***APPLICATION DEADLINE: 13 APRIL 2021 AT 12 NOON GENEVA TIME***

* *The application process consists of two compulsory parts:****(1) online survey[[1]](#footnote-1)*** *(*[*https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/977314*](https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/977314)*)*

*and****(2) application form in Word format[[2]](#footnote-2)*** *(to be downloaded from* [*https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC47.aspx*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC47.aspx)*)*

* *Once fully completed, in English or French only, the Word application form should be submitted by email to* *hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org*
* *A maximum of up to three optional reference letters may be attached to the email (in Word or PDF format).*
* *No additional documents (e.g. CVs, resumes or additional reference letters) will be accepted.*
* *Applicants will receive an acknowledgment email when both parts of the application process, i.e. the data submitted through the online survey and the Word application form, have been received by the Secretariat..*
* *Applications will only be considered if both parts and all sections of the Word application form have been completed and received by the Secretariat before the expiration of the deadline.* ***No incomplete or late applications will be accepted****.*
* *Eligible for Working Group mandates are only nationals of the States belonging to the* [*regional groups*](https://www.un.org/dgacm/content/regional-groups) *for which specific vacancies have been advertised.*
* *General description of the selection process and answers to frequently asked questions are available at* [*https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/Nominations.aspx*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/Nominations.aspx) *and* [*https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/BasicInformationSelectionIndependentExperts.aspx*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/BasicInformationSelectionIndependentExperts.aspx)
* *In case of technical difficulties or problems with accessing or completing the forms, you may contact the Secretariat by email (**hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org**) or fax (+41 22 917 9008).*

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Family (last) name:**  HOUNSA      | **5. Year of birth:**   1979   |
| **2. First (given) name:**  HOUETEHOU C. FRANCK       | **6. Place of birth:**  ZE     |
| **3. Other name, if any:**        | **7. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):**  Beninese     |
| **4. Gender:**   MALE     | **8. Any other nationality:**   none     |

**II. MANDATE-SPECIFIC COMPETENCE / QUALIFICATIONS / KNOWLEDGE**

**NOTE: Please describe why the candidate’s competence / qualifications / knowledge is relevant in relation to the specific mandate:**

1. **QUALIFICATIONS** (200 words limit)

**Relevant educational qualifications or equivalent professional experience in the field of human rights; good communication skills (i.e. orally and in writing) in one of the six official languages of the United Nations (i.e. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish.)**

I have been working in the field of advocacy for better days for people with albinism since 2012. But my activities went public in 2014 when I got a grant from the US Embassy Cotonou for the first externally funded project of the organization I am chairing. Since then, I have been defending the right to health, the right to education, the right to a flourished social life and the right to life of people with albinism in Benin. In 2016 I got invited to join the team of the current Expert for the enjoyment of human right by people with albinism. In that capacity, not only have I learnt a lot on the UN’s mechanisms on Human Rights but I have also participated in several continental and sub-regional advocacies towards institutions such as the pan African parliament, the African Union, the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights… . I have also been literary trained since November 2015 on advocacy and human rights through the numerous capacity building conferences organized by the current expert for the benefit of albinism group leaders throughout Africa. I am perfectly bilingual French/English and a trained communicator.

1. **RELEVANT EXPERTISE** (200 words limit)

**Knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and principles. (Please state how this was acquired.)**

**Knowledge of institutional mandates related to the United Nations or other international or regional organizations’ work in the area of human rights and particularly in the area of the mandate. (Please state how this was acquired.)**

**Proven work experience in the field of human rights and particularly in the area of the mandate. (Please state years of experience.)**

As a person with albinism, I started defending the rights of my peers without having any specific knowledge of human rights. But when my work started to scale, I went on to search the UN related websites that educate on international human rights mechanism. I found many documents which I downloaded and studied. It is true that I did not understand everything in the first place but as soon as I started participating in the various capacity building sessions initiated by the Expert many things became clearer to me. Concerning the mandate, I do not have an extensive knowledge on all institutional mandates but concerning albinism, for having worked closely with Mrs Ero, I have the right information on what her mandate is all about. If I may summarize her work in four words I can say: Advocacy, Capacity building, Country visits, Reports. Then I will add that the mandate holder has a voluntary position and has to fundraise to do her activities. Concerning my experience in the field of human rights, and particularly in the area of albinism, I have been advocating, fundraising, managing projects, educating and defending the rights of people with albinism for 9 years.

1. **ESTABLISHED** **COMPETENCE** (200 words limit)

**Nationally, regionally or internationally recognized competence related to human rights. (Please explain how such competence was acquired.)**

Throughout my profession of pastor, I have learnt and mastered public speaking and storytelling. Applying these skills to the field of albinism had quickly set the pace for an international recognition of my work. On the job, I have learnt grant writing and project management. I have also honed my writing skills and authored the first ever handbook on albinism in Benin which was distributed throughout francophone Africa (2015). My investigation skills had brought me to produce the first ever documentary film on the life of people with albinism in Benin. I have also developed interpersonal skills throughout my work at Divine Connexion Worldwide as well as in several international expert group on the albinism.

1. **PUBLICATIONS OR PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

**Please list significant and relevant published books, articles, journals and reports that the candidate has written or public statements, or pronouncements that the candidate has made or events participated in relation to the mandate.**

* 1. **Enter three publications in relation to the mandate applied for, in the order of relevance:**

**1. Title of publication:** Le Manifeste de l’Albinisme

**Journal/Publisher:**     Divine Connexion Worldwide

**Date of publication:**   December 2015

**Web link, if available:**   https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o65hbe2dhAKujwnf2\_mXP2086qhFt0eI/view?usp=sharing

**3. Title of publication:**   Noir à la Peau Blanche (Une enquête sur la vie des Personnes atteintes d’Albinisme au Bénin)

**Journal/Publisher:**   Divine Connexion Worldwide

**Date of publication:**   2016

**Web link, if available:**   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utfUDjhSrac&ab\_channel=DivineConnexionWorldwide

**3. Title of publication: 'Waiting to disappear' International and Regional Standards for the Protection of the Human Rights of Persons with Albinism**

**Waiting to Disappear** (Member of the task force)

**Journal/Publisher:**      International Bar association

**Date of publication:**   June 2017

**Web link, if available:**   <https://www.ibanet.org/Human_Rights_Institute/HRI_Publications/Waiting-to-disappear-albinism.aspx>

**If more than three publications, kindly summarize** (200 words limit):

* 1. **Enter three public statements or pronouncements made or events that the candidate may have participated in relation to the mandate applied for, in the order of relevance:**

**1. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:**

**Event organizer: 3rd Meeting of the** African Union Commission’ Special comity on Social Development, Work and Employment in collaboration with the Mandate of the UN Albinism Expert

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made: April 2nd 2019**

**Web link, if available:**   <https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2206087026104497&id=464045743641976>

**2. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:**

**Event organizer:**  Advocacy at the pan African parliament

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:**  March 9 2018

**Web link, if available:**   https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W0\_h9FvlEvlpDNN9h-OMCkskEMqIAzXp/view?usp=sharing

**3. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:**

**Event organizer:**  Divine Connexion Worldwide

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made: June 13th 2020**

**Web link, if available:**   <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EK2W_FeGbi0&ab_channel=DivineConnexionWorldwide>

**If more than three, kindly summarize** (200 words limit):

Form August 2014 to date my team and I have impacted more than a hundred people with albinism in Benin and thousands throughout our online awareness raising. We have engaged our government, trained more than 300 teachers on how to teach a student with albinism, produced awareness raising flyers and secure a seven year long scholarship for 15 children with albinism. We have also helped a few people with albinism of the middle class find their way to more decent jobs. At all these occasion, I use to deliver talks but most of them are not recorded. You can track our work on Facebook with the #tag #AlbinismBenin

1. **FLEXIBILITY/READINESS AND AVAILABILITY OF TIME** (200 words limit)

**to perform effectively the functions of the mandate and to respond to its requirements, including participating in Human Rights Council (HRC) sessions in Geneva and General Assembly sessions in New York, travelling on two country visits per year, drafting reports according to established deadlines, organizing and participating in consultations and meetings, addressing allegations of human rights violations with all concerned, providing advice to States and other stakeholders on issues related to their mandate and engaging with a variety of stakeholders. Kindly indicate whether the candidate can dedicate an estimated time of four to six months per year to the work of a mandate depending on its workload.**

Today, my main source of income is Translation and I operate as an independent translator. This means that I am my own employer and can manage my time as I want. I have been pastoring a church for 9 years now but again, I have two co-workers who are already taking over the biggest part of the task. I have trained 4 collaborators who are excellent at translation and are also taking part of the translation load off my shoulder. It is becoming an enterprise now where they can work and be paid while I am also paid as a supervisor of their work. As a matter of fact, I will have sufficient time to take care of the mandate if selected and to fulfil all the duties attached to it.

**Please note that the work of mandate holders is unpaid. Those appointed as mandate holders serve in their personal capacities. They are not United Nations staff members, they are not based in United Nations offices in Geneva or at another United Nations location, and they do not receive salary or other financial compensation, except for travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance of “experts on mission”.**

1. **NOMINATION FOR THE MANDATE**

**Indicate whether the candidate has been nominated by (check all that apply):**

**☐ Individual nominations (indicate this if the candidate is self-nominating) YES**

☐ Governments

☐ Regional groups operating within the United Nations human rights systems

☐ International organizations or their offices

☐ Non-governmental organizations

☐ National human rights institutions

☐ Other human rights bodies

**Name of the nominating entity and additional information about the nomination (use if applicable, for third-party nominations only)** (200 words limit)**:**

**III. MOTIVATION LETTER, INCLUDING YOUR VISION OF THE MANDATE**(600 word limit. Must be typed in the space below and not sent in a separate email or as an attachment. To be drafted and signed (i.e. with a typed signature) by the candidate himself/herself even if nominated by another entity.)

Dear Jury,

It is both an honor and a privilege for me to submit my application to your attention regarding the position of Independent expert on the Enjoyment of Human Rights by people with albinism.

Having worked closely with the current Expert throughout her mandate, I not only acknowledge the great work she had done so far but also the challenges that are yet to be met. That’s why if I am trusted to be the next mandate holder I will focus on three basic points.

1. The right to education

One of the biggest challenges of people with albinism in Africa being their sight issues, it is recurrent to see them abandon school at their early age either because they get discouraged or out of constant discrimination from their peers. Once out of school they undertake outdoor jobs only to be attacked and eliminated by skin cancer between 23 and 40. My first action will be to engage states on this issue in order for them to take appropriate actions in maintaining students with albinism in the schooling system for as long as possible. I envision an advocacy for them to be grant scholarships, and monocular that can help them mitigate sight issues. I will also strive to bring states to train teacher in how to teach students with albinism.

1. The right to health

To my knowledge, only a few countries, say Nigeria and Kenya have a budget for the health of people with albinism. If only people with albinism can get their skin screened twice a year and take appropriate actions, they can live as long as their peers without albinism or at least they would not die to skin cancer. I would love to see states take their responsibilities toward that.

1. The right to decent jobs

Though is true that joblessness is a big issue among young people throughout the developing world, it is a fact that people with albinism in the middle class suffer the most in finding descent work. That is why they are obliged to take outdoor jobs. My mandate will give a particular attention to that by empowering not only albinism groups in fundraising and social entrepreneurship for them to help people with albinism of the middle class in their network in creating and running business that can keep them away from sunrays.

 I cannot do all this without working closely working with Global, Continental, and regional, sub regional and national albinism groups. That’s why the first thing to be done after my appointment will be to organize regional consultations to discuss the plan I would have drafted with them. This will bring them onboard the vision and allow them to be my operating arm in their respective regions and countries.

 I know that in this critical Covid19 era, fundraising is becoming more and more challenging but I an confident that I would try my very best to meet the requirement. I will also make an extensive use of virtual tools in order to bridge funding gaps.

I am looking forward to discussing further details with you during the interciew.

Sincerely.

Houètèhou C. Franck HOUNSA

**IV. LANGUAGES (READ / WRITTEN / SPOKEN)**

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue:** **French**

**2. Knowledge of the official languages of the United Nations:**

**Arabic: no**:

**Chinese: no**:

**English: Yes**:

**Read:** Easily: **Write:** Easily: **Speak:** Easily:

**French:** Yes:

**Read:** Easily: **Write:** Easily: **Speak:** Easily:

 **Russian:**  **no**:

**Spanish: no**:

**V. EDUCATIONAL RECORD**

**NOTE: Please list the candidate’s academic qualifications (university level and higher, indicating the type of degree and field of study, and whether full- or part-time; for example, *Masters in Law, University of XXX, part-time, 1975-1977, city and country)*. If space in the table is insufficient, more than one degree may be listed in a single cell below, separating them by a blank line.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of degree, field of study and name of academic institution, full or part-time:** | **Years of attendance**(provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2003; for ongoing education, please put e.g. 2018-present): | **Place and country:** |
| Master’s degree in Bible Exegesis and Church Leadership (part time)       | 2013-1018      |  Institut de Formation en Théologie Appliquée Calavi Benin       |
| Bachelor’s Degree in Practical and Pastoral Theology (Part time)       | 2010-2013      |    Institut de Formation en Théologie Appliquée Calavi Benin  |
| Certificate in civic leadership       | June July 2015       |    University of Delaware USA  |
|    Bachelor’s Degree in American Studies (English Department)   | 2003-2007      |      University of Abomey Calavi Benin  |
|       |       |       |

**VI. EMPLOYMENT RECORD**

**NOTE: Please briefly list ALL RELEVANT professional positions held in the area of human rights, beginning with the candidate’s current (most recent) occupation.** **Also, indicate whether positions held were full-time or part-time. If space in the table is insufficient, more than one position may be listed in a single cell below, separating them by a blank line.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of employer,****functional title,****main functions of position, full- or part-time:** | **Years of work**(provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2005; for ongoing activities, please put e.g. 2018-present): | **Place and country:** |
|       **Independent Consultant in Translation (English-French Translating documents for various clients based mainly in the USA ‘Part time)**  |   2002-present     |    Benin I mostly work remotely with clients from various countries    |
| Assitant to the Director and Trainer Training new students, Assisting the Director in his administrative tasks, Liaison with the English Speaking clients (Part time)      |   2010-2015    |      Institut de Formation en théologie Appliquée Calavi Benin  |
| Divine Connexion Worldwide, Founder and President Coordinating all the departments of the institution. Translation, Interpretation, Project writing, Project Management, Advocacy on Albinism related issues (Part time)       |     2012- present   |      Womey Benin  |
| Hevié Dénou Baptist Church Lead Pastor, Teacher and trainer       | 2011 –Present       |   Hèvié Denou, Benin     |
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**VII. COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY PROVISIONS
(of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1)
*To be completed by the candidate or by the nominating entity on the candidate’s behalf.***

**1. To your knowledge, does the candidate have any official, professional, personal, or financial relationships that might cause the candidate to limit the extent of inquiries, to limit disclosure, or to weaken or slant findings in any way? If yes, please explain. NO**

**2. Are there any factors that could either directly or indirectly influence, pressure, threaten, or otherwise affect the candidate’s ability to act independently in discharging the mandate? If yes, please explain:** NO (My advocacy role at Divine Connexion Worldwide may create a conflict of interest but if selected, I will step down from that position)

**3. Is there any reason, currently or in the past, that could call into question the candidate’s moral authority and credibility or does the candidate hold any views or opinions that could prejudice the manner in which the candidate discharges the mandate? If yes, please explain: NO**

**4. Does the candidate comply with the provisions in paragraph 44 and 46 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1? (Please answer YES if the candidate complies, NO if the candidate does not comply, together with an explanation.)**

***Para. 44: The principle of non-accumulation of human rights functions at a time shall be respected. YES***

***Para. 46: Individuals holding decision-making positions in Government or in any other organization or entity which may give rise to a conflict of interest with the responsibilities inherent to the mandate shall be excluded. Mandate holders will act in their personal capacity. YES***

**5. Should the candidate be appointed as a mandate holder, the candidate will have to take measures to comply with paragraphs 44 and 46 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1. In the event that the current occupation or activity, even if unpaid, of the candidate may give rise to a conflict of interest (e.g. if a candidate holds a decision-making position in Government) and/or there is an accumulation of human rights functions (e.g. as a member of another human rights mechanism at the international, regional or national level), necessary measures could include relinquishing positions, occupations or activities. If applicable, please indicate the measures the candidate will take.**

**I am currently the one in charge of advocacy in albinism in my organization. If selected, I will step down from that position**

**VIII. CERTIFY AND SUBMIT APPLICATION
*To be completed by the candidate. The candidate’s name below should match how it is entered on the first page of the form and in the online survey.***

 **I hereby certify that all of the statements made in this application are true, complete and are made in good faith. I understand that falsifying or intentionally withholding information will be grounds for not being selected or appointed or the withdrawal of any proposed appointment or, if an appointment has been made and accepted, for its immediate cancellation or termination.

Kindly note that whilst no changes can be made after this application form has been submitted and the deadline for applications has expired, any relevant change of current occupation, employment, or position, or any other relevant fact or circumstance should be brought to the attention of the secretariat by
email (****hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org****).**

**Please review the application before you insert your name and date to indicate your agreement.**

**Name:**   HOUNSA HOUETEHOU C. FRANCK

**Date:**     April 13th 2021

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1. The short **online survey** is used to collect information for statistical purposes such as personal data (i.e. name, gender, nationality), contact details, mandate applying for and, if appropriate, nominating entity. The same name, gender and nationality must be used both in the online survey and in the Word application form. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The **application form in Word format** includes a motivation letter of maximum 600 words (section III of the form). The application form should be completed in English or French only, the two working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. The application form will be used as received to prepare the public list of eligible candidates who applied for the vacancy. The application forms of eligible candidates will also be posted as received on the OHCHR public web page for the selection process. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)