

**CHANGER SLIDE****FACTSHEET – UPR 2022, SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL ALBINISM TASK FORCE****Theme: Rights of persons with albinism****CHANGER SLIDE****SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES FROM PREVIOUS UPR CYCLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE**

In reference to UPR recommendations 139.91, 139.92, 139.93, 139.94, 139.95, 139.96:

In the last cycle, South Africa supported and returned with six recommendations made by Honduras, Israel, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Mauritania and Congo related to the rights of persons with albinism (PWA). The report, *Enjoyment of Human Rights by Persons with Albinism* by the UN Independent Expert, Ms Ikponwosa Ero, tabled at the 43rd 2020 Human Rights Council session, strengthened these recommendations. The recommendations included that of:

- education campaigns on albinism be conducted;
- persons with albinism be protected; and
- reported incidents of abductions and killings of persons with albinism:
 - be investigated and
 - prosecuted.

It is confirmed that Government has partially implemented these recommendations.

CHANGER SLIDE**NATIONAL FRAMEWORK**

The 2022 Mid-year Population Estimates Report estimates the SA population 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.

SA is one of the first countries to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Yet to date, there is slow progress in adopting or ratifying pieces of legislation impacting the lives of PWA or implementing recommendations on albinism by the SA government:

- *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 in protecting PWA	Impact
CHANGER SLIDE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 in investigating and prosecuting reported incidents of abductions and killings of PWA	Impact
CHANGER SLIDE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	CHANGER SLIDE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

CHANGER SLIDE**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.

CHANGER SLIDE**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

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