



THEMATIC RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED AT THE NGOs FORUM
89TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN
AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS
8TH – 10TH OCTOBER 2026,

TREC/001/10/26: THEMATIC RECOMMENDATION ON ALBINISM IN
AFRICA ADVANCING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH ALBINISM
THROUGH INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTION, HEALTH SERVICES,
DATA, WATER AND SANITATION

We, the participants of the NGO Forum on the Participation of Non-Governmental Organizations in the 89th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, held in Banjul, The Gambia, from 8th to 10th October 2026, call upon States Parties, relevant African Union institutions and development partners to:

1. Include persons with albinism in climate adaptation and health planning

Explicitly address the needs of persons with albinism in national climate adaptation plans, public health strategies and disaster preparedness programs. Assess and respond to risks associated with extreme heat, sun exposure, water scarcity, displacement, and disruption of essential health services. Provide accessible climate and health information, shaded facilities, safe drinking water, and appropriate arrangements for outdoor work and school activities. Ensure meaningful participation by persons with albinism in the design, implementation and monitoring of these measures.

2. Guarantee access to quality sunscreen and comprehensive skin-cancer care

Include quality-assured broad-spectrum sunscreen in national essential medicines lists and public procurement systems, and ensure its regular, free provision in sufficient

quantities to persons with albinism, including those in rural and underserved communities. Establish sustained funding and reliable distribution systems to prevent stock-outs.

Integrate sun-protection education, protective clothing, regular skin examinations, early diagnosis, referral and timely skin-cancer treatment into primary health care and universal health coverage. Train health workers on albinism and provide outreach services and transport support where distance or cost prevents access to care.

3. Support sustainable local and regional sunscreen production

Promote local and regional production of affordable, quality-assured sunscreen through investment, technology transfer, research partnerships and pooled procurement. Require regulatory approval, good manufacturing practices, verified protection against UVA and UVB radiation, and testing for stability under local storage and climatic conditions. Involve persons with albinism in assessing product suitability and accessibility and link production initiatives to reliable public-sector purchasing and distribution.

4. Collect and publish reliable, disaggregated data

Integrate appropriate measures to identify persons with albinism into national censuses, household surveys and relevant administrative data systems. Use the Washington Group Short Set of Questions, where appropriate, to measure functional difficulties, alongside a separate, appropriately designed question identifying albinism; the Short Set alone does not identify persons with albinism as a distinct population.

Disaggregate relevant findings by age, sex, geographic location and functional difficulty, and monitor access to health care, education, employment, social protection, water and sanitation, as well as reported violence and access to justice. Develop data tools with national statistical offices and organisations of persons with albinism. Publish accessible, anonymized aggregate findings, with safeguards against identification, discrimination or targeting of individuals.

5. Ensure safe, accessible and non-discriminatory access to water and sanitation

Explicitly include persons with albinism in policies, budgets and programs implementing the AU's 2026 theme on water and sanitation. Provide affordable, reliable water supplies close to communities, accessible sanitation facilities, shaded waiting areas and service arrangements that reduce prolonged exposure to the sun.

Prevent and address exclusion from shared water points and sanitation facilities arising from myths or stigma associated with albinism. Establish accessible complaints mechanisms and community education programs, while ensuring that women and girls with albinism can access safe, private sanitation and menstrual hygiene facilities.

6. Make disaster response and social protection inclusive

Ensure that early-warning information, evacuation procedures, shelters and emergency water and sanitation services are accessible to persons with albinism, including those with

low vision. Include sunscreen, protective clothing and continuity of essential treatment in emergency preparedness and relief provision. Incorporate persons with albinism into climate-responsive social protection and livelihood support programs, using eligibility criteria that recognise their circumstances and barriers.

7. Establish participation, financing and accountability mechanisms

Ensure the meaningful participation of organisations of persons with albinism in water governance, climate adaptation, health planning and public expenditure monitoring. Establish dedicated resources, measurable indicators and regular public reporting on their inclusion. Encourage coordination among the African Commission's relevant mechanisms to monitor progress and incorporate these issues into State reporting reviews and recommendations.

Done at Dakar, October 10th 2026

The Forum

TREC/002/10/26: THEMATIC RECOMMENDATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS,

MIGRATION, CHILDREN AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

We, the participants of the NGO Forum on the Participation of Non-Governmental Organizations in the 89th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and

Peoples' Rights, held in Banjul, The Gambia, from 8th to 10th October 2026

Recognising that migration is an important reality in Africa and that, when safe and dignified, it can contribute positively to individuals, families and communities;

Concerned that children and young people affected by poverty, unemployment, insecurity, displacement, lack of education and limited livelihood opportunities are particularly vulnerable to irregular migration, trafficking in persons, exploitation, forced labour, sexual exploitation and other human rights violations;

Recognising the particular responsibility of States to protect the rights and dignity of children and persons on the move, and acknowledging the important contribution of faith communities, civil society and youth organisations in prevention, protection, referral, advocacy and community based support;

The NGO Forum therefore makes the following recommendations to the ACHPR to:

1. Strengthen the protection of children and young people

Call upon African States to:

- Strengthen national child-protection systems to prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking, exploitation and abuse.
- Ensure that the best interests of the child remain the primary consideration in all migration, asylum, border-management and protection procedures.
- ~~Establish~~ Establish and strengthen child-friendly mechanisms for reporting trafficking, exploitation, abuse and other violations.
- Ensure that migrant and displaced children have access to education, healthcare, psychosocial support, legal assistance and other essential services, regardless of their migration status.

2. Address the root causes of irregular migration and trafficking

Urge governments and development partners to address the structural factors that push children and young people towards unsafe migration, including:

- Poverty and unemployment;
- Lack of access to quality education and vocational training;
- Limited economic and livelihood opportunities;
- Insecurity, conflict and displacement;
- Family and community vulnerabilities; and
- Misinformation and unrealistic expectations concerning migration.

Investment in decent work, skills development, entrepreneurship, education and sustainable livelihoods should be prioritised as part of prevention strategies.

3. Strengthen the fight against human trafficking

Call upon States to:

- Strengthen implementation and enforcement of national and regional anti-trafficking legislation.
- Improve identification, referral and protection mechanisms for victims and survivors.
- Strengthen cross-border cooperation to dismantle trafficking networks. • Ensure that traffickers and perpetrators are effectively investigated and prosecuted.
- Ensure that victims of trafficking are treated primarily as rightsholders and persons in need of protection, rather than being criminalised because of their migration status.

4. Establish safe and dignified migration pathways

Recommend that governments and regional institutions strengthen safe, regular and dignified migration pathways, particularly for young people seeking employment and educational opportunities. Migration policies should prioritise human rights, dignity, family unity and protection from exploitation while ensuring that young people have access to accurate information before, during and after migration.

5. Strengthen psychosocial support and survivor-centred approaches

Call for greater investment in accessible and culturally appropriate psychosocial, legal and social support services for children and survivors of trafficking.

Faith-based organisations, civil society organisations and community structures should be equipped to identify vulnerable persons, provide firstline support and establish effective referral mechanisms. This responds directly to the consultation's emphasis on strengthening psychosocial support for survivors.

6. Recognise and strengthen the role of faith actors

Recommend that governments, UN agencies and other stakeholders formally engage faith-based organisations and religious leaders as partners in:

- Prevention and awareness raising;
- Child protection;
- Identification and referral of trafficking cases;
- Psychosocial and pastoral support;
- Community dialogue;
- Combating misinformation about migration; and • Advocacy for human rights and safe migration.
- Faith actors have a strong presence within communities and can contribute to prevention and protection through trusted community networks.

7. Put children and young people at the centre of policy-making

Recommend meaningful and sustained participation of children and young people, particularly those with lived experience of migration, trafficking or displacement, in the development, implementation and monitoring of migration and anti-trafficking policies.

Nothing about children and young people should be decided without their meaningful participation.

Youth should be supported not only as beneficiaries but also as actors, advocates and partners in prevention and protection.

8. Strengthen the role of the ACHPR

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), including the

relevant Special Rapporteur mechanisms, to:

- Strengthen monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs and trafficked persons;
- Give particular attention to the protection of children and young people on the move;
- Encourage Member States to implement existing African human-rights commitments concerning migration, children and trafficking;
- Strengthen engagement with civil society, faith actors and youth organisations; and
- Support regional advocacy and knowledge-sharing on child protection and human trafficking.

9. Strengthen cross-border and regional cooperation

Given the transnational nature of migration and trafficking, we recommend stronger cooperation among African governments, regional economic communities, the ACHPR, civil society organisations, faith actors and youth networks.

Such cooperation should include information sharing, cross-border referral mechanisms, protection of victims, prosecution of traffickers and coordinated prevention initiatives.

10. Develop a concrete African action framework

The ACHPR and relevant African institutions, in collaboration with civil society and faith-based organisations, develop or strengthen a continental action framework on the human rights of children and young people in the context of migration and human trafficking.

The framework should include measurable commitments on:

- Prevention;
- Child protection;
- Safe migration;
- Anti-trafficking measures;
- Psychosocial support;

- Access to justice;
- Youth participation; and
- Accountability and monitoring

Done at Dakar, October 10th 2026

The Forum

**TREC/003/10/26: THEMATIC RECOMMENDATION ON PROTECTING
FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF AND CIVILIANS AFFECTED BY
VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND RELIGIOUS OR ETHNO-RELIGIOUS
VIOLENCE IN AFRICA**

We, the participants of the NGO Forum on the Participation of Non-Governmental Organizations in the 89th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, held in Banjul, The Gambia, from 8th to 10th October 2026 raised concern that:

Africa is experiencing a continuing expansion and geographic diversification of terrorism

and violent extremism. The African Union has recently identified persistent threats extending from the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin to Somalia and northern Mozambique, while the African Commission has previously expressed concern about the increasing frequency, spread and brutality of terrorism-related violence, including killings and forced displacement across several African regions.

The human-rights consequences of this violence extend well beyond the immediate loss of life. Communities are displaced, homes and livelihoods destroyed, places of worship attacked, schools disrupted and religious communities subjected to fear, discrimination and restrictions on their ability to practise their faith.

Religious identity does not explain every conflict or every act of violence on the continent. In many contexts, religious, ethnic, political, economic, environmental and criminal factors overlap. However, available evidence demonstrates that religious identity can be a direct target, a significant driver of violence, or a factor that increases the vulnerability of particular communities to attack, displacement and discrimination. Research from Nigeria and other affected contexts demonstrates that this dimension requires more consistent attention in human-rights monitoring and response.

The challenge, therefore, is not to characterise religion itself as a cause of terrorism or conflict. The African Union has expressly affirmed that terrorism cannot be associated with any religion. The concern is the use of religious narratives and identities by violent extremist organisations to justify violence, reject religious pluralism, target persons because of actual or perceived religious identity, and impose coercive systems that restrict freedom of religion or belief.

The African human-rights system already possesses relevant instruments and mechanisms. Article 8 of the African Charter guarantees freedom of conscience, profession and free practice of religion; Resolution ACHPR/Res.455(LXVI)2020 gives the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities and Minorities in Africa a mandate to monitor religious minorities and collect information on their rights; and Resolution ACHPR/Res.647(LXXXV)2025 provides for a continental mapping study of ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious minorities.

The need now is to ensure that these existing commitments are translated into systematic protection, accountability and restoration for communities affected by religious and ethno-religious violence.

1. CONTEXT AND PROBLEMATICS

1.1 A widening continental protection challenge

Violent extremist organisations are active across several African regions, including the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin, the Horn of Africa and northern Mozambique, while other conflict settings experience serious violence with ethnic and religious dimensions. The AU continues to describe terrorism and violent extremism as a major continental peace and security threat.

The consequences are particularly severe for civilian populations. Terrorist and extremist violence has been associated with killings, abductions, forced displacement, destruction of homes and infrastructure, attacks on schools and places of worship and the disruption of livelihoods and essential services.

The 2024 No Road Home research produced by the International Institute for Religious Freedom, The World Evangelical Alliance, and Open Doors found that the relationship between violent extremism, religion and displacement extends beyond Nigeria. It documented serious displacement and protection concerns in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan, while highlighting the vulnerability of Christian communities in contexts affected by Islamist militancy. It also stressed that Christians are not the only religious communities affected and that Muslims and other communities can themselves be targeted by extremist groups.

1.2 Problematics identified

Protection gaps

Civilians living in areas affected by violent extremist activity may remain exposed to repeated attacks despite prior warnings or known patterns of violence. Where protection is inadequate, communities may be displaced repeatedly, lose access to their land and livelihoods and face attacks even after displacement.

An analytical gap

The causes of violence are frequently complex. Religious identity may intersect with ethnicity, land, political exclusion, resource competition, environmental pressures and criminality. Yet where the religious or identity dimension is overlooked entirely, the specific human-rights consequences for religious communities may also be overlooked.

This does not mean that every farmer-herder conflict or communal conflict should be classified as religious persecution. It means that where credible evidence indicates that religion or perceived religious identity influences the targeting, treatment or vulnerability of communities, that dimension should be identified and addressed rather than obscured by an overly general description of the conflict.

An accountability gap

Violent extremist attacks can produce large-scale violations while accountability remains

limited. The problem also extends to failures by State institutions to investigate attacks, act on early warnings, protect civilians or provide remedies to victims.

The ACHPR's own Principles and Guidelines on Human and Peoples' Rights while Countering Terrorism in Africa require effective investigation and accountability for abuses arising from both terrorism and counter-terrorism measures.

A restoration gap

Protection and justice are insufficient if communities remain permanently displaced, unable to recover their land and livelihoods or unable to rebuild schools, places of worship and community life.

The African Union's Kampala Convention expressly links protection and assistance for IDPs with durable solutions, while the AU continues to emphasise safe and voluntary return, local integration and resettlement as part of durable solutions.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

A) To the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

1. Systematically integrate freedom of religion or belief into the Commission's monitoring of terrorism, violent extremism and conflict, including through State reporting and country-monitoring activities.
2. Use State reporting and other protection mechanisms to seek information on attacks against religious communities, restrictions on religious practice, discrimination, investigations, prosecutions and remedies, and follow up where serious gaps persist.
3. Strengthen attention to religious minorities within the Commission's existing mandates and mechanisms, including the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities and Minorities in Africa and the implementation of Resolution ACHPR/Res.647(LXXXV)2025.
4. Use the Commission's existing protection tools, including Special Mechanisms, fact-finding and engagement with the AU Peace and Security Council, where credible evidence indicates serious or recurring violations involving religious or identity-based targeting.

5. Establish a Thematic Mandate: Pass a resolution under Rule 25 of the ACHPR Rules of Procedure to create a Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief to monitor violations, receive urgent appeals, and conduct country visits.
6. Clarify State Responsibility Regarding Non-State Actors: Task the mechanism with developing guidelines on state accountability to ensure Member States actively protect citizens from violent religious extremism and communal persecution.
7. Examine the intersection of Freedom of Religion and Belief with gender-based violence, minority rights, and indigenous practices while engaging local traditional leaders to deploy early-warning conflict resolution systems.
8. Harmonize regional protection standards by requiring formal collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief and African civil society organizations

B) To State Parties

9. Strengthen the protection of civilians and communities at risk of violent extremist or ethno-religious violence, including through functioning early warning and rapid-response mechanisms, protection of schools and places of worship, and accessible channels for reporting threats.
10. Guarantee freedom of religion or belief in conflict and counter-terrorism settings and ensure that security and counter-terrorism measures comply with the African Charter and do not result in discrimination, collective restrictions or unlawful interference with religious practice.
11. Investigate and prosecute serious violations promptly and impartially, including killings, abductions, attacks on places of worship, forced displacement and destruction of property. Where evidence indicates that religious identity contributed to targeting or vulnerability, this dimension should be documented and investigated.
12. Address failures by State institutions to protect civilians, including credible allegations of security-force abuses or failure to respond to known threats, and ensure victims have access to effective remedies, including legal assistance, compensation and rehabilitation.
13. Ensure safe, voluntary and sustainable return or other durable solutions for