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QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF PERSONS LIVING WITH ALBINISM

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The completion of the questionnaire is based on an interview on 26 March 2014 with the Danish Association for Albinism, DFFA (Dansk Forening for Albinisme).
www.albinisme.dk

1. What is the human rights situation of persons living with albinism in your country or in any country you are familiar with? Are they considered a particular social group? Are they considered disabled? Are they considered to belong to another category?

There are born three children a year in Denmark with albinism. It is estimated that there are 200 persons living with albinism in Denmark. ¹

Based on the fact that the majority of persons living with albinism suffers from visual impairment the group is considered persons with a disability. The Danish Association for Persons Living is an disability organisation and enjoys the benefits of that status. ²

2. Does your country, or any country you are familiar with, have any problem of prejudice or stigmatization against the persons with albinism? How serious is it?

The DFFA pointed that because persons living with albinism in Denmark lives in a Nordic country, they do not stand out so much from the Danish population and thus it is not a serious problem for persons living with albinism in Denmark.

¹ The National Board of Social Services (Socialstyrelsen). Available in Danish at:
<http://socialstyrelsen.dk/handicap/sjaeldnehandicap/beskrivelser-af-diagnoser#.UzLrnqRDvZQ.mailto>

² Government circular 2013-04-23 no. 9185 on founds, associations etc. Available in Danish at:
www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=146526

It has not been possible for the Danish Institute for Human Rights to find any cases regarding hate crimes on the basis of albinism in Denmark.

3. What are the obstacles that impede the efforts to improve the human rights situation of persons living with albinism?

It is the Danish municipalities that support persons with albinism e.g. glasses, sunscreen etc.³ The Danish Association for Albinism DFFA points to the fact that the Danish municipalities, who financially supports persons with albinism has a different practice on the granting of financial support. This can mean that a person with albinism can get his or hers sunscreen expenses covered in one municipality while another person living with albinism living in another municipality might not receive financial support for his or hers sunscreen.

4. What measures, if any, (legislative, administrative, institutional, or other policy/measures) have been put in place in your country to ensure the elimination of violence against persons with albinism and their protection from all other human rights violations?

Hate crimes committed on the basis of prejudice and hatred of other people's race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or like are illegal in Denmark, cf. the Danish penal code⁴. When the court adjudge a case of violence it is an aggravating circumstance in sentencing that the crime was committed on the basis of prejudice and hatred of other people's race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or like.

Discrimination on the basis of people's race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or like are illegal in Denmark. The right not to be discriminated is safeguarded in several legal instruments.

5. What improvements (if any) have to be made to such measures in order to make them more effective?

N/A

6. How, if at all, does your country rehabilitate victims of attacks against persons living with albinism?

There are no organisations in Denmark specifically aimed at victims of hate crime. However, below is included information on the only generic victim support service, Victim Support Denmark.

³ Government order 2012-12-23 no. 1432 on assistance for the purchase of equipment and consumables.

⁴ The Danish penal code no. 1028 of 22 August 2013 § 81, no. 6 (straffeloven). Available in Danish at: <https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=152827>.

There is free emergency relief to the target groups. Counselling is given in person or via phone. The support is not equivalent to professional treatment but consists of human contact, understanding, counselling and support on the basis of the background of the volunteer. The support service helps the person in contacting the right people for further help, e.g. lawyers, psychologists, social services etc.

Victim Support Denmark cooperates with police, nurses, fire men and police country-wide.

The police must inform victims about victim support services and generally refers victims to Victim Support Denmark. The National Police cooperates closely with Victim Support Denmark and provides secretariat assistance in relation to the courses which all voluntary counsellors must take.⁵

7. Do you have any information on allegations, complaints, investigations, prosecutions and their outcomes?

It has not been possible for the Danish Institute for Human Rights to find any cases regarding hate crimes on the basis of albinism in Denmark.

8. Do religious/spiritual institutions in your country play a role in helping persons with albinism? Are they effective in preventing attacks against these persons?

No.

9. In what ways can the Human Rights Council and the other UN human rights bodies assist with improving the situation of persons living with albinism within your country or any country you are familiar with?

N/A

10. What other institutional or practical measures should the Human Rights Council take to strengthen the efforts to improve the human rights situation of persons living with albinism?

N/A

Best Regards,

CHRISTOFFER BADSE
HEAD OF MONITORING DEPARTMENT

⁵ Victim Support Denmark (2013), Annual report 2012 (*Årsrapport 2012*), p. 13, available at http://www.offerraadgivning.dk/oid/export/sites/default/_res/oid/OID_xrsrapport_2012.pdf.