

STANDING VOICE

Kennington Overseas Aid 2018 Funding Proposal



The Issue

Based in Tanzania and headquartered in the UK, [Standing Voice](#) is an international NGO defending the rights of persons with albinism in Africa. [Albinism](#) is a genetic condition that reduces melanin pigment in the skin, eyes, and hair, causing complex visual impairment and increased vulnerability to UV-radiation and skin cancer. Albinism occurs globally, but is approximately seven times more frequent in East Africa than across Europe and North America.

For people with albinism in Tanzania, **persecution** is a daily reality. **Myths** and misunderstanding enshroud albinism, transforming this rare genetic condition into a burden, a mystery, a **curse**. People with albinism lead lives blighted by stigma, shut out of civil participation and unable to access the most basic services. Healthcare, education, housing, and employment lie beyond the reach of many.

Visibly paler than their dark-skinned peers and families, people with albinism in Tanzania are sometimes considered ghosts. Sex with a woman with albinism is thought to cure infertility and AIDS. The body parts of a person with albinism are said to confer fortune when used in witchcraft. This last belief has triggered an upsurge in **ritual violence** in Tanzania, and across Africa more widely, over the last decade. As of September 2017, there have been **202 documented murders**, and a total of **546 attacks**, across **28 African countries** since 2006. Tanzania presents a uniquely severe case, with **76 murders** and counting.



Our History

Standing Voice is helping thousands across Tanzania to conquer this prejudice. Our young and ambitious charity began as a film: a documentary imagined, directed, and shot by Harry Freeland, our Founder. Over six years, Harry walked alongside people with albinism, seeing the world—and its prejudice—through their eyes. He met [survivors](#) of rape and abduction; siblings made to eat from separate plates in the belief that albinism was contagious. These stories, stitched together from thousands of hours of interviews, became [In the Shadow of the Sun](#), the groundbreaking **2012 documentary** that screened in 80 countries around the world and brought this issue to the forefront of international attention.

Above all, the film was an effort to listen to people with albinism and amplify their voices on a global stage. Today, listening remains the key principle of our work, driving everything we do. The people we help tell us that, after a lifetime of exclusion, what they want most is to be accepted and embraced by their communities. For over ten years, this is what we have been striving to achieve. We empower people with albinism to take full—and fulfilling—roles in Tanzanian society, to let success be their greatest weapon against prejudice. When people with albinism are included, their rights are respected. Services improve; policies respond; communities heal.



Our Work

Due in no small part to the support of **Kennington Overseas Aid (KOA)**, Standing Voice has in recent years delivered a diversity of interventions to enable the holistic empowerment of people with albinism across Tanzania. Faced with the ancient, enduring, and endlessly intersecting oppression of people with albinism, we have responded with an **integrated strategy** to promote the welfare and security of this population across all areas of life: access to **education** and **healthcare**, development of **professional** and institutional support networks, and direct **sensitisation** to alleviate community stigma and neutralise the myths and misperceptions that implicitly legitimise murder.

KOA has helped to make this a reality: with your support, Standing Voice has [prevented skin cancer](#) for thousands of people with albinism across Tanzania. Our life-saving clinics have reached deeper and further nationwide, training local dermatologists to deliver preventative education, specialist sunscreen, and comprehensive treatment through skin examination, cryotherapy, and surgery where needed. Equally critical has been your support for our [Vision Programme](#): together, we have helped over a thousand people with albinism to manage their visual impairment and advocate for their rights. Lives turned around by a pair of glasses; an education transformed by teachers who understand: these are the outcomes of our continuing partnership. The depth and comprehensiveness of your investment in these projects has empowered people with albinism to be their own route to a brighter future.

On **Ukerewe Island**, Standing Voice is making similarly positive changes for people with albinism. Deep in the heart of Lake Victoria, this remote and impoverished island is home to a community we have worked alongside for [over a decade](#). As the first place Harry visited on his journey to make *In the Shadow of the Sun*, Ukerewe remains the birthplace of Standing Voice and in many ways a hub for our work, a **blueprint** for our growth through Tanzania and Africa. On Ukerewe, where stigma plunges so many people with albinism into poverty and homelessness, we have delivered [training initiatives](#) and [business development support](#) to strengthen economic security for dozens of families. In 2015, we constructed the [Umoja Training Centre \(UTC\)](#), a state-of-the-art facility where community members with and without albinism can come together to develop skills, establish enterprises, and form positive relationships. A **second chance** for so many who lost out on education, the centre has become a symbol of the solidarity for which it is named, with 'Umoja', in Swahili, meaning 'Unity'.

The UTC remains the only aspect of Standing Voice's work untouched by our collaboration with KOA. It is in light of this that we humbly request the renewed support of KOA to deliver a training project there in 2018, deepening your journey into this issue in the place where ours began.





PROPOSED PROJECT

Building Skills, Defeating Discrimination:

An Integrated Training Programme to Empower People with Albinism and their Community on Ukerewe Island

In June 2017, Standing Voice piloted a range of [training initiatives](#) to support **income generation** and **skills development** for vulnerable people with albinism and their community members on Ukerewe Island. Workshops were delivered at the UTC by a coalition of **local** and **international experts**, specialising in a variety of disciplines from radio to photography, printing to performance, and tailoring to arts and crafts. Workshops received **strong community approval**, with participants establishing community enterprises and **requesting further training** to facilitate the ongoing development of these groups. Following this promising pilot, support is needed to sustain and upscale the UTC training groups and integrate their outputs under a singular programmatic frame.

Commencing **June 2018** for a period of **12 months**, this project will expose hundreds of Ukerewe's residents to vocational training in a number of key areas. Training will equally target people with and without albinism to promote social cohesion and wider community development. **Four training disciplines** have been selected in response to community feedback obtained during the pilot (with preliminary workshop **case studies** hyperlinked below):

1. [Radio](#)
2. [Photography](#)
3. [Tailoring](#)
4. Ceramics

The project will begin with an **intensive month of training** in **June 2018**, echoing the foundational workshop held in 2017. International and local experts will partner to provide a **comprehensive induction** that will deepen participants' proficiency in the identified disciplines and prepare them for a yearlong programme of skills development and entrepreneurial training. This induction will culminate with a public exhibition of participants' work at the UTC to mark International Albinism Awareness Day on June 13, with local schools, media, community members and government representatives invited to attend. Following the induction, groups will continue to develop their practice through **weekly workshops** held at the UTC over the course of the following year. These will be delivered by **local trainers** with the remote support of international specialists. There will be a **Project Coordinator** hired to oversee all activities and evaluate progress. Training will be based at the UTC, where each group will have dedicated equipment and resources and an assigned workshop space.

Broadly, the four identified disciplines can be divided into **thematic pairs**, with radio and photography on one hand, and tailoring and ceramics on the other. [Radio](#) and [photography](#) workshops will primarily target **young people** with and without albinism **under the age of 25**, providing **skills development** to build participants' professional aptitude in preparation for later employment. Participants will become proficient in the use of technical equipment, learning how to use a variety of cameras, printers, and recording and editing software according to their particular curriculum. They will test these skills in regular field trips across Ukerewe Island, where they will photograph and interview members of the public to generate content that can be platformed in local media. The groups will also be invited to attend and document Standing Voice's wider programmatic activity in Mwanza City—our [Skin Cancer Prevention](#) and [Low Vision](#) clinics, for instance—and share this material through regional radio and newspapers. The groups will be assisted in this regard by our productive partnerships with Tanzanian media outlets such as ITV, TBC, Star TV, AzamTV, and Barmedas TV, who have all visited and reported on our interventions. The groups will work particularly closely with the **Mwanza Youth and Children's Network**—an NGO platforming young voices in radio—and the **Union of Tanzania Press Clubs**, an NGO promoting freedom, transparency, and social responsibility in the Tanzanian press. In addition to developing participants' professional aptitude, skills, and confidence, this collaborative engagement will maximise the impact of Standing Voice's other projects, and amplify the capacity of all actors to advocate for the rights of persons with albinism, redirecting harmful media narratives around albinism and contributing positively to public perceptions of this deeply marginalised group.

The [tailoring](#) and **ceramics** workshops will instead target **vulnerable adults** with and without albinism—particularly **women**—in urgent need of vocational skills development to support their **economic security**. These groups will function as community enterprises opening up income-generating opportunities for participants and their families. Tailoring trainees will learn how to cut fabric and use sewing machines to create various articles of clothing, while ceramics trainees will learn how to fire and mould pots using local techniques. In addition to specific disciplinary skills, both groups will focus on developing their **entrepreneurial acumen**: how to market and sell their products, and how to operate a successful business, including core administrative skills like accountancy, bookkeeping, and financial planning and advertising. Tailoring participants will receive additional guidance from group leaders **Charles Kariro** and **Florentina Ngoroma**, two of Ukerewe’s residents (both with albinism) already running prosperous tailoring enterprises after receiving support from Standing Voice. The ceramics group will receive similar mentorship from [Neema Kajanja](#), a woman with albinism who established a successful pottery business on Ukerewe after receiving an enterprise grant from Standing Voice. Both groups will conduct regular field trips to Mwanza City, where participants will develop relationships with other professionals in their respective fields, and sell their products to a wider audience. The groups’ products will eventually be globally accessible, too, through the production of an **online shop** to be housed within the Standing Voice website and publicised internationally through our partners. By providing participants with concrete opportunities to market their work locally and internationally, the project will promote vocational skills development and increased economic security for this highly impoverished population. The commercial viability of this approach was demonstrated when the tailors’ products sold out following their pilot workshop in June 2017.

IMPACT

We therefore anticipate the following outcomes for this project:

1. Increased **economic security** of participants and their dependents or family members
2. Increased **skills** among participants
3. Improved **confidence** and general wellbeing of participants
4. Increased **community respect** for the rights of people with albinism
5. Improved **public image** of people with albinism through positive media exposure

BENEFICIARIES

Our expected beneficiaries are as follows:

- **45** direct recipients of training
- **200** dependents or family members of direct recipients
- **500** community members engaged by direct recipients

Our total number of beneficiaries is therefore **745**. In addition, radio broadcasts and wider media documentation of the project will have the potential to reach tens of thousands of people, though precise reach is hard to quantify.

INDICATIVE BUDGET

Item	Unit	Unit Cost (£)	Number	Total (£)	Comment
Intensive Workshop June 2018	1	3800	1	3800	Intensive training over one month: workshop materials (flip charts, stationery, etc.), travel and subsistence for participants and local trainers
UTC Coordinator	1	4500	1	4500	1-year salary (coordinator of all project activities)
Local trainers	1	1000	4	4000	Covers human resource cost of all four local trainers for weekly workshops throughout year
Materials & equipment	1	700	4	2800	E.g. sewing machines, fabrics, tools, clay, radio equipment, etc.
Project Total				15,100	

