



**STATEMENT  
UPR PRE-SESSION ON SOUTH AFRICA**

**GENEVA, 30 AUGUST 2022**

**DELIVERED BY: NATIONAL ALBINISM TASK  
FORCE**

## OUTLINE

- National Albinism Task Force
- Thematic Area
- Update on recommendations from previous reviews
- Challenges and Impact
- Recommendations

# NATIONAL ALBINISM TASK FORCE

- Civil Society Organisation.
- Established in 2019, during the visit of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism (PWA).
- Represent PWA in all nine (9) Provinces in South Africa.
- SA population is estimated to be 60,6 million (excluding 2022 Census data).
- The 2011 Census revealed that the national disability prevalence rate was 7,5%.
- The June 2021 Independent Expert Report indicates a possible prevalence of PWA of 1 in 1,000 people.

## THEMATIC AREA

- Rights of persons with albinism.

## UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REVIEWS

- In reference to UPR recommendations 139.91, 139.92, 139.93, 139.94, 139.95, 139.96:
- South Africa supported and returned with six (6) recommendations made by Honduras, Israel, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Mauritania and Congo related to the rights of persons with albinism.
- During the 43rd 2020 Human Rights Council session, Ms Ikponwosa Ero, (UN Independent Expert ) tabled a report on the *Enjoyment of Human Rights by Persons with Albinism in SA*, which further strengthened these recommendations.
- The recommendations included:
  - ❖ education campaigns on albinism;
  - ❖ Protection of persons with albinism and
  - ❖ Investigation and prosecution of reported incidents of abductions and killings of persons with albinism:
- It is confirmed that Government partially implements these recommendations.

## PROGRESS TO DATE

- *Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill.* Yet to be approved as law, **this Bill explicitly includes albinism as an offence characteristic constituting a hate crime.**
- *Draft Disability Bill.* Yet to be tabled before Parliament and the National Council of Provinces, this Bill will be enacted as the Disability Act.
- *Independent Expert's report on the enjoyment of human rights of PWA of 2020.* **This report was submitted to the government for adoption and implementation.**
- *2022 SA Census.* **This Census missed the opportunity to collect crucial data on the number of PWA in South Africa to enable the planning and allocation of necessary resources.**
- *African Union Plan of Action to end attacks and human rights violations targeting PWA in Africa (2021-2031)* has not been adopted. **The adoption of this plan is crucial among many to combat cross-border human and body parts trafficking and facilitate repatriation.**
- The *2020 NATF National Action Plan on Albinism for South Africa* has been submitted to the government for adoption.

## CHALLENGES

- **PROTECTION OF PWA**
- Education and awareness campaigns are initiated and driven by organisations of PWA. Because of limited resources, these initiatives are conducted only on important calendar days, such as International Albinism Awareness Day in June and Albinism Month in September.
- Delays in putting necessary policies and measures in place hinder accessing of services and enjoyment of human rights by PWA.

## IMPACT

- Misconceptions, stigmatisation and discrimination limit PWA enjoyment of rights including employment opportunities and economic participation.
- Insufficient education and awareness programmes on albinism exacerbate the discrimination and undermining of PWA in society and expose PWA to the myths and perceptions, leading to harmful practices and killings, especially in rural areas.

## CHALLENGES

### **INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF REPORTED INCIDENTS OF ABDUCTIONS AND KILLINGS OF PWA**

The system for capturing crime statistics related to albinism and for identifying how many abductions and killings have occurred is still being developed. The NATF cannot therefore confirm how many cases of albinism have been investigated and prosecuted.

## IMPACT

- PWA live in fear. Some parents have stopped their children from attending school to protect them.
- Lack of disaggregated data for PWA makes it challenging to identify high-risk areas where necessary services and resources should be directed.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- The 2017 recommendations together with the 2020 Independent Expert Report should be reformulated into an operational plan that can be implemented by Government.
- Allocate the budget to support the implementation of the South African National Action Plan on Albinism.
- Adopt, ratify and approve ALL outstanding laws, protocols and plans impacting the human rights of persons with albinism.



## SOURCES

Report of the Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of Human Rights by People with Albinism

African Union Plan of Action [on Albinism] (2021-2031)

Statistics SA, Mid-year Population Estimates Report



**CONTACT DETAILS: NONTSIKELELO LOTENI  
NTSIKIELOTENI@GMAIL.COM**