

Children with albinism **AT SCHOOL**

Every Namibian child has the **right to attend school**. No school, teacher, or pupil may discriminate against children with albinism. Children may not be refused a place at school because they have albinism.



Discrimination at **SCHOOL**

Children with albinism need to be protected from discrimination at school. Teachers must do their best to protect these vulnerable children and to teach others about this condition.

Learning difficulties at **SCHOOL**

Children with albinism may have weak eyes and must be allowed to sit near the blackboard. The teacher should write clearly so that the words and numbers are easy to read. Children with albinism should be given extra time to write if needed.

Where to get help if you are being **DISCRIMINATED** AGAINST

Office of the Ombudsman

Tel: 061 207 3111

Office of the Labour commissioner

Tel: 061 206 6800

The Namibia Albino Association

Cell: 081 4180 499 / 081 1456 577

National Disability Council of Namibia

Tel: 061 225 913

**Office of the Deputy Minister
of Disability Affairs**

Tel: 061 283 311

**Support in Namibia for Albinism Suffereres
requiring Assistance (SINASRA)**

Tel: 061 305 679; Cell: 081 7577 170



UNDERSTANDING *Albinism*



The condition, the stigma and the **DISCRIMINATION**



What is **ALBINISM?**

Albinism is a genetic condition that is present at birth. Persons with albinism have reduced melanin, or none at all, which causes them to have little or no pigmentation in their eyes, hair, and skin.

Persons with albinism are often discriminated against. The Ombudsman launched a national inquiry in 2020/21 to determine the extent of human rights violations, discrimination and violence against persons with albinism, and customary practices.



How albinism affects the **EYES**

Our eyes need melanin to develop properly. Therefore, lack of melanin can lead to various eye problems, including crossed eyes, sensitivity to light, impaired vision, or blindness.

How albinism affects the **SKIN**

Melanin protects the skin from the sun. Without melanin, the skin gets sunburn which is more quickly and is more likely to lead to skin cancer.



Myths about **ALBINISM**



Albinism is contagious.

Albinism is NOT contagious. It cannot be spread by contact with a person with albinism.



Albinism has a specific smell.

Persons with albinism do NOT smell different to anyone else.



People with albinism are ghosts who will disappear one day.

People with albinism are people. They are NOT supernatural beings.



Having sex with a woman with albinism cures HIV/AIDS.

This is NOT true. There is no cure for HIV/AIDS.



A child born with albinism is caused by adultery or racial mixing.

This is NOT true. Albinism is a genetic condition that affects melanin production in the body.

Human rights and **ALBINISM**

People with albinism have the same rights as all other Namibians to enjoy a life of dignity, free from discrimination. Insults and name-calling are a form of abuse, and people with albinism can seek help for this.

Albinism at **WORK**

People with albinism are protected from discrimination at work. It is not allowed to pay them a lower wage or to mistreat them.

Albinism and **HEALTHCARE**

Nurses and clinics must treat people with albinism with dignity; people with albinism's skin care needs must be given priority; sunscreen must always be available for them at all clinics throughout Namibia.

Albinism and **SERVICES**

By law, no services can be withheld from people because they suffer from albinism.

