

**African Committee of Experts on  
the Rights and Welfare of the Child**



**(ACERWC)**



**REPORT ON INVESTIGATIVE MISSION  
ON THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN  
WITH ALBINISM IN TEMPORARY  
HOLDING SHELTERS - TANZANIA**

March 2016



**Report on Investigative Mission  
on the Situation of Children with  
Albinism in Temporary Holding  
Shelters - Tanzania**

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# **Report on Investigative Mission on the Situation of Children with Albinism in Temporary Holding Shelters - Tanzania**

African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child  
**ACERWC**









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ACERWC	African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ACRWC	African Charter of on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
MCDGC	Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OAU	Organization of the African Unity
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
TAS	Tanzania Albino Society
THS	Temporary Holding Shelters
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund
UTSS	Under The Same Sun



## Background

The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC/the African children's Charter) is the only comprehensive regionally focused child right instrument in the world. It was in 1990, shortly after the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), that the OAU Assembly adopted the Children's Charter. Currently, it is ratified by 47 African Countries. The African Children's Charter is crafted in a manner that enables it to address the challenges that children in Africa face.

To monitor the implementation of this instrument, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) was established in 2001 in accordance with article 32 of the African Children's Charter. Drawing its mandate from article 42 of the African Children's Charter, the Committee undertakes a number of activities with a view to promoting and protecting the rights and welfare of the child in Africa. In light of its mandate to monitor the implementation of the Charter and pursuant to Article 45 of the African Children's Charter,<sup>1</sup> the Committee undertakes missions to investigate violations of children's rights. With a view of adequately explaining the communication and investigation provisions of the Charter, the Committee also developed the guidelines on the conduct of investigations under article 45 of the African charter and article 74 of the rules of procedure guidelines to provide regulations that will enable the Committee of Experts to conduct investigations within the framework of the Charter.

In line with the Committee's investigation mandate, in November 2013, Under the Same Sun (UTSS), a non-governmental organisation based in *Dar es Salaam*, Tanzania, approached the ACERWC, calling upon the Committee to investigate the situation of children with albinism hosted in Temporary Holding Shelters (THS) in the Lake Zone of Tanzania. The application was made in accordance article 45 of the African Children's Charter and article 3 (1) (a) of the Guidelines on the Conduct of Investigations by the ACERWC (the Investigation Guidelines). In accordance with article 45 of the ACRWC, the Committee may resort to any appropriate method of investigating any matter falling within the ambit of the present Charter, may request from the States Parties any information relevant to the implementation of the Charter

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<sup>1</sup> Article 45 states that Article 45 (i) of the African Charter provides that "The Committee may, resort to any appropriate method of investigating any matter falling within the ambit of the present Charter, request from the States Parties any information relevant to the implementation of the Charter and may also resort to any appropriate method of investigating the measures a State Party has adopted to implement the Charter".

and may also resort to any appropriate method of investigating the measures the State Party has adopted to implement the Charter:

UTSS particularly recommended to the ACERWC to undertake the following actions:

- Build on some preliminary surveys conducted by UNICEF in 2011 on the issue;
- Recommend practical solutions to the issues in consultation with the Government of Tanzania as well as NGOs such as Under the Same Sun and the Tanzania Albino Society (TAS);
- Provide much needed technical assistance on the issue to the relevant branches of the Government of Tanzania as well as to local civil society organizations including NGOs and other key stakeholders, including but not limited to caregivers and guardians of children with albinism in THS; and
- Follow up with all recommendations periodically after they have been given to the Government of Tanzania at the end of the investigation period.

At its 24<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held on 01-06 December 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Committee considered the application. The Committee noted that the request falls within its mandate, and it is also in line with the aims of investigation missions as stated in article 2 of the ACERWC's Investigation Guidelines. The Committee then decided to undertake an investigative mission to the State Party pursuant to Article 45 of the African Children's Charter. Accordingly, the Committee, through Note Verbals written on February and June 2015, requested the Government of Tanzania's permission to undertake the Mission. Responding to the Committee's request, the Government of Tanzania has not only graciously agreed for the Committee to conduct the investigation, it also created an environment which enabled the delegation undertook the mission without any challenges.

## **Structure and objective of this report**

This Report captures the main activities and importantly, main findings based on the mission conducted on 10-14 August 2015. The sources of information for the findings in the report mainly include interviews with Government Official, interviews with partners and stakeholders (including UN Agencies), discussions with children with albinism and the school head of Buhangija Center, and reports produced by the Government of Tanzania and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). The Committee has undertaken due diligence to ensure the accuracy of information

contained in the report to the best of its ability. This report is written with a view to further draw the attention of the Government of Tanzania to the situation of children with albinism, and charts a way forward in collaboration with all stakeholders.

## **Objectives of the investigation mission**

The objectives of the investigative mission are:

- To investigate the situation of children with albinism in Tanzania and assess the alleged rights violations and challenges they encounter;
- To identify the causes leading to the reported curtailing of or violation of the rights of children with albinism; and
- To engage with various stakeholders, in particular the Government of Tanzania, United Nations, African Union, UN Agencies International and Local Non-Governmental, for a better understanding of challenges and protection of children with albinism in Tanzania.

### **List of the delegates**

1. Prof Benyam Dawit Mezmur- Head of the delegation
2. Prof Julia Sloth-Nielsen- Member
3. Justice Alfas Chitakunye-member
4. Ms Catherine Wanjiru Maina-Member (Secretariat of the ACERWC)
5. Mr Ayalew Getachew Assefa-Member (secretariat of the ACERWC)

### **List of national authorities visited**

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. Director of Child Development in the Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children (MCDGC)
3. Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
4. Commission of Human Rights and Good Governance
5. Ministry of Justice and Constitutional affairs
6. Municipality of Shinyanga

### **List of Organizations**

1. Under the Same Sun
2. Tanzania Albinism Society
3. UNICEF
4. UN Office

### **Center visited**

1. Buhangija center in Shinyanga region



## **General situation of children with albinism in Tanzania**

Albinism is a rare, non-contagious, genetically inherited difference present at birth. Albinism results in a lack of pigmentation in the skin, hair and eyes, causing vulnerability to sun exposure and bright light. Albinism occurs rarely in most parts of the world. For instance, in the 2013 situation analysis of children with albinism in Tanzania, UNICEF states that the number of people with albinism is estimated to be 1 in 17,000 in the US or Europe; while the prevalence is much more in East Africa as it occurs in 1 in 2,000 people.<sup>2</sup>

Persons with albinism in general, and children with albinism in particular, have specific needs. Referring to an advocacy report of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies dealing with the situation of persons with albinism, the Human Rights Council in its preliminary study on the situation of human rights of persons living with albinism categorized these needs into 3 key areas which are: security; displacement and discrimination.

The Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in a 2013 report captures that since 2000 until 2013 more than 72 people with albinism in Tanzania were violently killed and more than 30 others were attacked and their body parts mutilated (OHCHR, 2013). These killings and attacks were reportedly triggered by the market value attached to the body parts of people with albinism, which results from the superstitious belief that some people advocate, namely that the body parts of people with albinism possess magical powers.

The killings and the attacks particularly target children. As a result, many children, particularly in the Lake Zone region of Tanzania, live in fear and insecurity. The Committee noted that children with albinism have been kidnapped and have had their limbs, hair, and other body parts hacked off with machetes/sharp objects, only to be sold.

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<sup>2</sup> Situation assessment of the centres of displaced persons with albinism in the Lake zone and Tanga regions findings from Under the Same Sun survey, 2011, Pp. 31 available at <http://www.underthesamesun.com/sites/default/files/Centres%20Holding%20Displaced%20PWA%20-%20A%20Report%20from%20Tanzania%20-%202012.pdf>

## **The challenges of children with albinism in the temporary holding centers**

The Committee realizes the existence of a large number of children with albinism in the Lake Zone Region, hence there are a significant number of incidents where children with albinism are physically attacked and killed in this region. Responding to these challenges and the simultaneous absence of adequate protection for them at their homes and communities, the Government of Tanzania has established the so called Temporary Holding Centers (THCs) as ‘safe’ houses for children with albinism. Children at the shelters are placed in the Centres either by government officials or by their families. The Committee was told that currently in Tanzania there are 32 Holding Centres for children with albinism and it was also mentioned that no killings or bodily injury to the children with albinism is recorded once they entered the Centres. Among the Centers, the Committee visited the Center with the largest population of children with albinism, which is the Buhangija Centre. The Buhangija Center in Shinyanga District was initially established as a primary school for children with special needs (such as hearing or visual disabilities). Following the killings of people with albinism in Lake Zone region, in 2009, the Center started receiving children with albinism to offer accommodation and protection. By the time the Committee visited the Center, it was indicated that the Centre accommodates a total of 405 children out which 301 are children with albinism. The age of the children with albinism varies, with the youngest being two years old. The breakdown of the total number of children is as provided below in the table.

Children with special needs	Boys	Girls	No. of children
Children with Albinism	156	146	301
Children with visual impairment	27	13	40
Children with hearing impairment	30	34	64
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>405</b>

With all the challenges, since 2010, it was indicated that there have been limited improvements in some respects, including the provision of dormitories as opposed to tents (which was the case before 2010), increasing the number

of beds and a very limited improvement with regard to nutritional food. However, the delegation notes that these changes hardly address the needs of the children as their numbers have been increasing dramatically. From January to September 2015, the Committee was informed that the number of children with albinism exhibits a significant increase in number as there have been 76 intakes in only 9 months.

There are few organisations which are providing technical and financial support to the children in the Center, including Under the Same Sun (USS), Red Cross, and UNICEF and faith based organisations.

The delegation notes, with strong concern that, due to very limited resources, teaching and learning materials are almost inexistent in the Center. Moreover, the delegation witnesses the deteriorating health conditions of the children to the extent that some are developing skin cancer at various stages, mainly due to the lack of sunscreens and basic health facilities.

In fact, although the Center serves as a refuge by shielding the children from further attacks, looking at the bleak situation of the children in the Center, the Committee is of the strongest view that Buhangija resembles more of a preventative detention facility than a safe house. From its visit to Tanzania, the delegation notes the following major challenges and interlinked child rights violations of the children with albinism in Tanzania, particularly of those who are kept in the Bhuangija Temporary Holding Center.

### **Physical attacks and the right to life (articles 5 and 16 of the Charter):**

The delegation realizes that people with albinism in general and children in particular are facing many challenges to enjoy the right to physical safety and the right to life in Tanzania. Regular and structural attacks, often with a view to trade in their body parts, are so rampant that children with albinism are not free to live out their daily lives in their areas of origin. The delegation notes the existence of various forms of attacks against children with albinism, including the appalling situation of two girls whose hands were chopped off by their fathers. Various organisations and individuals have also brought to the Committee's attention that the widespread practice of ritual attacks; i.e., the killing of and attacks on children with albinism with a view to using their body parts for ritual purposes.

The Committee was informed that, according to the Government records,

the total number of attacks and killings of persons reported at the police stations in Tanzania stands 62. Specifically, the number of incidents where children with albinism were victims since 2006 is reportedly 37. Out of the 37 incidents 17 were against boys while 21 were against girls. Looking at the numbers from the Government records, the delegation notes that since 2006, 6 children with albinism were wounded, 24 were killed, 4 were victims of attempted murder and 3 were kidnapped.

However, organizations working on children's rights in Tanzania indicated that the number of on-going attacks is higher than those reported, but that data-gathering is difficult due to the secretive nature of witchcraft that serves as the context of most ritual attacks against children with albinism. For instance Under the Same Sun reports that up until August 2012, there have been 71 documented killings of persons with albinism, and that over half of these victims were children.

These attacks constitute a violation of the right to life, survival and development of the child which is protected under Article 5 of the African Children's Charter, which prescribes the State Parties' responsibility to ensure the survival, protection and development of the child. The maimings violate Article 16 of the Charter, which provides for the protection of children against abuse and torture.

### **The right to highest attainable standard of health (article 14 of the Charter):**

The Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health noted that "people living with albinism often do not receive the necessary special attention, health care or treatment that corresponds to their health needs". The delegation also learns that children with albinism, as witnessed at the Buhangija Center, are suffering from various forms of health-related challenges. For instance, many cannot afford simple remedies, such as sunscreen, that would protect them from the elevated risk of developing skin cancer. A medical screening camp in Mwanza carried out by the Tanzania Albinism Society found out that 80% of the children had sun burns and signs of pre-cancer. The delegation also witnessed that most of the children with albinism in Buhangija Center have visual impairments, fungus, severe wounds on their skin and suffer from complicated health problems accompanied by high fever. It was also indicated that malaria is a major challenge.

Though the care-givers and teachers in the Centre are trained to provide

guidance and counseling to the children, the delegation is of the strongest view that the health facilities and the available human capacity are far from adequate. The dispensary and sick bay, which the delegation has visited at the Centre, are too small and ill-equipped to respond to the children's health needs. The situation clearly leaves the children in a situation where their health is severely endangered which could eventually result in a significant number of deaths.

The delegation is of the strongest view that the Government of Tanzania must be in compliance with its obligation under the African Children's Charter and other international instruments where the right of the child to enjoy the best attainable state of physical, mental and spiritual health is prescribed. As noted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Government should allocate budgets, to the maximum extent of available resources, by giving priority to children's rights when it allocates the country's resources.<sup>3</sup> In this regard, the Government of Tanzania should take into account the best interests of the child, paying particular attention to marginalized and disadvantaged groups of children including children with albinism. Particularly, the Government must support and finance, to the maximum available resources, the production and provision of locally produced (or facilitate importation of) affordable, duty free sun protective gear and sunscreen lotions in collaboration with CSOs and other stakeholders. In fact the delegation was told that there are few hospitals designated by Government where people with albinism in general could get medical services such as chemotherapy and liquid nitrogen treatment for skin cancer. However, the Committee notes that the Government is still facing challenges in getting the children to those hospitals. In this regard, the delegation would like to make reference to the practice in Kenya. In 2011, the Parliament accepted the petition made by an NGO working on the rights of people with disabilities which requests the Government to make an allocation for sunscreen. The decision was implemented immediately and 100m Ksh was allocated that year.

### **On registration and family tracing (article 6, 18, 19 and 25 of the Charter):**

The delegation was told that a large number of the children in Buhangija Centre arrived without birth registration documents. Though the delegation was informed that the Government officials collect and maintain all the data for children

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<sup>3</sup> CRC Committee, General Comment No. 5 on General Measures of implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, (2003), para. 51.

before admission to the Center, the delegation could not verify how reliable this claim was, and also the extent to which such data is systematically collected. While the delegation indeed witnessed the existence of a register at the Centre, its attention was drawn to shortage of facilities in Buhangija Centre. For instance, there is a serious shortage of computers [reportedly only one computer available in the Centre] to properly register and document the ever-increasing number of children.

It was also indicated that with a view to concealing their identity, some parents provide wrong information about their own identity, and tracing them later is a problem. The delegation notes that there is no clear exit strategy in place to reunite the children back to their families. There are no guidelines, rules and regulations for the regulation and establishment of the 'temporary' holding centers including Buhangija. The delegation was told that some parents simply abandon their children in the Centres with the objective (on the face of it) of protecting them from attacks. This in turn results, a number of children with no proper documentation and family linkages. The delegation strongly believes that the children should have been kept for the shortest time possible. However, this is not the case for the children in Buhangija and other similar Centres, where the children have been staying since 2008. The delegation realizes that out of the total of 32 Centres in Tanzania, the children in the 23 don't stay at the holdings. In the remaining nine Centres (out of which eight are in the Lake Zone Region), the delegation was told that majority of the children have not visited their parents since 2008, and none of the Centres are closed.

Some organisations have also informed the delegation that the Government has collected the children from their parents without the later's consent and without conducting proper consultation or best interests determinations. Informants indicated the parents were only told that the Government is taking their children to safety. Social workers have insufficiently been included in the process of rounding up the children, as in most of the cases it was done in consultation with community development officers. No proper record keeping was done as the Government employed a faulty procedure which did not include all the experts needed to document the details of the children. As a result, it was clearly mentioned that there are some children, for instance in Buhangija Centre, who do not even know where their parents are.

The situation contributes to the violation of the rights of the children to the enjoyment of parental care and protection. In accordance with the African



Children's Charter (Art 19), no child shall be separated from his/her parents unless it is in the best interest of the child. In cases where separation results from the action of a State Party, the State Party shall provide the child, or if appropriate, another member of the family with essential information concerning the whereabouts of the absent member or members of the family. Particularly, the case in Buhangija Center in Tanzania violates what is provided under Article 25 of the African Children's Charter, which states that:

**Article 25: Separation from Parents**

*1. Any child who is permanently or temporarily deprived of his family environment for any reason shall be entitled to special protection and assistance;*

*2. States Parties to the present Charter:*

*(a) shall ensure that a child who is parentless, or who is temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment, or who in his or her best interest cannot be brought up or allowed to remain in that environment shall be provided with alternative family care, which could include, among others, foster placement, or placement in suitable institutions for the care of children;*

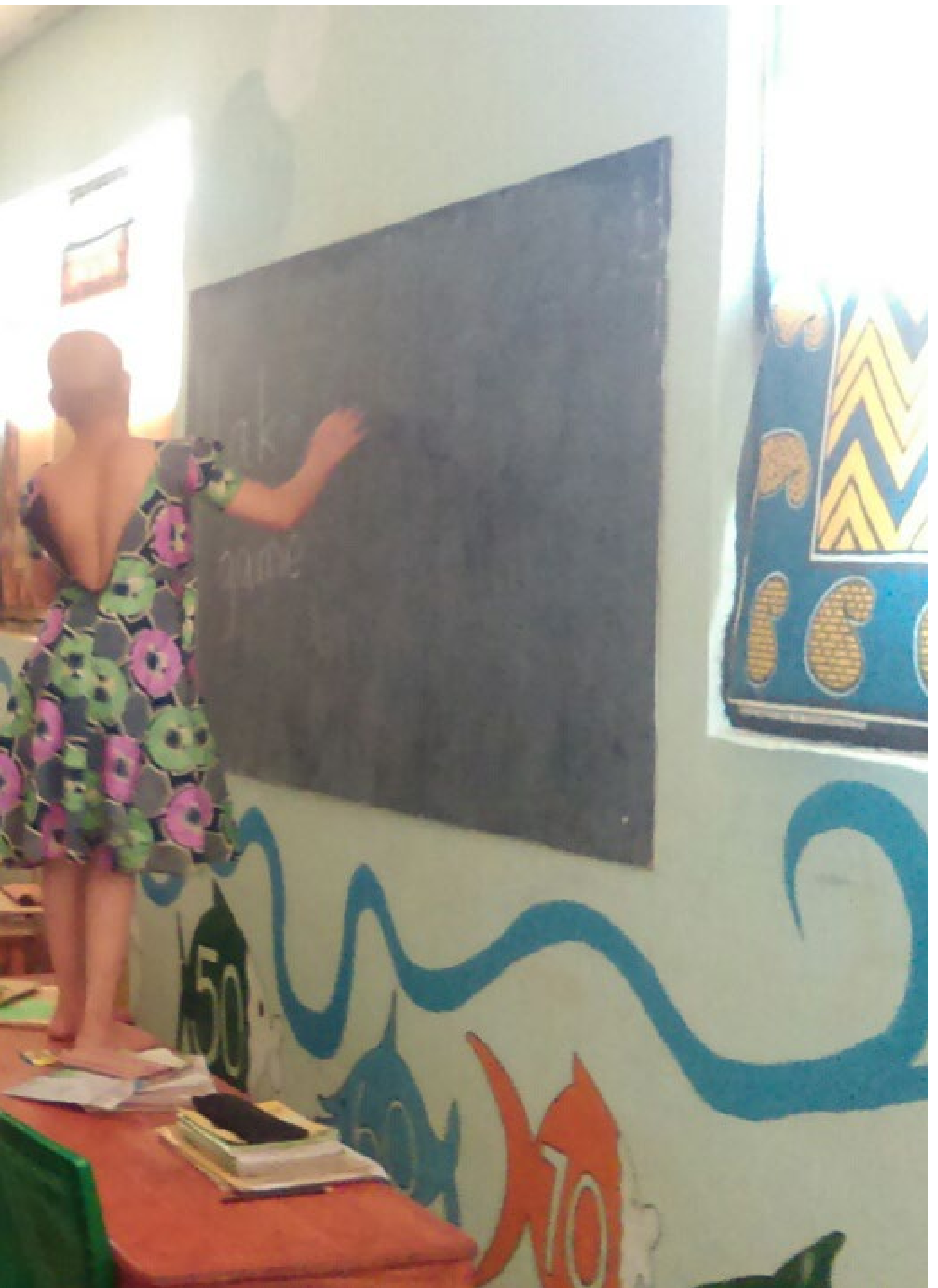
*(b) shall take all necessary measures to trace and re-unite children with parents or relatives where separation is caused by internal and external displacement arising from armed conflicts or natural disasters.*

**On the rights to education and recreation (articles 11 and 12 of the Charter):**

The right to education is recognized and guaranteed under several international and regional human rights instruments. Particularly, the African Children's Charter (Art. 11) clearly stipulates that every child shall have the right to an education, which is directed, among other things, to fostering respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to the promotion and development of the child's personality, talents, and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential. Contrary to what is aspired to under the Charter, children with albinism in Tanzania are failing to fully enjoy the fruits of their right to education. The delegation was told that, because of their visual impairment, many children with albinism are forced to drop out of school. The Committee learns that the children are not assisted with provision of low vision devices, such as glasses, magnifiers and specialized vision-sensitive computer equipment, which could facilitate the learning process. Besides, increasing the likelihood and rate of unemployment, the high level of illiteracy among children with albinism might also unjustifiably 'confirm' the myth that holds that people with albinism are ignorant and unable to learn.

In Buhangija Centre, the delegation notes and appreciates that the children





attend classes within the Center where they are grouped according to age and ability. However, the health challenges including visual impairment and skin cancer are deterrent to some children from pursuing their education. The delegation notes that the Centre has a shortage of teaching/learning materials and other related facilities. Moreover, some of the children of school going age are not attending classes while others have completed primary school and are idling in the camps, unable to attend further education. The Committee also notes that in some countries people with albinism study at mainstream institutions, where they should be provided with large print and assistive devices. This should be adapted in Tanzania and the Government should strengthen its work on creating the right understanding the disability aspects of albinism in order to better accommodate students with albinism.

#### **On adequate food, nutrition, accommodation, water and sanitation (article 14):**

The delegation notes that life in the Buhangija Center continues to be hard. There are not enough beds, 405 children are living in a compound which was supposed to accommodate only 50 children; there is not enough budget for food, and the children usually eat common carbohydrate foods with very low nutritional content. There are only 12 care workers (8 are supported by Under the Same Sun and the remaining 4 by the Government) who actually do all the work including cooking and cleaning for the 405 children, which is insufficient. Generally, the Committee takes the view that the Centers do not meet the minimum standard to be habitable for the children.

#### **Prosecution of perpetrators:**

Despite the frequent and grave violations against children with albinism, great concern has been expressed by the delegation that the attacks and killings of children with albinism end with impunity. The Committee was told that there have been only 5 known convictions out of 139 attacks, including murders, mutilations and kidnappings.

The delegation learns that there are challenges around the prosecution of cases concerning children with albinism, which include the secret nature of witchcraft such that witnesses refuse to give evidence in court out of fear of reprisal from witchdoctors and consumers. Some cases involve family members as perpetrators so the witnesses refuse to give information.

Corruption is also reported in some instances; particularly, it was generally stated that the police and other government officials have been involved in the sale of body parts of children with albinism. From the conversation with the Government Authorities, the Committee also learns that some of the law enforcement and legal officers are largely ignorant and unaware about the gravity of the problem and don't believe that children with albinism actually deserve special attention and protection. Besides, others lack awareness on the genetic condition of albinism and unfortunately believe in the myths which deprive people with albinism from enjoying their rights as human beings.

In any event, the number of people reportedly involved in the processes of disposing of the body parts makes it impossible (or at least very difficult) to trace and prosecute the perpetrators. The delegation was told that in all the prosecutions in the country, in most cases the major actors in the crime (those commissioning the body parts) have never been identified and only 2 people have been handed death sentences. In a number of instances, the crimes might also transcend borders. For instance, it was indicated that in 2009 a man was caught in the Democratic Republic of Congo with the head of a child with albinism who was believed to be from Tanzania. A similar case was also reported in Burundi. Moreover, it was mentioned that worrying situations have happened in Kenya during the 2007 elections, where there was an increase in the killings and disappearances of children with albinism in Tanzania, leading to suspicions about a cross country trade in body parts. The delegation notes that the Government of Tanzania reacts negatively to the issue being linked to elections; however, the delegation is convinced that the information it received on the link between elections and the killings and maimings cannot be neglected and deserves further study and investigation. Prosecuting the perpetrators is not something that should be left only to the Government of Tanzania. The delegation is of the strongest view that the crimes against children with albinism must be treated as a cross border issue and the response should also be framed as such.

The delegation is of the view that without establishing an effective and functional prosecution mechanism, the possibility of curbing the unpleasant situation of children with albinism and protecting them from the killings, maiming, and attacks will remain futile, which perpetuates the situation across generations.

## Conclusion and recommendations

Looking at the situation of children with albinism in Tanzania, particularly those who are staying the Buhangija Centre, the delegation from the ACERWC appreciates the various challenges the Government, the children and their families face, and concludes that the children are in an extremely vulnerable position, which makes them easy targets for witchcrafts and the consumers of witchcraft. The attacks and killings against children with albinism are widespread and are affecting a whole range of human rights of the affected children. The Government of Tanzania, despite some efforts to tackle the situation, has largely failed to comply with its obligation under the African Children's Charter and other international and regional laws in fulfilling and protecting the rights of the child with albinism. The Committee concludes that though the Government of Tanzania established the Temporary Holding Centres to protect the children from further attacks and killings, the shelters are no longer temporary and they are not serving the best interest of the children. In fact, the Committee is of the view that they feature more like detention centres than safe houses. They are also providing a convenient escape mechanism for parents wanting to divest themselves of the responsibility to care for their children with albinism. Mechanisms and plans must therefore be devised to reunite the affected children with a family environment and to end the permanent nature of the Temporary Holding Centres.

The Committee is also of the view that both the procedures followed in bringing the children to the Centres and the current situation of the children are contrary to the provisions of the African Children's Charter and other international instruments.

Moreover, the Committee realizes that the stigma and discrimination against children with albinism are structurally embedded, and the marginalization and social exclusion of these children have to be reported as a worrying human rights problem in Tanzania. It is the Committee's belief that it is only when the challenge is considered as a national problem emanating from deeply entrenched societal prejudices against persons with albinism, that a functional and effective solution can be devised to permanently stop the violations.

The Committee also notes that sufficient attention is not given by CSOs and other stakeholders to address the challenges. The Committee learns that only handful of CSOs which are actively working towards to finding a solution for the



problem of children with albinism in Tanzania. Particularly, the Committee would like to encourage CSOs which are working on children rights issues to collaborate with the Government in finding a long term and functional solution to plight of the children in the Centres.

Finally the Committee would like to recommend the following key points primarily to the Government of Tanzania and other stakeholders with a view to producing effective mechanisms to protect the rights of children with albinism in Tanzania:

### **I. Immediate measures**

- I.1. A plan and strategy has to be in place for the Government to immediately stop institutionalization of children with albinism and instead assist them in reconnecting and reuniting the children in the centres with their parents, or close relatives; an integration plan back to the community should also be in place;
- I.2. From the conversation it had with authorities, the Committee realizes most of the officials either don't properly understand the depth of the challenges or they live in denial. Therefore, it is the Committee's strongest view that the Government should sensitize its enforcement officials regarding the plight of the children with albinism.
- I.3. With a view of preventing further complicated health problems, including skin cancer, the Government should come up with a short term plan to enhance the health facilities such as by providing of affordable sunscreen and other sun protective gear to children with albinism,
- I.4. The Committee encourages the Government to investigate the allegations against some members of the Police and Government Officials who are thought to be involved in the sale of body parts of children with albinism.

### **II. Mid-term measures**

- II.1. The Committee encourages the State Party to take legislative and administrative measures, including reviewing legislative instruments and policies, and to adopt a comprehensive strategy to eliminate the attacks, killings and discrimination against children with albinism. Particularly, the Witchcraft Act should be amended in order to reflect the current situation on issues of superstitious beliefs;
- II.2. The Committee also recommends that the Government to develop and maintain a database of children with albinism, this includes registering

children at birth in hospitals and ensuring that all registered children have birth certificates;

- II.3. The national human rights institution should play a very active role to effectively address the human rights situation of children with albinism;
- II.4. The delegation realizes there is a duplication of efforts at the Government level to fight against the challenges concerning children with albinism. It was mentioned that two Committees have been formed to follow up on issues of albinism: a Committee in the Office of the President and a Committee in the Prime Minister's Office. The delegation recommends that it is important to merge the two Committees in order not to duplicate efforts;
- II.5. The government is advised to launch campaigns and awareness-raising events with a view of addressing the root causes of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism in general, and children in particular;
- II.6. The Government should ensure the victims' right to justice and redress, and provide medical, psychosocial and legal support to victims of attacks;
- II.7. The Committee learned that Tanzania has a strong Social Action Fund scheme, hence the Committee recommends for the inclusion of children with albinism as beneficiaries of this scheme.

### III. Long-term measures

- III.1. With a view of addressing the cross border aspect of the violations, the Government of Tanzania should collaborate with neighboring countries to combat the violations and prosecute perpetrators;
- III.2. The Government in collaboration with CSOs should set a strategy in place to empower local leaders to collaborate in protecting children with albinism from attacks;
- III.3. In collaboration with CSOs, the private sector and UN Agencies, the Government should strive to create an environment where children with albinism enjoy all their rights on an equal basis with other groups of children.



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