**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[[1]](#footnote-1) 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 stakeholdersdealing with the issue of the 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. 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?

In Australia, people with albinism are treated in the same way as any citizen. There is no specific category for them, and while they are (usually) eligible for financial assistance (disability payment) from the government due to low vision, that is the extent of the use of the term in regards to PWA.

1. 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?

Not applicable in Australia.

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

Not applicable in Australia.

1. 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?

Not applicable in Australia.

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

Not applicable in Australia.

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

Not applicable in Australia.

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

Not applicable in Australia.

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

Not applicable in Australia.

1. 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?

Not applicable in Australia.

However, we feel very deeply for our brothers and sisters in African nations and would like more **education** about albinism distributed so it is known this is “just” a genetic condition the same as many others, and that people with albinism deserve to be treated as anyone else. That albinism can occur in any family at any time, it isn’t to be feared, just accepted.

That violence towards people with albinism simply for the reason of their albinism be **legally** declared a “hate crime” and all levels of people and government be aware that the most basic of human rights – to live a fair and unhindered existence - belong to all people.

1. 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?

That people with albinism be given equal **access** to education, a work life, a family life and through these measures, to be given the freedom to feel safe to walk in the streets of their town and country. These would also mean that the parents of children with albinism can look forward to their child having a “normal” life and live to their fullest potential, not having a family living in fear of their own and their family’s safety.

To provide **support structures** for self-run in-country advocacy and support organisations.

**Technology** to enable these organisations to interact with others from within and outside their country – via teleconference or other methods.

(?) More **Printed materials** – images rather than words – (literacy and language therefore not an issue) - to portray people with albinism as part of every day society and life. Distribution via schools, stores, medical teams, etc into all areas of life and geography.

**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](mailto:hrcadvisorycommittee@ohchr.org)

OR

Secretariat of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

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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>

1. A/HRC/AC/12/L.7, 28 February 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)