Albinism is a rare, non-contagious, genetically inherited condition present at birth characterized by a lack of pigmentation (melanin) in the hair, skin and eyes. Almost all people with albinism are visually impaired and risk developing skin cancer. In Africa, it is estimated that for every 5,000 to 15,000 people have albinism, about 1 in 1,000 persons with albinism are a child with albinism.

It is estimated that there are about 25,000 PWA in Zambia. It is common for parents with normal skin colour to have a child with albinism. In response to the widespread mistreatment and abuse, hundreds of attacks including murder, mutilation, grave robberies, sexual violence, kidnapping and trafficking of persons and body parts have been reported across Africa. PWA are subjected to discrimination, which impacts negatively on their right to equality, dignity and access to equal opportunities. This stigma is compounded by a lack of appropriate services, unsupportive legislation, inaccessible environments, poverty and social exclusion. In most communities, the woman is wrongly blamed for bearing a child with albinism. This misconception often leaves mothers ostracised and abused.

It is important to note that a child with albinism received the defective information from both parents and that it is common for parents with normal skin colour to have a child with albinism. Almost all people with albinism are at risk of developing skin cancer. Albinoism is a rare, non-contagious, genetically inherited condition present at birth.
ABOUT US
Albinism Multi-purpose Cooperative (AMC) was established in 2017 to represent Persons with Albinism (PWA) in Zambia; this representation will mainly focus on acting as their voice in all spheres of life especially in the socio-economic sectors, where they are marginalized and stigmatized.

AMC is affiliated to ZAPD (Zambia Agency of Persons with Disabilities) and ZAFOD (Zambia Federation of Disabilities).

OUR VISION
"Full acceptance and integration of Persons with Albinism in society."

Our Mission is to promote the realization of equal rights for PWA in Zambia and to facilitate their full inclusion in all aspects of life.

Creating awareness about albinism to end stigma and discrimination
Empowering PWA through social and economic empowerment, educational and training programmes, and creating awareness about albinism among PWA.

Working with various stakeholders to provide free access to adequate sunscreen, eyeglasses and protective clothing.

Advocating for the appointment of PWA to public office

PWA suffer from visual impairments and need corrective aids like glasses and magnifiers. Low melanin means they are at risk of cancer from exposure to sunlight, so they need to practice sun safety; apply sunscreen, avoid midday sun, wear wide brimmed hats and caps, long sleeved clothing and long trousers. Early diagnosis and treatment are key.

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Empower PWA, Grasstitutions and Institutions to assist and partner with other Disability Organizations through data collection on PWA's needs and situation. Working with the Government to come up with effective data collection on PWA and raise funds to advance PWA's economic, educational and social wellbeing.

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