Resolution on the situation of persons with albinism in Africa, notably in Malawi

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The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the situation of persons with albinism in Africa, notably in Malawi.

The resolution was tabled by the EPP, S&D, ECR, ALDE, and EFDD groups.

Parliament expressed its deep concern at the widespread discrimination and persecution faced by persons with albinism in Africa, particularly following the recent rise in violence in Malawi, and remained highly concerned that **the introduction of stronger legislation in Malawi has not prevented a recent resurgence in attacks** against them. Whilst welcoming the reforms to Malawi's Penal Code and the Anatomy Act, Members called on the Malawian authorities to act proactively against any criminal organisation active in witchcraft and human trafficking, give the police adequate training and resources, thoroughly investigate crimes related to albinism, put an end to impunity, and seek international support to conduct impartial and effective investigations into all reported attacks.

Parliament noted that albinism is an **inherited genetic condition** affecting about one in 20 000 people worldwide, and a considerably higher proportion of people in sub-Saharan countries, specifically Tanzania, Malawi and Burundi, which have the highest concentrations of persons with albinism. False association between albinism and magical powers poses the greatest threat to them. According to human rights groups, in the past decade, more than 600 attacks against persons with albinism have been reported in Africa, and since the beginning of 2017, a new wave of killings and attacks targeting PWAs has been fuelled by systemic failures in Malawi's criminal justice system.

Parliament called on the Malawian Government to **meet the medical, psychological and social needs of persons with albinism** and ensure that they have access to healthcare, in particular in rural and remote areas. It stressed the c**rucial role of local authorities and civil society organisations** in promoting the rights of persons with albinism, informing and educating the population, and shattering myths and prejudices with regard to albinism. Members specifically called for improved training of teachers and school administrations. More effort should be put into addressing the root causes of discrimination and violence through public awareness campaigns.

The EU and its Member States should keep engaging with the countries affected, in order to effectively **support their efforts to formulate policies** addressing the specific needs and rights of persons with albinism, on the basis of non-discrimination and social inclusion, by providing the necessary financial and technical assistance. Members called for **EU delegations** to continue closely monitoring the human rights situation of persons with albinism in Africa,

Lastly, Parliament welcomed all initiatives taken at regional and international level to fight violence against persons with albinism and, in particular, the recent adoption of the Regional Action Plan on albinism for the period 2017-2021 by the African Union and the UN.