



“Sometimes equality means treating people the same, despite their differences, and sometimes it means treating them as equals by accommodating their differences.”

- Judge Rosalie Abella, Report of the Commission on Equality in Employment, Canada

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 two 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 PWA 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 resigned her post with BBC and joined UTSS as Executive Director until her retirement in May of 2018.

Today, the UTSS Education and Career program is operated by our implementing partner, Villages of Hope Tanzania. Their expertise and experience in supporting and safeguarding vulnerable children made them an ideal partner and they welcomed in many of the UTSS team on to their staff to carry out the programs.

Our advocacy focus has shifted towards a Pan-Africa approach. In 2021, we launched the Africa Albinism Network (AAN) led by our Director of Advocacy IK Ero. The mission of AAN is to promote the implementation of the African Union (AU) Plan of Action to End Attacks and Other Human Rights Violations Targeting Persons with Albinism in Africa (2021-2031). africaalbinismnetwork.org

Our vision 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. UTSS intends to keep its course until that day arrives. To date, our greatest success comes through the education program (EP) which has seen several hundred PWA, mostly abandoned and displaced children, relocated into some of Tanzania’s finest private boarding schools. THESE STUDENTS WILL BE FUTURE MODELS WITHIN THEIR OWN SOCIETY OF WHAT PERSONS WITH ALBINISM CAN BE WHEN GIVEN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY. This is our greatest “weapon” against discrimination and our most powerful source of educating and advocating a culture towards change.