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FEDERATION

Department for Theology  
and Public Witness

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**40th Session of the UN Human Rights  
Council**

**Oral Statement: Item-3 IE on Persons  
with Albinism**

**March 5, 2019**

**Dr Ojot Miru Ojulu  
Assistant General Secretary for  
International Affairs and Human  
Rights  
The Lutheran World Federation**

**Thank you Mr President,**

The Lutheran World Federation would like to commend Madam Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism for her continued dedication to combating human rights violations against persons with albinism and for this comprehensive report presented on right to access to justice for persons with albinism.

Despite the concerted efforts being made, it is distressing to continue to hear about attacks against persons with Albinism. The Lutheran World Federation deplors such violations and urges the governments in questions to bring the culprits to justice.

Access to justice is a fundamental human rights under international law. Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that all persons are equal before the law and are entitled, without any discrimination, to equal protection by the law. It further states that everyone has the right to an effective remedy by competent national tribunals for acts violating his or her fundamental rights, and is entitled to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal (arts. 8 and 11). Similar provisions are also stipulated in other conventions such as ICCPR Art. 2 & 14, CRPD Art. 13, CERD Art. 6 and CEDAW Art. 15.

Persons with albinism should not continue to face obstacles in access to justice because of the barriers discussed in the report. It is incumbent up on all stakeholders to remove such barriers through education, legal aid, legislative reform, community engagement and other appropriate approaches to each national context.

Madam IE, we find the “Best Practices” section of your report to be very helpful especially on community engagement and collaboration. As faith based organization rooted in some of those hard to reach places, what advice would you give us, meaning FBO, to strengthen and contribute to such village advocacy groups or community-based protection structures for persons with albinism?

I thank you Mr President!