

A Christian NGO bringing hope to “the forgotten children of Africa”

Because CHILDREN are any nation’s greatest resource—A precious treasure from God!

## BURYING MYTHS CONCERNING CHILDREN WITH ALBINISM

Children with albinism are much like other children despite the difference in pigmentation of the body. Albino children have no superstitious power attached to their corpulence, nor are they not magic children as most of our traditions tend to believe. However, children with albinism cannot be the source of wealth due to their non-pigmentation but rather, in the same ways other people become well-off, they can as well improve life for them and their families. Logically, killing and other criminal offenses over someone is intolerable and punishable as per legal settings both on earth and in the heaven. Therefore, anyone who commits an offense over an albino child abuses his/her own friendship with God.

We are writing this to you because you live in the community where children with albinism are abused and denied of their right to freely enjoy their lives as other human beings. And this in great portion is based on the cultural adherence which has no veracity in it. In contrast it misleads the society (community) and contributes to social instability in our communities as well as being an offense in the eyes of our Almighty God.

Many myths related to albinism have been used as a tactical way to cheat money from unwise people, but they are not true at all. You may have heard some like the following:

- Albino children can abruptly disappear from and come back to bed during night time.  
NOT TRUE.
- Children with albinism cannot study mathematics subjects because of their eye sight defection.  
NOT TRUE. Many albino children are highly intelligent. They may study anything, using spectacles to help their sight.
- Twin children with albinism cannot survive all together because they always fight spiritually.  
NOT TRUE. The children are not spirits but rather human beings.
- Children with albinism are ghosts and that why they are not similar to other children.  
NOT TRUE. They are like other children. They simply have a deficiency in skin colour or melanin [lack of pigments] as may someone else miss a lamb on his body.
- Albinos hairs are powerful to augment someone’s ability to think and well performing in classroom.  
NOT TRUE. Sorry you just have to study hard to do well in the classroom.
- Albinos parts of the body are powerful enough to bring opulence.  
NOT TRUE.

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- Raping a child with albinism may cure infertility and increase the power to hold up a household partner.  
NOT TRUE.
- Friendship to children with albinism is dangerous because it may be transferred onto someone’s generation.  
NOT TRUE. Albinism is not a disease at all, but simply lack of coloration of the skin in other word lack of pigmentation of the body due to absence of melanin. Thus, it is not spread through bodily contact.

All these myths are destructive and we have nothing to deal with them in our lives. Nevertheless, our surveys show that thousands of children with albinism have been killed, raped and their body parts cut off due to wrong beliefs, and in Tanzania the situation is worse. Children with albinism are frightened to die. More than 1.5 million albinos are HIV positive most of whom were forced to sex. More than 340 murders and more than 40 attempted murders where the victims lost limbs. In Burundi the rate is ¼ compared to Tanzania.

Even though Tanzania and Burundi lead in the killing of albinos, its people are amongst the poorest of the world (Burundi is the fourth and Tanzania is twenty fifth poor country of the world) according to the world population and economic statistics 2013. This proves that all the above beliefs are wrong. All in all, we must struggle to help the most vulnerable by leading our neighbours and friends to drop all these kinds of myths which cost others’ lives, in this case, children with albinism. (Matthew 5:2)

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