



SESSION 4 · 24 SEPTEMBER

# Disability in refugee camps in the Global South

Moderated by Julius Ntobuah,  
Global Network of Refugees with Disabilities (GNRD)

Global Forum on Disability, Migration and Forced Displacement (GFDMD)

23-24 September 2026



# Accessibility recap

The session will be recorded now

01  
Accessibility

02  
Captions &  
Interpretation

03  
Meeting  
Participation

04  
Guidance for  
Speakers

05  
Accessible  
Presentations



# Testimony 7





# Persons with albinism on the move

Muluka-Anne Miti-Drummond  
UN Independent Expert

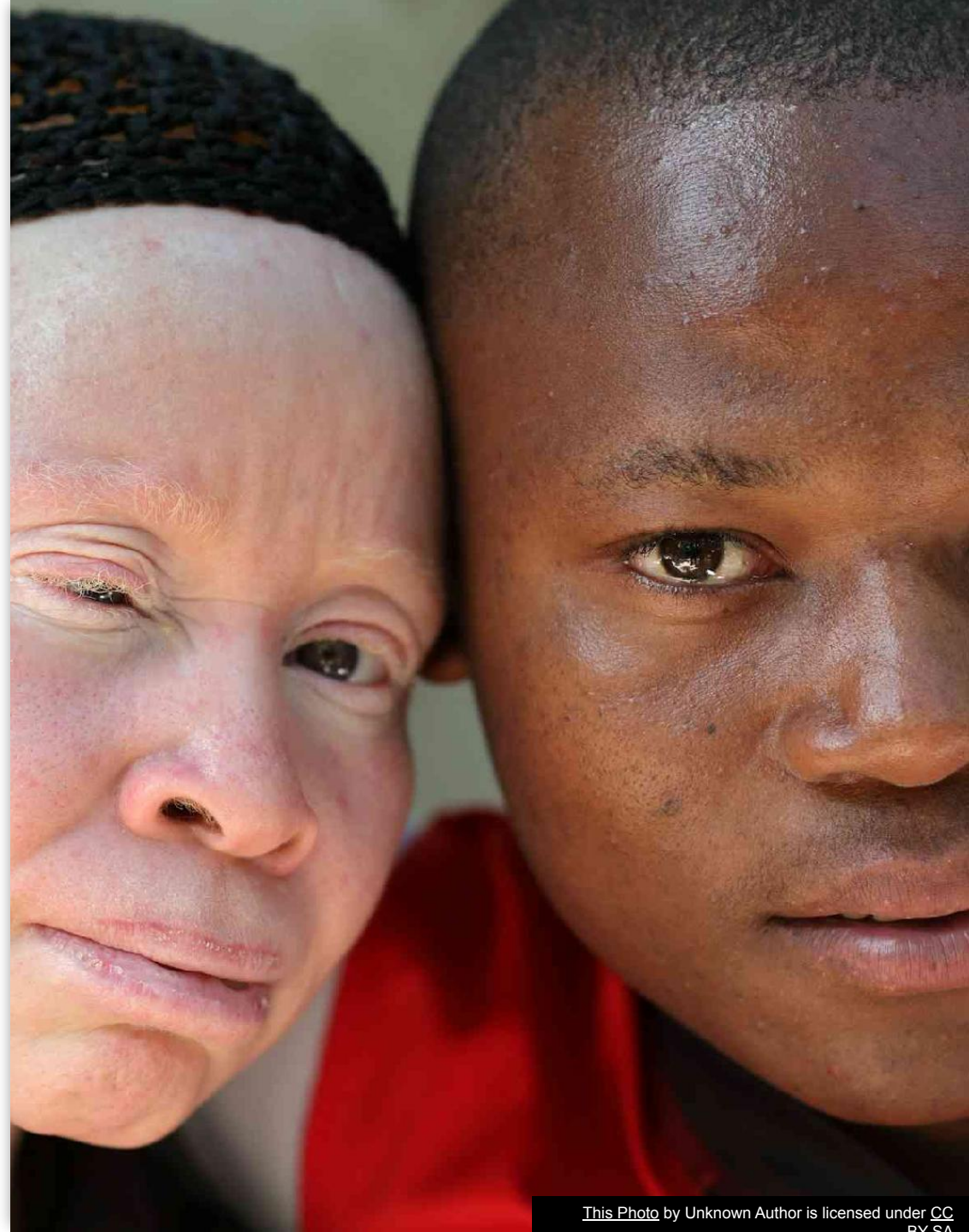
# Persons with albinism on the move





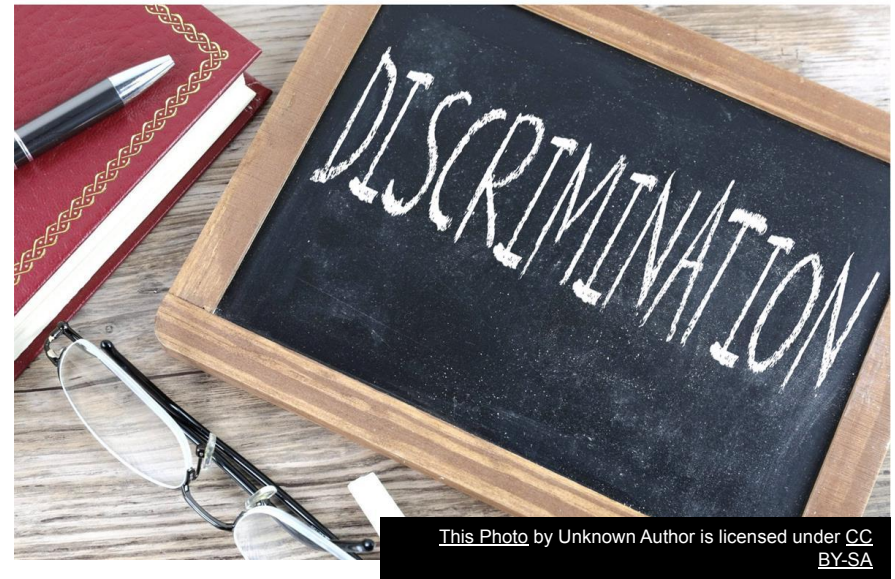
# Albinism

- Genetic condition characterised by lack of melanin in the eyes, hair and skin (Oculocutaneous albinism – OCA)
- Lack of melanin in the eyes only (Ocular Albinism – OA)
- OCA accompanied by bleeding, gastrointestinal and lung disorder (Hermansky Pudlock Syndrome – HPS)
- Chediaki Higashi Syndrome (CHS) – severe immune deficiency



# Discrimination against persons with albinism

- Ableism – visual impairment, nystagmus, photophobia, vulnerability to skin cancer (CRPD X,Y and Z v. Tanzania; CHR and LHRC v. Tanzania; CRPD COB Zambia)
- Colour-based discrimination – Stigma and myths due to different complexion leading to verbal attacks, abductions, mutilations, murders of persons with albinism (CHR and LHRC v. Tanzania; CERD COB Zambia, Benin, Senegal)
- Sexism - women with albinism and mothers of children with albinism



# Drivers of migration for persons with albinism

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- ❑ Insecurity and threats to life (fear of attacks)
- ❑ Aggravated forms of discrimination (pervasive social rejection, exclusion, isolation, etc)
- ❑ Inadequate access to critical health goods and service (ophthalmologist, dermatologist, HPS lung transplant)
- ❑ Lack of social services (inclusive education, accessible transportation)
- ❑ Climate-change (cooler climate, better farming)
- ❑ Trafficking (involuntary migration)



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# Refugees and IDPs in camps

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- Persistent stigma and insecurity
- Access to health care services and products
- Access to reasonable accommodation and assistive devices
- Discrimination in accessing employment
- Disproportionate violations against women and children



# Migrants with albinism

- Integrating into new society
- Accessing employment with reasonable accommodations
- Lack of knowledge of benefits and services available to them
- Lack of understanding of albinism as a disability



# Positive developments at global level

- European Union guidance documents and tools
  - guidance on membership of a particular social group, Country of Origin Information – persons with albinism, accused of witchcraft
- NAP – Uganda includes refugees with albinism
- Support from CSO for migrants with albinism
- SADC Declaration on protection of persons with albinism – calls for review of legal framework on trafficking



# What needs to be done?

- Disaggregated data collection and needs assessment
- Mainstream albinism
- Inclusion of persons with albinism in disaster preparedness, management and response strategies
- Build capacity of those working with migrants, refugees and IDPs to understand the specific needs and concerns of persons with albinism
- Multisectoral collaboration with UN agencies, governmental authorities and albinism groups to coordinate activities for the provision of services and products for persons with albinism on the move



# Resources

- Reports of the UN Independent Expert on albinism: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/ie-albinism/reports>
- Videos of the reports: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/ie-albinism/videos-independent-expert-enjoyment-human-rights-persons-albinism>
- ACERWC Guiding note on reporting on children with albinism: <https://www.acerwc.africa/en/article/communique/release-guiding-note-reporting-rights-and-welfare-children-albinism-Africa>
- Refugees with albinism in Africa, <https://www.adry.up.ac.za/section-c-regional-developments-2023/mgijima-konopi-i-miti-drummond-ma>
- IOM situational analysis report on human rights and protection of persons with albinism: [https://unicri.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/IOM\\_PWA\\_REPORT\\_ENG\\_P2.pdf](https://unicri.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/IOM_PWA_REPORT_ENG_P2.pdf)





# 5 minute BREAK

<<5:00>>

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# Disability in refugee camps in the Global South



# End of Session 4

Please standby or return for Session 5 on Understanding and resisting disabling immigration and asylum systems in the Global North in 30 minutes time

<<30:00>>

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