

# Education for children in Mozambique with a condition called Albinism



© 2019 Marcus Bleasdale for Human Rights Watch

**“From Cradle to Grave”  
Discrimination and Barriers to Education for  
Persons with Albinism in Tete Province, Mozambique**



## About us

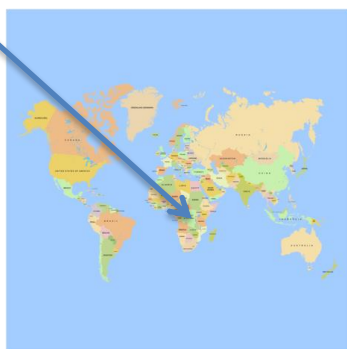
HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH

We are called Human Rights Watch.



We work to make sure that everyone in the world is treated fairly and gets their rights.

## About this report



This report is about education for children in Mozambique.

Mozambique is a country in Africa.



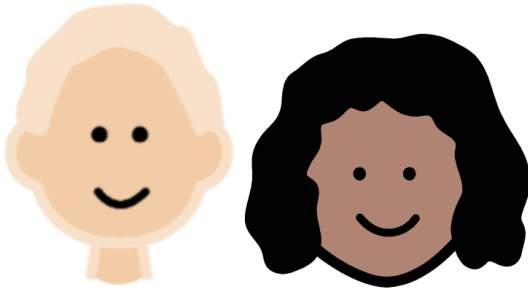
It is about education for children who have a condition called albinism.



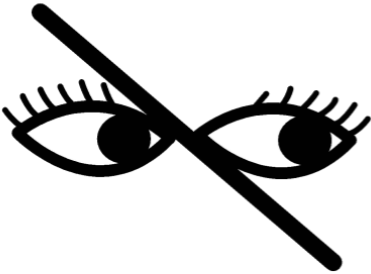
Albinism is a condition to do with people's skin.



It affects the color of their skin, hair and eyes.



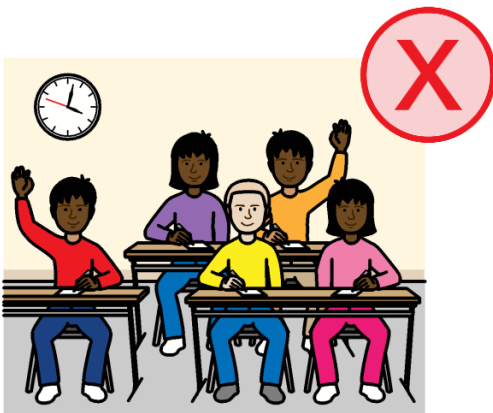
People with albinism usually have lighter skin and hair than people in their family.



Some people with albinism cannot see very well.

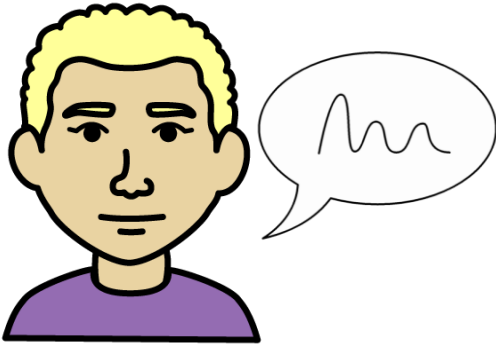


Children with albinism in Mozambique are often treated very badly.



It can be hard for them to get a good education and do well in life because of this.

In 2018 and 2019 we went to Mozambique to find out what was happening.

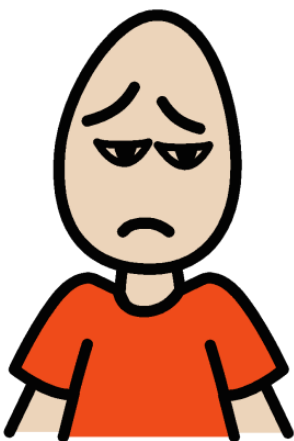


We spoke to:

- Children and young people with albinism and their families
- Organizations that support people with albinism
- Teachers and people in charge of schools
- People who make decisions in the community
- People from the government

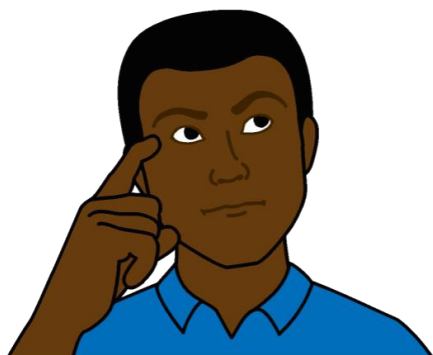


## What we found out

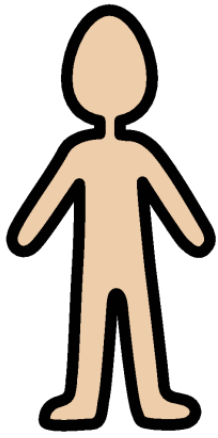


### **Some people have wrong ideas and beliefs about albinism**

We found that people can do very bad things to children with albinism in Mozambique.



This is because some people have wrong ideas about people with albinism.



They may believe that:

- People with albinism have special powers
- The bodies of people with albinism can bring them money and good luck



Because of this, some people may do bad things like:

- Take children with albinism away from their families
- Kill children with albinism



- Cut off body parts of children with albinism, like arms, hands, legs, hair and skin

- Sell their body parts for money

- Say mean things to them or say that they don't want to be near them



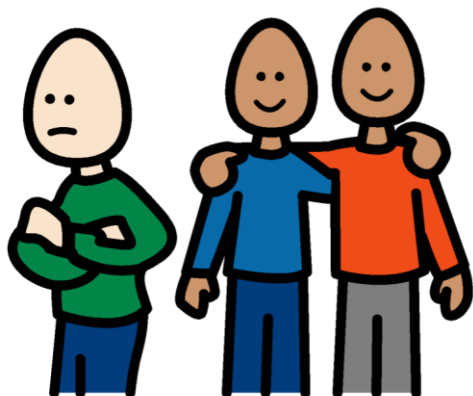
- Stop them going to school or getting a job after finishing school



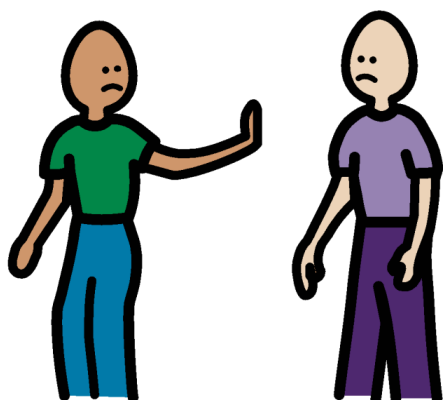
There was a lot of violence like this in 2014 and 2015.

There may be less violence now.

But many children with albinism and their families are still very scared.



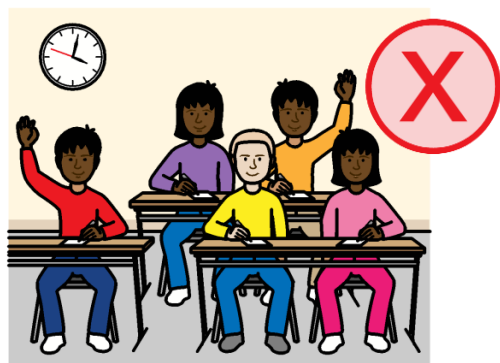
Children with albinism may also be treated badly by people they know.



Sometimes they are treated badly by their families.

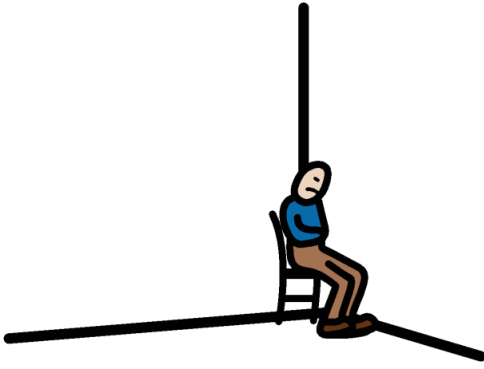
For example, some families may not want a child with albinism. They may think it is bad to have albinism.

## Education



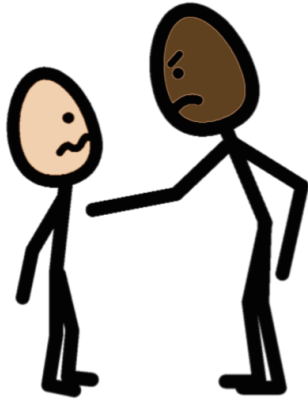
Education is a very important right for all children.

But many children with albinism do not get a good and safe education.



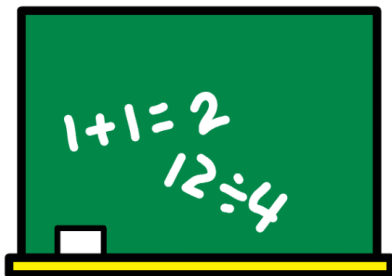
For example:

- Children with albinism may stop going to school because they think someone will take them away or hurt them.



- Other children and teachers may say mean things to children with albinism.

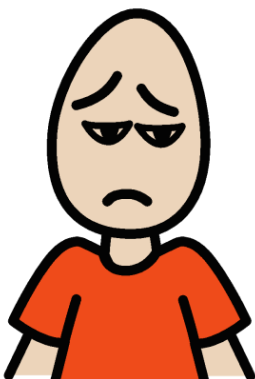
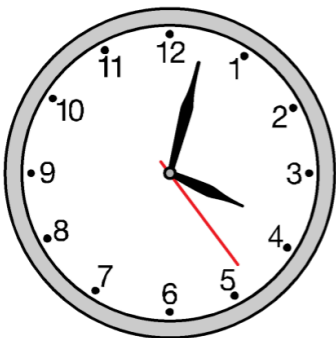
This can make children with albinism upset. They may think they are not good enough



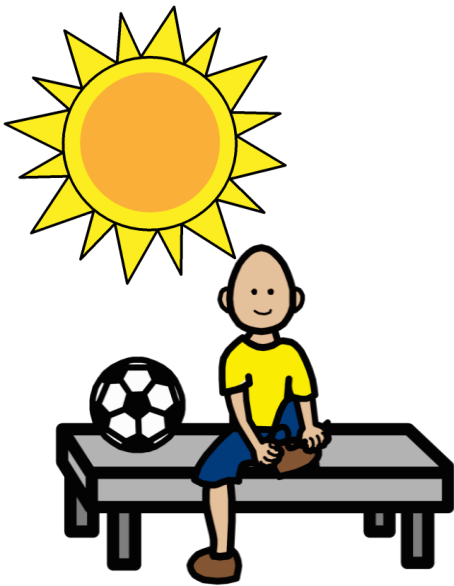
Children with albinism may need extra support at school if they find it hard to see.

For example, they may need:

- To sit near the blackboard
- Books with large writing
- More time for exams



But many children with albinism don't get this support.

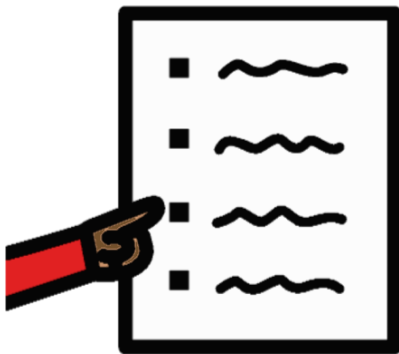


It can be unsafe for children with albinism to be in the sun because of their skin.

But children with albinism may have to do lessons outside in the sun with no way to keep safe.

## What the government is doing

The government in Mozambique has done some important work for children with albinism.



For example, the government has:

- Made a plan to stop violence against people with albinism
- Helped some people know about people with albinism and their rights







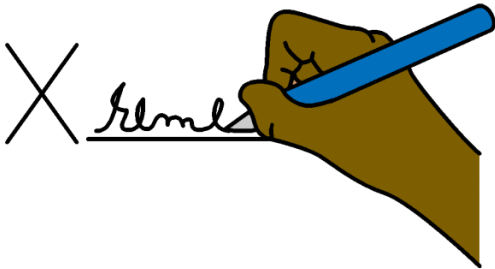
But the government must do more to make sure that children with albinism get a good and safe education.

There is an important document about the rights of people with disabilities in the world.



This includes their right to:

- A good education in the same classrooms as people without disabilities
- The support they need to learn, join in and do well

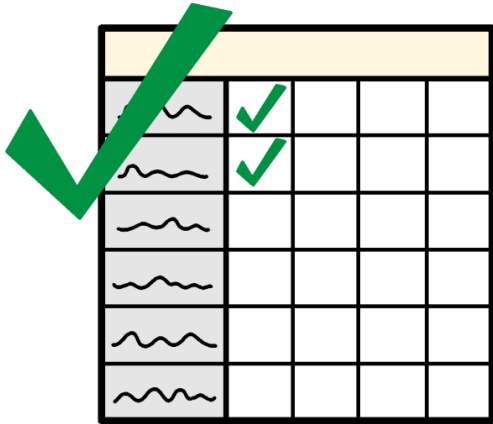


The government in Mozambique has promised to do what this document says.

# What we want to happen next



The following things are for the government in Mozambique to do.



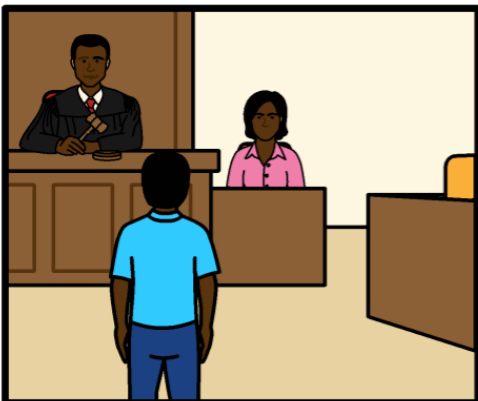
There is a plan about making life better for people with albinism in Africa.

The government should do all the things in the plan.

For example, the government should make sure that:

- The police and courts take action if bad things happen to people with albinism.

For example, people who hurt or kill children with albinism should go to court





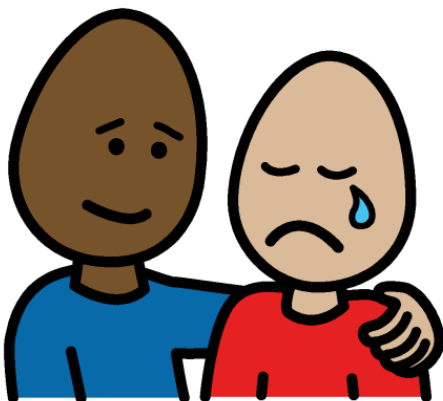
- There are good laws to keep people with albinism safe



- Health workers have training about albinism

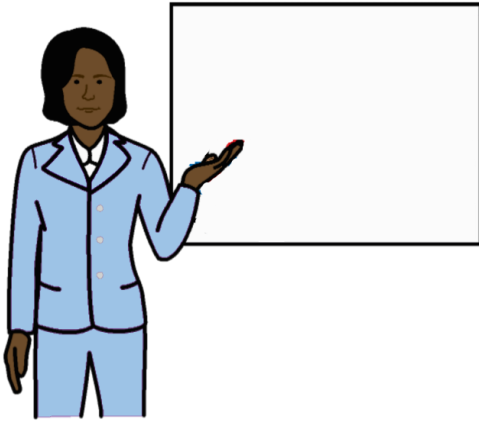


- There is better information about people with albinism and what they need



- People with albinism and their families get good healthcare and support if something bad happens to them.

For example, support to cope and feel better

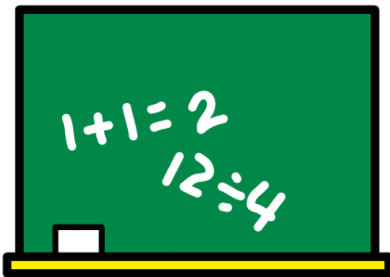


Teachers should have training about children with albinism and how to support them.



Schools should have everything that children with albinism may need, like:

- Books and exam papers in big writing



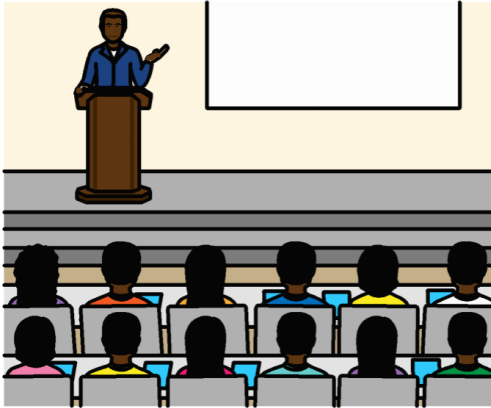
- Eye glasses that help children with albinism to read the blackboard



The government should work harder to help people:

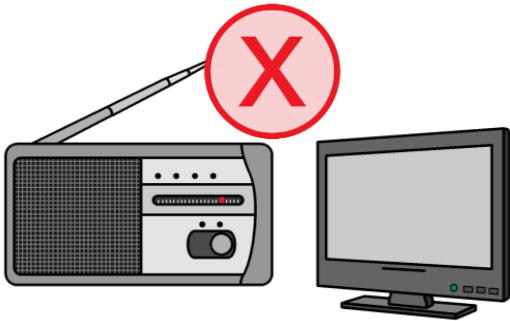
- Understand people with albinism
- Stop hurting people with albinism

There could be:



- Meetings with local people to teach them about albinism
- Movies about albinism that people can watch in public places.

The movies should be in the language that local people speak



This will help people learn about albinism if they do not have a TV or radio at home.