

## RESOLUTION NO 19/2022 OF THE ACERWC WORKING GROUP ON CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES ON THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN WITH ALBINISM IN AFRICA

**The Working Group on Children with Disabilities of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC/the Committee) during its second meeting held virtually on 14 March;**

**RECALLING** Article 38(1) of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC/the African Children's Charter) and Rule 58 of its revised Rules of Procedure, which mandate the Committee to establish its own rules of procedures and establish special mechanisms, including working group;

**GUIDED** by the Resolution establishing the Working Group on Children with Disabilities in Africa, adopted during the Committee's 35<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session, held virtually from 31 August to 08 September 2020;

**MINDFUL** of the goal of the Working Group on children with disabilities which is to promote the inclusion of children with disabilities in all spheres of life by using a child rights-based approach that ensures the protection of their rights and welfare as enshrined in the African Children's Charter and other regional and international Human Rights instruments;

**NOTING** the obligation of States Parties to the African Children's Charter to ensure the protection of the rights of all children without discrimination on the basis of disability;

**RECALLING** the recommendations of the Committee following the *Investigative Mission on the Situation of Children with Albinism in Temporary Holding Shelters* in the United Republic of Tanzania in 2015;

**FURTHER RECALLING** the recommendations of the African Union Plan of Action on Ending Attacks and Discrimination against People with Albinism adopted in 2021;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that children with albinism continue to experience violence and other violations of their rights within the jurisdiction of some States Parties of the African Children's Charter;

**AGGRIEVED** by the violent nature and continued prevalence of acts targeting children with albinism, such as ritual killing and maiming across the African region;

**CONCERNED** about the absence and/or insufficiency of measures to enhance the quality of life of children with albinism, including the lack of accessible and affordable medical care suited to their needs on an equal basis with other children in their respective communities, and the availability and accessibility of appropriate protective gear, including sunscreen, and hats;

**RECOGNISING** the persistence of the ignorant and dangerous social, cultural and religious beliefs underlying the violence targeting children with albinism;

**FURTHER RECOGNISING** that stigma and discrimination against children with albinism leads to violations of their right to education, which in turn drives them into poverty or deepens their poverty making them more susceptible to attacks;

**NOTING** that measures taken by most States Parties in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic led to an increase in violence against children in general, including violence targeting children with albinism in particular;

**COMMENDING** the measures taken by some States Parties to raise awareness on albinism and to counter the beliefs that propagate violence against children with albinism;

**CONCERNED** that despite the Committee's recommendations to States Parties to adopt measures to address the plight of children with albinism, they continue to experience discrimination and violence;

**HEREBY AGREE AND CALL UPON**

**STATES PARTIES TO:**

- I. Enhance awareness aimed at dispelling the myths and harmful beliefs that propagate discrimination and violence against children with disabilities, including education on the scientific causes of albinism;
- II. Identify and address the drivers and patterns of violent attacks, including seasonal risks such as those associated with elections;
- III. Adopt legal and policy frameworks to facilitate the provision of reasonable accommodations necessary to ensure that children with albinism benefit from rights and protections on an equal basis with other children in their countries, especially in the context of education to break the cycle of poverty which increase their vulnerability to attacks;

- IV. Adopt measures to enhance the security of children with albinism, including social protection measures, particularly in areas with a high incidence of attacks;
- V. Adopt an intersectoral approach to tackling attacks against children with albinism involving the justice sector, immigration and border agencies, health professionals and the education sector, and ensure appropriate capacity building of these sectors;
- VI. Provide appropriate temporary safe spaces for children with albinism who are at risk of violence, guided by the principle of the best interest of the child, and respecting all their rights, including the right to parental care and protection;
- VII. Amend or adopt national laws to criminalise discriminatory and harmful practices targeting children with albinism, and ensure that those that qualify as crimes are prosecuted as hate crimes;
- VIII. Ensure that the justice system is accessible to children with albinism when they need to seek redress, including by availing legal aid to them;
- IX. Provide psychosocial, medical and other support to children with albinism who are victims of violence and abuse based on their condition;
- X. Put in place measures to ensure victim and witness protection concerning attacks against children with albinism to reduce fear-based reluctance in cooperating with the legal system in the prosecution of these crimes;
- XI. Subsidise the cost of protective gear and equipment that children with albinism need to cater to their health needs; and,
- XII. Provide information on the measures taken to address the plight of children with albinism in their periodic reports to the ACERWC.

**URGE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOS) TO:**

- Collaborate with the media to educate and raise awareness among children with albinism, their families and communities on the rights of children with albinism;
- Train the legal personnel on how to investigate cases of children's rights abuses and how to best assist children with albinism to access justice;
- Provide psychosocial support to children with albinism and counselling services to family members of children with albinism who have been killed or attacked;
- Collect data on children with albinism and submit alternative reports to the Committee by sharing the status of the rights of children with albinism at the local and national levels; and,
- Assist the Committee and the States Parties' effort to prevent, protect, monitor, investigate and remediate child rights abuses faced by children with albinism.

**Done on 01 April 2022 during the 39<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the ACERWC held virtually from 21 March 2022-01 April 2022.**

