

International Albinism Awareness Day 2018 – Concept Note

1. Background:

Alive Initiative Trust is working on removing, from society, the traditional based stigma and its related consequences on the person with albinism in all spheres of human activity. The primary objective of this organisation is to identify the specific needs of people with albinism and find way and means of raising adequate resources to either provide for some of these needs or to assist people with albinism get access to facilities that will enable them to meet their own needs.

Some of the pressing needs are: the need for spectacles, the need for sunscreen lotion, the need for long sleeved clothes hats and shoes, and the need for funds for regular checks for skin cancer symptoms and for medical treatment, the need for training and access for self-help projects.

In total the population of people with albinism in Zimbabwe is approximately 39 000+ (Living Conditions among People with Disabilities Key findings Report 2013). A great majority of these members are in various stages of destitution caused by societal prejudice.

In Zimbabwe Albinism is seen as an unfortunate occurrence at best or as a curse from avenging ancestral spirits. This general societal ignorance of the cause of albinism translates into fear, scorn, hate, or plain prejudice against people with albinism thereby adversely affecting their day to day life.

2. Justification

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 23/13 of 13 June 2013 on attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism 24/33 of 27 September 2013 on technical cooperation for the prevention of attacks against persons with albinism and 26/10 of 26 June 2014 on International Albinism Awareness Day. Taking note of Africa Commission on Human and People's Rights resolution 263 of 5 November 2013 on the prevention of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism.

Concern at the attacks against persons with albinism, including against women and children, which are often committed with impunity, the increased international attention to the human rights situation of persons with albinism, including the work of the Office of the High Commissioner. Member States to continue their efforts to protect and preserve the rights of persons with albinism to life and to security of person, as well as their right not to be subject to torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

3. Objectives

- To enlighten society on the rights of people with albinism, particularly the rights of women and children with albinism.
- To promote education and training for people living with albinism.
- To increase international attention to the human rights situation of persons with albinism
- To protect and preserve the rights of person with albinism to life, dignity and security as well as their right not to be subject to torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and to continue their efforts to ensure equal access for persons with albinism to employment, education, justice and the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health

4. International Albinism Awareness Day:

International Albinism Awareness Day: A Focus on partnership and development

Structures to support the International Albinism Awareness Day will be put in place with United Nations Information Centre UNIC as a coordinating partner in the formation of a core group. The core group will comprise UN agencies, key government ministries, funding agencies, youth organizations, faith base groups and the private sector. The function of the core group is to alleviate challenges faced by people with albinism in Zimbabwe.

Following this, a holistic commemoration of the International Albinism Day will be held on Saturday the 16th of June 2018, to try and raise awareness to a greater part of the nation on issues affecting people living with albinism. The event will be open to the media hence spreading awareness on such issues. It will also help people living with albinism to come together and share life experiences on issues that affect them.

5. Venue and Date: 16 June 2018 at Meikles Park Mutare, Zimbabwe

Proposed Activities

- Street march from the flyover to Meikles park
- An interface of People with Albinism with key stakeholders and key decision makers both in government and in the corporate sector.
- A showcase of talents from people with albinism. E.g. poetry, speeches, music and drama on issues affecting them.
- Solidarity speeches from partner organizations.
- Entertainment from selected artists.
- Refreshments
- Presentations of sunscreen lotions, and food hampers to people with albinism.

6. PROPOSED PROGRAM

TIME	EVENT	FACILITATOR
08:30	Arrival and registration at the flyover	Alive Albinism Initiative Team
09:00– 10:00	March	Alive Albinism Team, ZRP, Manicaland Albino Association
10:00– 10:15	Entertainment	
10:15– 10:25	National Anthem and Prayer	Choir and Pastor
10:25– 10:40	Welcome Remarks	Nyaradzai Mazaiwana President MAA
10:40- 11:00	Solidarity Speeches	
11:00-11:15	Entertainment	
11:15- 11:40	Speech	Tapiwa Gwenlisa Mushonga Executive Director Alive Albinism Initiative
11:40– 11:55	Entertainment	
11:55 - 12:00	Introduction of Guest	Nyaradzai Mazaiwana
12:00 - 12:30	Keynote Address	Minister of State for Provincial Affairs Manicaland Province Senator Monica Mutsvangwa
12:30 - 12:40	Entertainment	
12:40– 12:45	Vote of thanks	
12:50-Day end	Lunch and Celebrations	