

Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

Civil Society Section

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Dear All,

We are pleased to forward the [questionnaire](#) on the situation of human rights of persons living with albinism, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 24/33.

You are kindly requested to submit your responses to the questionnaire to the Secretariat by 11 April 2014.

Nous avons le plaisir de vous transmettre le [questionnaire](#) relatif à la situation des personnes atteintes d'albinisme, conformément à la résolution 24/33 du Conseil des droits de l'homme.

Les délégations sont priées de soumettre leurs réponses au questionnaire au Secrétariat avant le 11 avril 2014.

Tenemos el agrado de remitir la [cuestionario](#) sobre la situación de los derechos humanos de las personas que viven con albinismo de conformidad con la resolución 24/33 del Consejo de Derechos Humanos.

Se ruega a las delegaciones que presenten sus respuestas al cuestionario a la Secretaría antes del 11 de abril de 2014.

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Best regards,

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The situation of human rights of persons living with albinism

QUESTIONNAIRE

*As part of the consultations undertaken by the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee with **States, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations**, with a view to preparing a study on the situation of human rights of persons living with albinism, pursuant to Council resolution 24/33.*

Background

In its resolution 24/33, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a study on the situation of human rights of persons living with albinism, and to present a report thereon to the Council at its twenty-eighth session.

It is therefore in this context that the Advisory Committee decided, at its twelfth session held in February 2014, to appoint a drafting group in charge of the preparation of this study. The drafting group will present a progress report at the thirteenth of the Committee in August 2014, before its submission to the twenty-eighth session of the Council (March 2015).

In this connection, the drafting group decided, in its preparation of the report, to seek views and inputs from different stakeholders dealing with the issue of the

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situation of human rights of persons living with albinism. The drafting group therefore elaborated the hereunder questionnaire for States, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. **Q. 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?**

A. As it stands now, PWA in Nigeria are not seen as people with any form of disability. In so many instances, individuals and organizations consider them as the unfortunate lot who are ILL colored.

2. **Q. 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?**

A. There are so many myths and superstitious beliefs about the albino person:

- Albinos are seen as witches
- PWA s are said to have magical powers required to create wealth, hence their body parts are sort after for rituals
- Woman who give birth to Albinos are considered to have done so because of their past sins and evil doing and hence are socially and psychologically abused by their family members
- Albinos are believed to be economically unproductive as individuals. Hence, they are denied the opportunity to reach their socio-economic potentials.

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

- **A.** The major obstacle posing as obstruction to fast tracking the human rights situation of PWAs is lack of awareness of what these issues are.
- Interaction on the right Platform to facilitate talks on Human Rights issues as it affects PWAs.
- Funding necessary for creating awareness and implementation of resolutions reached

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4. **Q. 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?**

A. There is a NATIONAL POLICY ON ALBINISM in Nigeria. This policy was passed by Federal Executive council. Guidelines on how to implement this policy was also included in the document. However, implementation is yet to commence. Other document produced in partnership with the foundation includes; KAP (Knowledge, aptitude and practice) Study on children with albinism by UNICEF FUNDED BY GERMAN GOVERNMENT. Blueprint on Albinism education in Nigeria. ICE Materials Etc.

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

A Guidelines, as was provided in the policy, should be put into place and monitored by a committee instituted by the Nigerian government. This committee should constitute all stakeholders concerned. Funding of albinism projects and establishment of relevant agencies at national and global levels.

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

As it stands there exist no formal structure as regards this However, the judicial process is in place for now to give guidelines on how to deal with victimization. It is wise to note that this process is accessible to all citizens and not just for albinos who have been victimized. Although implementation is at a snail pace.

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

A HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE IN NIGERIA

The murders, amputations, abuse and trafficking in body parts of persons with albinism in some parts of Nigeria is an affront to the dignity and sanctity of the human body as guaranteed under international human rights law. Those laws assert and presume that human beings are born free and equal in dignity.

The myths surrounding the genetic condition of albinism persist in many parts of Nigeria and other parts of Africa especially in the Eastern African Region of the continent. Superstition in some communities has led to the belief that persons with albinism either possess some special powers or are incomplete. Lack of sound knowledge on the condition has led to discrimination and stigma. States and communities have consistently neglected and shunned persons with

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albinism in employment and education. Their health status is largely overlooked by the healthcare systems. Persons with albinism deserve the same dignity as pigmented persons and states have the obligations to respect, protect and fulfill their rights. They also have the duty to extend some special rights to persons with albinism in the form of affirmative action in order to integrate them into mainstream society and to ensure that they live their lives in dignity.

Some of the abuses experienced by persons with albinism in Nigeria are highlighted below.

Brutal killings: A woman in Gboko Town, Benue state with the help of her husband's relations chopped the head of her nine month albino child in 2011. Just because the child was an albino, she had other children but chose to kill the albino child. The woman has since been sentenced to jail.

In April of 2013 a woman with albinism was found dead with some of her body organs missing at Okuta, a border town at Baruten Local Government Area of Kwara State, Nigeria.

Missing report: In April of 2013 a woman with albinism went missing according to her relatives. She was a resident around Saw Mill area in the city of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. In August 2011, one Mr. Aaron Njoku, 26 years old who was living with his senior sister in Asaba Delta state, left home and never came back. It was discovered that he was kidnapped and their body parts used for money rituals.

More recently, a young man of 19, Ahmed Ibrahim, in Auchi, Edo State, Nigeria was reported to have been dragged out of his house to a cemetery and murdered dead by unknown assailants.

Asylum report: On February 16, 2011, a man with albinism from Nigerian was granted asylum

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

A. This is an area that is yet to be fully harnessed by TAF. Nonetheless, efforts have commenced to this effect to insure that such institutions are integrated into playing major roles as regards issues, especially socio-economic issues, as it affects PWAs. We launched a faith-Based sensitization campaign and have hosted both Christian and Muslim Leaders in a strategy session on how to intimate their audience on truth and not myth about albinism.

9. Q 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?

A Formulating policies that enhances their wellbeing in areas such as:

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- Electoral Processes
- Education
- Health
- Social and economic Empowerment

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?

Human Rights Council should be have a close collaborative relationship with governments of nations so as to effectively deliberate, first and foremost, on issues raised in their respective states as it concerns PWAs. Again such collaboration should lead to formulation of policies as well as guidelines on how to implement these policies that are peculiar to individual countries



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11/4/14
CEO/FOUNDER

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Deadline for submission of responses to the questionnaire:

In order to give the Drafting Group the opportunity to take into account the different contributions, all parties are encouraged to submit their responses as soon as possible and at the latest by 11 April 2014.

Answers can be submitted via email to the following address:

hrcadvisorycommittee@ohchr.org

OR

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Thank you for your contribution.

For more information on the Advisory's mandate:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/AdvisoryCommittee/Pages/HRCACIndex.aspx>