of children with albinism | OSC; Ministry for Women and Children | Short term |

**CONCLUSION**

The two day meeting was a consultative process to create an action plan that would be presented to the African Union Committee in 2017 as a complimentary document to the African Protocol on Disability.

In this regard, there are a number of opportunities that organizations for/of persons with albinism can utilize for advocacy including:

* Sustainable Development Goals
* Intersectionality as a cross cutting theme affecting persons with albinism, their gender, and other identities.
* International Convention on Racial Discrimination Stigma based on colour
* Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
* International Bill of Rights – Convention on the Economic Social Cultural Rights

The Convention on the Rights for Persons with Disabilities is a platform for us to advance our cause, however, the attacks and killings of persons with albinism is an urgent human rights issue that requires urgent action.

It is for this reason that we are advocating for a regional action plan – which requires advocacy for policy change and strategy implementation at national levels.