



## About Under The Same Sun (UTSS) Canada & Tanzania:

### **OUR STORY:**

*UTSS began as a collision of the heart, mind and vision of Peter Ash and Vicky Ntetema. At the time, Vicky was a journalist and Tanzania's BBC bureau chief, and Peter a Canadian businessman whose professional life was in transition. It was **Vicky's report in July of 2008 that broke the crisis** of persons with albinism (PWA) in Tanzania to the world. **It also broke Peter's heart.** Shortly after her report, Peter called Vicky and 2 people with big visions and even bigger hearts were united in a battle much bigger than themselves, a battle against discrimination so sinister that it had turned into grisly mutilations, murders and the trafficking in the human body parts of persons with albinism in Tanzania. Later in 2008 founder and CEO Peter Ash, registered UTSS as a Canadian, federally registered, non-profit organization. In 2009 UTSS - Tanzania branch was also registered as an international non-government organization (NGO) and the doors of our office in Dar es Salaam were opened to the public. Since the earth shattering report in 2008, Vicky Ntetema has resigned her post with BBC and joined UTSS as Executive Director. Today UTSS - Tanzania has 20 staff and interns, over half of whom are PWA serving their own people in their own country.*

### **OUR VISION:**

“I have a dream that one day people with albinism will take their rightful place throughout every level of society, and that the days of discrimination against persons with albinism will be a faint memory - EVERYWHERE!” - Peter Ash, Founder & CEO

### **OUR MANDATE:**

Under The Same Sun is passionately committed to social inclusion and seeing an end to the general and sometimes deadly discrimination against persons with albinism (PWA). We exist to promote, via advocacy and education, the wellbeing of PWA who in many parts of the world are marginalized, misunderstood, abused and at times mutilated and killed because of their genetic condition.

At UTSS we are driven by the belief that all persons have intrinsic value as each is created in God's image. Accordingly, all persons are worthy of love, respect and, above all, dignity.

While UTSS is active at the UN and globally, much of our current focus is on the crisis faced by PWA in Tanzania. We have developed offices there with a highly innovative and effective approach to this issue. This is beginning to bring about the societal transformation needed to stop



the stigma based attacks and killings. From there, UTSS is reaching across Africa and the world to stimulate a movement that roots out stigma and discrimination by planting the seeds of empowerment for people living with albinism.

### **OUR CHARTIY STATUS:**

Please be assured that Under The Same Sun is a Canadian federally-registered charity and is in accordance with The Income Tax Act of Canada. The full legal name of the Canadian charity is “UTSS Charities International”. We also are a 501(c)(3) exempt organization in the US known as “Under the Same Sun Foundation (USA)” for our US donors. Supporters residing in other countries are encouraged to donate online via the US entity indicated. Furthermore, UTSS is also registered and recognized under The Non-Governmental Organizations Act, 2002 of the United Republic of Tanzania. All funds donated go directly to assist persons with albinism in Tanzania and are not used for administrative purposes.

### **OUR UN STATUS:**

**On August 6, 2013, UTSS was granted ECOSOC status and we became a United Nations certified non-government organization (NGO)** who regularly work out of Geneva, Switzerland. Under the Same Sun is dedicated to eliminating the abuse and discrimination suffered by people with albinism throughout the world.

### **OUR LEADER:**

***Founder & CEO, Peter Ash, is also a person with albinism.*** Peter is a passionate philanthropist and entrepreneur. He holds an undergraduate degree in Theology and a graduate degree in psychology. His background includes a decade of work in church ministry followed by over a decade in business. As a result of Peter's Christian faith, disability and business background, his heart compels him to do whatever he can to provide resources and assistance to those most disadvantaged by disability, discrimination and poverty. His primary focus has become the human rights and wellbeing of Persons With Albinism (PWA) in Tanzania, Africa and worldwide. ***UTSS aims to provide these groups of persons with resources that will help them to increase their quality of life, gain increased independence and take their rightful place in their own culture and society.*** Peter has received multiple humanitarian awards for his service including: The President’s Call to Service Award; The Companionate of Merit Award; The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal; The New England College of Optometry Presidential Medal; The V-Award by Southern California College of Optometry, and The British Columbia Community Achievement Award. Assisting Peter in this endeavor is his brother Paul Ash (also with albinism) who resides in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, as well as his longstanding friend, Don Sawatzky, who lives in Langley, B.C., Canada.

### **OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN TANZANIA:**



**VICKY NTETEMA** former BBC Bureau Chief –Tanzania, joined Under The Same Sun (UTSS) as Executive Director of the Tanzania office after over 18 years with BBC World Service. It was her story, at great risk to herself, which broke the albinism crisis in Tanzania to the world. Vicky loves her homeland and fellow citizens deeply and is quickly becoming the “Mother Teresa” of persons with albinism there. She yearns for her people to live in the kind of peace that Tanzania claims for itself as “*The Island of Peace*” located between war-torn neighboring countries. In her combat against the “white & black” discrimination, Vicky lives with threats (including death threats) and misunderstanding from some of her fellow countrymen as she seeks to ensure that both pigmented and non-pigmented citizens understand one another. Vicky was nominated for the 2010 *Courage in Journalism Award* by the International Women’s Media Foundation. In October of 2010 she was honored in New York City, N.Y., and Los Angeles, California. The Tanzania Women of Achievement Award in the Information and Communication Category was presented to Vicky on March 28, 2013. The Innovation Award was presented to Vicky on July 19, 2015, by Dream Success Enterprises of Tanzania for her investigative work relating to witchdoctors’ involvement in the killings of persons with albinism. On March 29, 2016, the International Women of Courage Award was presented to Vicky Ntetema by The Honorable John F. Kerry, Secretary of State, at the U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. This award honours women who have demonstrated extraordinary courage and leadership in advocating, often at great personal risk, for social justice, human rights, gender equality, and the advancement of women and girls. It is the only Department of State award that pays tribute to outstanding women leaders worldwide.

### **OUR OFFICES & STAFF:**

UTSS has 2 offices, 25 staff and 2 interns; *fourteen are Persons with Albinism (PWA)*.

- ***Our UTSS office in Vancouver, B.C., Canada***, has a total of 2 full-time and 5 part-time staff; ***four are PWA***.
- ***Our UTSS office in Dar es Salaam, Tanzanian*** has a total of 18 full-time staff plus 2 interns; all are Tanzanian citizens; ***ten are PWA***.

### **OUR 2 OFFICE ADDRESSES:**

UTSS –TANZANIA UTSS – INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Phone: 255222780224

### **OUR PROJECTS:**



Our amazing Tanzanian team makes up 2 well-staffed departments to help achieve its goals. The departments are:

**1 - Our *Education Program (EP - formerly ESF)*** is the UTSS flagship, offering comprehensive education funding to keen and dedicated students with albinism demonstrating a need for financial or other schooling assistance. Beneficiaries are exposed to a high quality, inclusive education experience in primary, secondary and all levels of higher learning up to graduate studies. Due to the multiple attacks against PWA in Tanzania, hundreds of children were herded into numerous government boarding schools throughout the country for “safe keeping”. The extreme overcrowding, poor living conditions and abuse in the government schools compelled UTSS to relocate hundreds of these “displaced children” into higher quality private boarding schools. The EP also covers personal expenses, school supplies and uniforms for all students along with any needed medical services including regular dermatology & optometry examinations. We also ensuring that they have protective gear including sun protective clothing, sunscreen lotion and low vision devices. These students will be future models within their own society of what PWA can be when given an opportunity. They are the strongest voice against discrimination and the most powerful message about the humanity, dignity and capability of PWA; educating and advocating their own culture towards change.

**2 - Our *Advocacy and Public Awareness (APA)*** program educates the public using all forms of media, both nationally and internationally, including at the African Union and at the UN where we are an accredited non-government organization. We constantly inform about albinism, disseminating information on health and offering genetic truths to diffuse existing myths about albinism that often lead to dehumanizing stigma and discrimination used by witchdoctors and their clients to justify the macabre killings of PWA. APA informs about human rights violations by investigating, collecting and publishing data about the atrocities against PWA. There is also a strong emphasis on the domestic understanding of albinism with simple, de-mythologizing messages about human dignity and respect, focusing on simple genetic & medical explanations, offering easy ways to live with and care for the condition. Additionally, our Tanzanian office frequently blitzes various parts of the country with Understanding Albinism (UA) seminars. These “in-person” encounters, where our PWA staff teaches their fellow citizens about albinism, helps humanize and normalize the issue. It is a highly interactive event with the audience where hearts and minds are enlightened and positive social change regularly occurs. We target both rural and urban centers including government agencies, hospitals, schools & universities, workplace environments, religious groups, police departments, village elders, family members, neighbours and friends.

## **OUR ACTIVITIES:**

See the document titled “UTSS Activities” on the RESOURCES page of our website under the title: UTSS – GENERAL INFORMATION.



## **OUR DOCUMENTARY:**

***WHITE AND BLACK: Crimes of Colour***, is a 58 minute, HD quality, feature-length documentary produced in 3 languages (English, Kiswahili & French) for the purposes of education and advocacy. By following the stories of 3 children, it depicts the struggle with profound and sometimes fatal discrimination faced by *persons with albinism (PWA)* in Tanzania. Since discrimination against PWA is a pan-African problem, UTSS wants as many eyes on the continent to see the message in this film as possible. For this reason, JF (Jean-Francois Méan), the director of our documentary, spent a year on the task of film distribution in sub-Saharan Africa. Since then he has completed an 8 month prolonged focus on Tanzania, with both indoor and outdoor film screenings, in all of the major areas where attacks and killings occur.

- ***Premier galas were held to launch the documentary*** in Surrey, B.C., Canada, on October 23, 2010 with 150 guests in attendance and in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on November 22, 2010 with 180 guests in attendance where Prime Minister Mizengo Peter Pinda was the guest of honour.
- ***The documentary has subsequently been produced in a 4<sup>th</sup> language***; Peul (one of the most spoken languages in rural West Africa).
- ***Sub-Saharan film festival and community screenings*** of White and Black documentary took place between the months of March 2011 through July 2012.
- ***Tanzanian film festival and community screenings*** of White and Black documentary took place between the months of June 2011 through November 2012.

## **OUR MEDICAL TOURS:** *Raising awareness about the connection between albinism and low vision in Tanzania.*

Between 2011 & 2014, ongoing Low Vision Clinics (LVC) were initiated in Tanzania to serve the students with albinism in our Education Program (EP). These LVC's are offered in various locations throughout the country and set up in schools where the majority of our students attend. Dr. Rebecca Kammer, a low vision specialist from California, served as our volunteer Director of Vision Services. She regularly gathered international teams of professional volunteers to join in the LVC's. Dr. Kammer also started the process of collaborating with health care professionals in Tanzania to provide training that addresses the unique low vision needs associated with albinism, helping them improve local services to PWA. In 2014, she transferred her services to Standing Voice (SV), a UK based NGO in Tanzania with a mandate to provide both low vision and skin care to all PWA nationwide. The expanding services of SV, in partnership with UTSS, also take care of every student in our Education Program.

## **OUR SPEAKING, PRESS & ADVOCACY ENGAGEMENTS RELATING TO PWA IN AFRICA:**



**National Geographic Magazine's June 2017 edition** published a 21 page report about the albinism crisis and the work of Under The Same Sun titled THE PERILS OF PALE.

**United Nations Human Right Council, Geneva, Switzerland, March, 2015**

- **On March 26, 2015**, a fourth historic resolution on albinism was adopted, without a vote, by the UN Human Rights Council. This was due to UTSS' advocacy and cooperation with various UN bodies including the Africa Group of countries and particularly the Ambassador of Sierra Leone, Yvette Stevens', and her delegates. The resolution titled "*Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of Human Rights of persons with albinism*" appoints an independent expert to investigate abuses suffered by persons with albinism worldwide.

**United Nations General Assembly, New York City, New York, November, 2014**

- **On November 18, 2014**, due to UTSS' advocacy and cooperation with various UN bodies, (specific thanks to Ambassador Yusuf Mohamed Ismail Bari-Bari of Somalia and members of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) a third historic resolution on albinism was adopted by vote by the UN General Assembly in New York. The resolution proclaims June 13 as International Albinism Awareness Day (effective 2015). We are grateful to the UN human rights council in Geneva which made a recommendation to the General Assembly (in June 2014) that the Day be proclaimed.
- The [resolution](#) instating international albinism awareness day, welcomes increased international attention, noting that, in many parts of the world, awareness of the human rights situation of persons with albinism remains limited. Further, it recognizes the importance of increasing awareness and understanding of albinism in order to fight against global discrimination and stigma against persons with albinism.
- June 13 was chosen as it was on that day in 2013 that the UN adopted its first ever resolution on albinism.

**Holy Father, Pope Francis received UTSS** in Rome on Wednesday, September 10, 2014, for the traditional personal greeting or "baciamento". In attendance were Peter & Paul Ash, IK Ero, Ambassador Yusuf Mohamed Ismail Bari-Bari of Somalia to the UN office in Geneva and Alicia Londono of the UN office of the high commissioner for human rights.

**African Union's Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Banjul, The Gambia, November 2013**

- **On November 5, 2013**, due to UTSS' advocacy and cooperation with various African Union (AU) bodies, The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, passed Resolution 263: *On the Prevention of Attacks and Discrimination*





*Against Persons with Albinism.* The resolution was the first of its kind on the continent and was very thorough in calling on member states of the AU to: protect PWA and their family members, avoid the impunity of perpetrators of attacks against PWA and consider responding to the disabling aspects of albinism.

**United Nations Human Rights Council, Geneva, Switzerland, September 2013.**

- ***On September 27, 2013***, due to UTSS' advocacy and cooperation with various UN bodies, a second resolution was passed by the UN Human Rights Council (The first resolution is described below). This second resolution, Resolution L36, titled, *Technical Cooperation for the Prevention of Attacks against Persons with Albinism*, requested that the Advisory Committee of the UN Human Rights Council take on the issue of albinism for further study and research. The report from the work of the Advisory Committee will be considered at the Human Rights Council's 28<sup>th</sup> session in March 2015. UTSS will work hard to support and cooperate with the Advisory Committee in this regard.
- ***On September 26, 2013***, the UTSS delegation led by Peter Ash meets with Ms. Flavia Pansieri - Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights
- ***On September 24, 2013***, for the third time, Peter Ash, Founder and CEO of UTSS spoke to the UN Human Rights Council. Peter called on the Council to deal with persons with albinism as a unique and specific people group due to the unusual trade in their body parts which occurs in a grisly manner, almost unheard of when compared with other people groups.
- ***On September 12, 2013***, the preliminary report on albinism mandated by the first resolution was released by the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights. UTSS contributed to this report and was instrumental in encouraging participation from a broad section of civil society groups including but not limited to its partners across sub Saharan Africa.
- ***On September 16, 2013***, Ms. Ikponwosa Laurette Ero, UTSS' international advocacy and legal officer of UTSS spoke to the Human Rights Council, in response to the preliminary report on albinism published by the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights. She also called for the appointment of an independent expert to deal with albinism due to the uniqueness of the condition.

**United Nations Human Rights Council, Geneva, Switzerland, June, 2013.**

- ***On June 10, 2013***, due to UTSS' advocacy and cooperation with various UN bodies, (specific thanks to Ambassador Yusuf of Somalia and members of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) a historic first resolution on albinism was adopted by consensus by the UN Human Rights Council. This was the first global response to albinism and therefore marked a historic event for persons with albinism



worldwide. The resolution entitled, *Attacks and Discrimination against Persons with Albinism*, among other things, condemned impunity regarding injustices against PWA. It also called for a preliminary report on the issue. That preliminary report was published by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on September 12, 2013.

- **On June 6, 2013**, the UTSS delegation led by Peter Ash meets with Ms Navanethem ``Navi`` Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- **On June 5 & 6, 2013**, by invitation from the UN, Peter Ash addressed several groups of officials within the office of the High Commission of Human Rights. While there, he was also able to speak with many other senior officials on the matter of violence against PWA in Africa.
- **On June 7, 2013**, for the second time, Peter Ash was given 2 minutes to address the General Assembly of the UN Human Rights Council. Although the speech focused on albinism globally, it also referred to the atrocities taking place across Africa.

**Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry**, Pomona, California, April 16, 2013.

- Address the administration, faculty and students on the Crisis of Albinism in Africa and & the role of optometry in health, education and emergency care. Next to stigmatization & discrimination, the 2 greatest vulnerabilities faced by persons with albinism in Africa are low vision and skin cancer.
- The event was hosted by Dr Rebecca Kammer, a low vision specialist who continues to direct teams of medical expert volunteers to provide low vision care to persons with albinism in Tanzania.

**University of British Columbia's Okanagan Campus**, Kelowna, British Columbia, February 2, 2013.

- Presented with UTSS Advocacy Officer for French Africa, Amadou Diallo.
- The event was hosted by Ali Young and other students representing KULU, a fundraising initiative. Our purpose was to address the administration, faculty and students on the crisis faced by persons with albinism in the country of Tanzania and sub-Saharan Africa.

**Southern California College of Optometry**, Fullerton, California, February 1, 2011 and September 15, 2011.

- Address the faculty and students on the Crisis of Albinism in Africa and & The Role of Optometry in Health, Education and Emergency Care. After discrimination, the 2 greatest vulnerabilities of persons with albinism in Africa are skin cancer and low vision.





- The event was hosted by Dr Rebecca Kammer, a low vision specialist who is directing a team of medical expert volunteers to provide Low Vision Care to persons with albinism in African countries recently traumatized by attacks and killings.

**Harvard Foundation, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, October 28, 2010.**

- Presented on a panel with UTSS Tanzania Executive Director, Vicky Ntetema.
- Ms. Ntetema was previously the BBC Bureau Chief for Tanzania who broke the crisis of persons with albinism in Tanzania to the world in her July 2008 report.

**Canadian Human Rights Committee (“HRC”), a committee from the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa, Canada, October 26, 2010.**

- Addressed the HRC in an attempt to get Canada to pass a bill addressing the violation of human rights against PWA in Tanzania.

**The National Association of Albinism & Hypo-pigmentation (NOAH), Washington, DC, July 15, 2010.**

- Addressed the bi-annual conference in an attempt to raise awareness of the crisis of fellow PWAs’ in Africa.
- The event was hosted by ABC’s 20/20, JuJu Chang.
- Also on the panel was Congressman Gerry Connelly of the State of Virginia to explain his part in getting house bill 1088 to pass in the U.S. senate. This bill decries the atrocities against persons with albinism in Tanzania, and takes to task the Tanzanian Government on this human rights issue (see “US House Resolution 1088”).

**United Nations Human Rights Council, Geneva, Switzerland, September 2009.**

- *On September 30, 2009* Peter Ash was given 2 minutes to address the General Assembly of the UN Human Rights Council specifically on this subject. Although the speech focused on Tanzania, it also referred to these same atrocities taking place across Africa.
- *On September 24, 2009* Peter Ash addressed a group of UN officials in Geneva who were assigned to the continent of Africa. While there, he was able to speak with many other senior officials, including the High Commissioner, on the matter of violence against PWA in Africa.

**UTSS has published a variety of documents:**

- To view, go to the RESOURCES page of [www.underthesamesun.com](http://www.underthesamesun.com)



**UTSS played a leading role at the UN and the AU in helping to form and pass the first of its kind resolutions and reports on the prevention of attacks & discrimination against persons with albinism.** To view, go to the RESOURCES page of [www.underthesamesun.com](http://www.underthesamesun.com)

- UN Resolution 23/13 – In Geneva, Switzerland, June 20, 2013
- UN Preliminary Report – In Geneva, Switzerland, September 12, 2013
- UN Resolution L36 – In Geneva, Switzerland, September 24, 2013
- African Union Resolution 263 – In Banjul, The Gambia, November 5, 2013

**UTSS has had numerous interviews with media groups including:**

- ABC News, BBC, CBC The National, CTV, Global TV, Discovery Channel, The Globe and Mail, Reuters, Red Cross, UNTV, Dolce Vita Magazine, and many more.

### **ASYLUM VICTORIES:**

**Legal history continues to be made in Canada when, on July 28, 2017,** a man with albinism from Tanzania was granted refugee status in Vancouver, Canada.

**Legal history continues to be made in the USA when, on June 27, 2017,** a man with albinism from Tanzania was granted asylum in Chicago, Illinois.

**Legal history was made in UK on December 23, 2015,** when a man with albinism from Cameroon was granted refugee status.

**Legal history was made in Belgium when on July 27, 2015,** a mother and her 6 year old son with albinism from Guinea were granted asylum.

**Legal history was made yet again in the USA on June 17, 2015,** when a man with albinism from Senegal was granted asylum in New York City, New York.

**Legal history was made in Ireland in the first week of June, 2015,** when a man with albinism from DRC who wishes to remain anonymous was granted secured permanent residency through a non-asylum process. He suffered severe persecution and untreated skin cancer in his native country.

**Legal history continues to be made in the USA when, on December 13, 2014,** a man with albinism from Nigeria was granted asylum in Phoenix, Arizona.

**Legal history was made for the second time in Israel in October of 2014** when a Nigerian



family was granted refugee status because their young son had albinism. The Population and Immigration Bureau of The Internal Affairs Ministry decided to grant the Nigerian family refugee status due to the threats their child with albinism faces in Africa saying; “In Nigeria albinos' lives are in danger”.

**France holds the lead for African PWA asylum pleas when on June 7, 2014** a 34 year old man with albinism from Cameroon was granted asylum.

**Legal history continues to be made in France when in March of 2014** a Cameroonian mother who's infant with albinism was granted asylum under a decree known as “parent, child refugee”. The mother feared for the life of her child in Cameroon, where her community members attempted to kill the baby for ritual purposes during local elections.

**Legal history was made in Canada on June 4, 2013** when a man with albinism from the African country of Guinea was granted Permanent Residency status. Originally he fled Guinea to Norway and from 2008 to 2012 urgently sought asylum there. He was held in a refugee camp for 3 of these years during which time his asylum request was denied 4 times even though 2 persons with albinism had been murdered in his home country. UTSS worked extensively with his case during this time, providing written testimony on the plight of PWA in Guinea. We also worked with the Canadian government and on July 16, 2012 he was granted a work permit and moved to Canada. On Tuesday, June 04, 2013, the country of Canada received him with open arms by offering him permanent residency status.

**France remains the frontrunner for African PWA seeking asylum when in February of 2012**, a 34 year old man with albinism from DRC was granted permanent resident status on medical grounds.

**For the second time in USA history, on November 29, 2012**, a woman with albinism from Zimbabwe was granted asylum in Atlanta, Georgia.

**For the second time in Malawi history**, in 2012 two siblings with albinism, a girl and boy along with their parents, received asylum in the refugee camp of Dzaleka in Malawi after fleeing their homeland of South Kivu in DRC following the murder of a son with albinism.

**France continues to take the lead in providing asylum for African PWA when on January 27, 2011**, a 37 year old Mali born man with albinism was granted asylum in France.



**Legal history was made in the state of Florida, USA on February 16, 2011** when a man with albinism from Nigerian was granted asylum.

**Legal history was made in Spain on May 12, 2011** when person with albinism from Guinea was granted asylum.

**Legal history continues to be made in France when on July 29, 2011,** a woman with albinism from Mali received asylum in France.

**Legal history was made in Israel on October 1, 2011** when an Ivory Coast family with an infant daughter with albinism was granted refugee status. The minister of interior signed the final asylum documents on November 6, 2011.

**Legal history was made in New Zealand on November 25, 2011,** when an Egyptian born man with albinism was granted asylum by the Refugee Branch of the Department of Labour.

**Legal history was made in Maawi when in 2011** a 24- year-old student with albinism from DRC who fled his homeland was offered asylum in the refugee camp of Dzaleka in Malawi.

**France alliance remains true to PWA when on April 28, 2009,** a man with albinism from the DRC was granted asylum.

**Legal history was made in Italy in April of 2009** when a man with albinism from Cameroon was granted asylum.

**Legal history was made in the Spanish Canary Islands on December 29, 2009** when a man with albinism from Mali, was granted asylum.

**France continues to show its alliance to PWA when on September 29, 2006,** a Mali born mother of an infant with albinism was granted asylum.

**Legal history was made in France when on June 10, 2005,** a man with albinism from Mali was granted refugee status on the grounds that he had good reason to fear persecution, lack of safety and death.



**Burundi provides refugee status in 2002** for a 32-year-old DRC born man with albinism who fled his homeland where he was at risk.

### **OUR AWARDS:**

**The 2016 International Women of Courage Award** was presented to Vicky Ntetema on March 29, 2016, by The Honorable John F. Kerry, Secretary of State, at the U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. This award honours women who have demonstrated extraordinary courage and leadership in advocating, often at great personal risk, for social justice, human rights, gender equality, and the advancement of women and girls. It is the only Department of State award that pays tribute to outstanding women leaders worldwide.

**The Innovation Award** was presented to Vicky Ntetema on July 19, 2015, by Dream Success Enterprises of Tanzania for her investigative work relating to witchdoctors' involvement in the killings of persons with albinism.

**The Netherlands Human Rights Tulip award (Nominee) 2014:** UTSS is privileged to have been nominated for this prestigious award for human rights groups worldwide.

**The President's Call to Service Award** was signed by President Obama and presented to Peter Ash on September 13, 2014, in Los Angeles, California, by The Corporation for National and Community Service in recognition of his devotion to service and volunteerism.

**The Companionate of Merit Award** for outstanding service to humanity was presented to Peter Ash in Los Angeles, California, by The Grand Priory of the United States Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem on September 13, 2014, at their 4<sup>th</sup> annual solemn and sacred Investiture Service.

**The Tanzania Women of Achievement Award** in the Information and Communication Category was presented to UTSS Tanzania's Executive Director, Vicky Ntetema, on March 28, 2013.

**The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal** was awarded to Peter Ash in Langley, B.C., Canada on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to honour his significant contribution and achievement as a Canadian on behalf of persons with albinism in the country of Tanzania.

**The New England College of Optometry Presidential Medal** was awarded to Peter Ash for his humanitarian efforts in Tanzania on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at the Fairmont Copley Plaza, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.



**Their Excellencies The Right Honourable David Johnston Governor General of Canada** and Mrs. Sharon Johnston were pleased to invite Mr. Peter Ash to a State Dinner in honour of His Excellency Jakaya M. Kikwete President of the United Republic of Tanzania on Wednesday, October 3, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at Rideau Hall, 1 Sussex Drive, Ottawa.

**The V-Award by Southern California College of Optometry (SCCO)** was given to Peter Ash on September 15, 2011, in the Richard Nixon Presidential Library in Yorba Linda, CA. In this inaugural event, Peter was highlighted for his distinguished humanitarian service relating to persons with albinism in Tanzania.

**The British Columbia Community Achievement Award** was given to Peter Ash on April 20, 2011, in Government House, Victoria, by Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, The Honourable Steven L. Point, OBC. This award celebrates the spirit, imagination, dedication and outstanding contributions of British Columbians to their communities.

**The 2010 Courage in Journalism Award** was given to Vicky Ntetema on Tuesday, October 19, 2010, in New York City, NY, and Thursday, October 21, 2010, in Los Angeles, CA. The International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF) honoured Vicky for her freelance investigation and reporting in Tanzania on the brutal killings of albinos by witchdoctors in 2007. Now the Director of Operations for Under The Same Sun's Tanzanian office, Vicky previously served as BBC bureau chief in Tanzania and had been working with the BBC since 1991.

**The Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major for Justice Award** was conferred on January 15, 2009 by U.S. Ambassador Mark Green. It was awarded upon the People of the Albinism Community in Tanzania for waging a peaceful battle for equality and justice. Chairman of the Tanzania Albino Society Ernest Kimaya received the award on behalf of all Tanzanians with albinism. The Hon. Al-Shaymaa Kwegyir (MP); Tanzania Albino Society Activist, Josephat Torner; and BBC journalist Vicky Ntetema also accepted the award and spoke at the event.

### **OUR SUCCESS:**

To date, UTSS greatest success comes through **our Education Program** which has seen several hundred PWA, mostly abandoned and displaced children, relocated into some of Tanzania's finest inclusive private boarding schools. **THEY WILL BE FUTURE MODELS IN THEIR SOCIETY OF WHAT PERSONS WITH ALBINISM CAN BE WHEN GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY.** This could not have happened without **2 amazing teams** which have been





gathered to form our offices in Tanzania and Canada. ***The production and distribution of Our documentary*** will forever capture and honour the story of PWA in Tanzania while dispelling the discriminatory myths and informing people about the genetic condition of albinism. It casts the LIGHT of dignity on all persons with albinism and is an amazing advocacy and education tool. There has also been ***a significant drop in both the attacks and killing of PWA*** in Tanzania since 2007. While this gives us great delight, the profound discrimination that gave rise to the killings is still deeply rooted in African culture. Our dream is that a day will come when persons with albinism in Tanzania will take their rightful place in every aspect of society and that the days of discrimination will be a faint memory. While there are traces of hope now, we will likely not see this day in our lifetime except in our dreams.

### **OUR SUMMARY OF ALBINISM:**

Albinism is a rare, non-contagious, genetically inherited difference occurring in both genders regardless of ethnicity, in all countries of the world. BOTH the father and mother must carry the gene for it to be passed on even if they do not have albinism themselves. The condition results in a lack of pigmentation in the hair, skin and eyes, causing vulnerability to sun exposure and bright light. Almost all people with albinism are visually impaired, with the majority being classified as “legally blind”. While numbers vary widely and no comprehensive studies have been conducted, it is reported that in North America and Europe, an estimate of 1 in every 17,000 to 20,000 people have albinism. In Africa it is estimated that 1 in every 5,000 to 15,000 people have albinism with selected populations having estimates as high as 1 in 1,000. In Tanzania where UTSS is based, the prevalence of albinism is estimated to be 1 in 1,400 people being affected.