Summer Skills Workshop 2018
On Ukerewe Island deep in the heart of Tanzania’s Lake Victoria people with albinism experience a deeply divided society. To bridge this divide and build a platform for reintegration, Standing Voice established the Umoja Training Centre in 2015: a community training facility providing skills development and economic enrichment to people with albinism and their friends, families, and communities; a space to heal, learn, and belong.

In 2017, Standing Voice launched its inaugural Summer Skills Workshop: an integrated training programme, based at the Umoja Training Centre, helping the community to develop skills and pursue income-generating opportunities and pathways of professional development.

Over six days, we brought together renowned artists, actors, researchers, broadcasters, photographers, tailors and musicians, and connected these professionals to people with albinism and their peers on Ukerewe.

85 people received specialist training, and hundreds more attended our Albinism Day celebrations.

Because of these workshops, six brand new income-generating and community groups have been established on Ukerewe Island. In the years to come, the centre will train hundreds of people, arming this community with the tools to determine its own future.

This year, we’re hoping for the workshop to be bigger and better than ever. But we need your help!
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 visual impairment and increased vulnerability to skin cancer. Albinism occurs globally, but is approximately seven times more frequent in East Africa than across Europe and North America.
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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. Some have even been targeted for their body parts, used in witchcraft potions thought to bring wealth and fortune.

Standing Voice is helping thousands across Tanzania to conquer this prejudice. 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. We have responded by promoting access to education and healthcare for people with albinism, developing their professional and institutional support networks, and directly sensitising communities to neutralise the myths and misperceptions that give rise to murder.

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.

On Ukerewe Island, Standing Voice is making similarly positive changes for people with albinism. Deep in the heart of Lake Victoria, this remote island is home to a community we have worked alongside for over a decade. 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...
Over two weeks, we will run workshops in tailoring, ceramics, photography, radio production, storytelling, agriculture and printmaking.

To deliver these programmes, we need inspiring practitioners to share their skills with the community in Tanzania.

In addition, we are looking to further develop the Umoja Training Centre itself: with the help of artists, carpenters and landscapers we will construct a library, renovate buildings and landscape the gardens.

If you are an expert practising in any of these fields, we would love to hear from you.

VOLUNTEER IN JUNE 2018
Last year, we established the Tunajitambua Tailors, an inspiring and talented group of seamstresses comprising women with albinism and mothers of babies with albinism. Through this workshop, the group learned to design, tailor and market clothes. As the women continue gaining the skills and tools to support themselves and their families, their confidence grows ever stronger.

This year, participants will learn to produce items of clothing that could sell locally and internationally. Subsequently, they will develop business plans to capitalise on their new technical skills. Their enterprises will find, in the Umoja Training Centre, a space to take root and grow.

Our volunteer tailoring instructors will work alongside local experts to develop the skills of the Tunajitambua Tailors, and induct new members. They will also be joined by other beneficiaries of Standing Voice who have also established prosperous tailoring businesses.
A new addition to our summer skills programme this year, our ceramics workshop will equip participants with the skills necessary to create items, such as cooking pots and vases, but also to sell and market these. Aspiring ceramicists will be joined by Neema, a beneficiary of Standing Voice’s business support fund who now runs her own successful pottery enterprise.

Neema will work alongside participants as a role model: a person with albinism supporting herself in skilled work, building her own entrepreneurial venture.

We are seeking talented ceramicists who want to share their life experiences and talents by mentoring our inspiring beneficiaries on Ukerewe Island.
For people with albinism in Tanzania, opportunities to assert their voices, or express their interaction with the world through creativity, are virtually non-existent. This is why, during the Summer Skills Workshop, Standing Voice introduced photography to give the community a platform for viewing and documenting the world around them. Aspiring photographers, with and without albinism, came together under the instruction of two British photographers.

Armed with second-hand cameras and printers purchased through crowdfunding in the UK, the group learnt the basics of how to use a camera. Next, they learnt how to frame a photo: experimenting with distance, perspective, and composition.

This year we’re searching for photographers to join us in Tanzania to mentor this group of aspiring artists, as their journey to establishing an income-generating venture continues.
Last year, our printmaking workshop, led by artist Alex Booker, worked with 45 adults and children to produce an array of stunning works about family, hardship, trauma, and hope.

Each participant began with a plain block of Japanese plywood and an idea.

Participants explored the joy of printmaking, sharing their stories and experiences in vivid colour.

This year, Alex Booker will return to mentor a group of talented printmakers, providing them with a space of sanctuary in which to practise their art.
The **Ukerewe Young Reporters** were established as a youth radio group by Standing Voice in 2016. The Young Reporters have been trained in radio techniques, such as interviewing and producing, empowering them to act as youth ambassadors.

Comprising young people with and without albinism, the group’s members have harnessed the power of radio to broadcast their hopes and priorities proudly before the world.

The Young Reporters, who now meet monthly to record and broadcast their stories, will receive further training at this year’s Summer Skills Workshop, deepening their understanding of the medium and broadening their reach.

To coincide with the arrival of new production equipment, this summer’s workshop will aim to establish the Island’s first radio station. If you are a radio producer or journalist looking to transform the lives of other like-minded people, please get in touch!
As human beings, storytelling is in our blood: it is the thread connecting generations across communities and throughout the world. Woven into these shared narratives are our histories, hopes, ideas and identities. Our storytelling workshops use this power to change the underlying prejudices and misconceptions that are at the root of so many challenges faced by people with albinism.

Our workshops begin with open and honest conversations about shared experiences, before constructing true-to-life portraits of life with albinism. These are then translated into drama, dance and song.

Finally, the stories take flight when they are shared with communities, with the storytelling group holding spontaneous open-air dramatic performances to engage onlookers in their interactive work.

This year, we will once again deploy the magic of storytelling to empower people with albinism to speak back to their communities and ignite social change.
Agri-business will be a new addition to our Summer Skills programme. Many users of the centre are already using the grounds to grow vegetables, supporting the surrounding communities’ nutritional health and helping to diversify a local diet that typically lacks vegetables.

This summer we will formalise these activities through a dedicated training group.

A specialist trainer will help participants by sharing agricultural techniques, and cultivating a demonstration garden to serve as a source of inspiration and knowledge for all the local community.

Participants will visit market spaces and counterpart organisations on the mainland, further honing their learning and opening up additional avenues to sell their products.
This year we will devote two days to a special timetable of inspirational talks from guest speakers.

These tailored seminars will give participants the opportunity to develop their skills in accountancy, learn how to market their business and gather inspiration from successful entrepreneurs and prominent figures with albinism from across Tanzania.

The aim of these seminars is to further build the confidence and business acumen of participants, strengthening their current and future entrepreneurial endeavours.

If you’re an entrepreneur or leader, we want to hear from you!
Vulnerable to attack, most victims of violence towards people with albinism have been children. Tanzania’s government has responded by placing hundreds of children with albinism in protectorate centres around the country, kept behind high walls for their safety. These centres are overcrowded and understaffed, with poor sanitation and inadequate educational infrastructure.

Standing Voice combats this situation by sponsoring exceptionally vulnerable children—abandoned by their families, or recovering from abuse—to receive high-quality education in integrated, mainstream schools.

This year, the beneficiaries of our Education Scholarship Programme will travel to Ukerewe Island for a dedicated Children’s Day during the Summer Skills Workshop.

This day will be filled with fun activities such as arts and crafts, sports, storytelling, singing and much more! By taking part, you can help give our beneficiaries the skills, confidence and sense of belonging to reclaim their childhoods and rewrite their futures.
This year we are searching for inspiring creatives and artisans to assist in the further development of our community training centre.

To expand the offering of the centre, we are looking to install a library and computer room. To realise this ambition, we need motivated carpenters to contribute to kitting out these rooms, and help train local talent to continue works independently.

We’re also looking for artists to bring new energy to the centre by painting 35,000 litre water tanks and a number of other structures.

Additionally, we are seeking landscapers to help us transform the gardens of the Umoja Training Centre, using the blank canvas of our grounds to create a worthy setting for the unifying work undertaken in the centre.
“I’m so grateful to have been given the opportunity to work with Standing Voice. Everybody looked out for each other; we worked well as a team, and had a laugh while doing so. The whole experience felt like being part of one big family.”

Molly Hardy

“One of the best artistic decisions I've made. The magic of this experience will never leave me.”

Alex Booker
“What I enjoyed the most was the great sense of community and happiness within the families and friends who took part in the workshops.”

“I had the most incredible and eye-opening experience. It was so wonderful to be able to form such close relationships within the Ukerewe community.”

Annie-Marie Akussah

Lily Bilton
Meet Neema
Neema participated in our tailoring workshop at the Umoja Training Centre. She has also started her own pottery business, and will train other ceramicists at this year’s Summer Skills Workshop.

I was born on Ukerewe Island. I’ve lived here all my life.

I am part of the Kajanja family. We are famous on Ukerewe for the number of people with albinism in our family. My mother and father had albinism, and so do all my siblings, so I never encountered stigma at home as a child. It was normal to have albinism in our family. Our parents told us about our needs.

Outside my family, the situation was different. In primary school, teachers didn’t understand my visual impairment. I couldn’t see the board properly, so my grades were poor. People believed that if you touched or looked at a person with albinism, you’d bear children with albinism yourself.

My peers knew this, so they avoided being near me or shaking my hand. If I went close, they would walk away. When I was still young, my parents passed away. I left primary school, and never reached secondary.

As an adult, I have sought to integrate myself into my community. Whenever there are funerals or ceremonies I make sure to participate and help out.

I am a social person by nature; I will not isolate myself.

Today, I have made a name for myself as an entrepreneur. I make pots, stoves, and other kitchen utensils. My business does well. I am proud of the talent God has given me; it makes others realise that even a person with albinism can make it in this world.

I thank God for Standing Voice. The team are always there for me whenever I have problems.

They have even provided support for my business. Growing up, I never had access to sunscreen. My siblings and I would use normal moisturiser to protect our skin, but this never worked. Because of Standing Voice, we have clinics now, and sick patients get the treatment they need.

Today, I have made a name for myself as an entrepreneur
Standing Voice Offices

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flights (from London)</td>
<td>£650</td>
<td>This is an average flight cost. Longer flight combinations can be less and shorter journeys can be more expensive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa</td>
<td>£180</td>
<td>You will need a business visa, which costs 250 dollars.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport in Tanzania</td>
<td>£30</td>
<td>This will cover 2 x airport transfers. Standing Voice will provide transport to and from the airport.</td>
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Emergency contacts

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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anti-malarial medication</td>
<td>£50</td>
<td>You should budget £2 (one pill) per day of your trip. You will require an additional 8 tablets (£2 each) to be taken before you travel and after you return home.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vaccinations</td>
<td>£0 to £150</td>
<td>Depending on your local GP arrangement, it may be possible to obtain vaccinations on the NHS. If you have travelled recently, you may not need additional vaccinations for this trip.</td>
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Accommodation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mwanza accommodation</td>
<td>£140 (2 nights)</td>
<td>Accommodation in Mwanza ranges from £15 - £70 per night. 2 nights will be spent in Mwanza.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ukerewe accommodation</td>
<td>£80 (10 nights)</td>
<td>Accommodation on Ukerewe Island (including breakfast) is £10 per night.</td>
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Food and general spending

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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily transport and lunch</td>
<td>£85</td>
<td>Standing Voice will provide transport to the workshops, plus lunch for a daily contribution of £6 while on Ukerewe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evening meals</td>
<td>£60</td>
<td>You should budget approximately £4 daily for evening meals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra spending money</td>
<td>£100</td>
<td>Tanzania is generally very cheap, but it’s useful to carry some extra spending money.</td>
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Total: £1570

Practical info

This years workshops will be held for two weeks starting on the 15th of June. You will be able to volunteer for all, or part, of this period. You may wish to stay on in East Africa before or after the workshop for your own further travel, and are of course not obliged to travel back after the workshop has ended. As a volunteer, you will be expected to cover the cost of your own trip. An idea of approximate trip expenses is given below. These estimates are based on a 14 day trip.
Volunteers for our Summer Skills Workshop can fundraise to cover the expenses associated with their trip and the delivery of their Standing Voice Workshop. Participants may wish to split their total amount raised, or undertake separate fundraisers for each cause.

Standing Voice will support participants in their fundraising efforts.

Our fundraising pack contains useful practical information on fundraising, as well as some inspiration.

You should think carefully about how you will cover the costs of participating in the Summer Skills Workshop. To help with the costs, you can organise a fundraiser and/or apply for travel grants (for instance through a university). You should be clear with any prospective donors that their funds will be used to cover the expenses of your trip, and are not going to Standing Voice. You will not be able to claim Gift Aid on these donations.

If you’re organising a fundraiser, you could create a JustGiving page. The text below might be useful for you to use.

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**Hi there! I’m doing/organising/selling _________ to raise funds for Standing Voice, and I need your support!**

Standing Voice works to end human rights violations against people with albinism in Tanzania. Albinism is a genetic condition that reduces melanin pigment in the skin, eyes and hair. People with albinism are pale, vulnerable to sunburn, and visually impaired.

In parts of Africa, people with albinism are often seen as curses from God. Witchcraft potions containing their body parts are believed to bring wealth and fortune. Sex with a woman with albinism is said to cure AIDS. These beliefs have caused 202 people with albinism to be murdered, and another 350 to be attacked and mutilated, across Africa since 2006.

Most victims have been children.

Those who escape this violence face enormous challenges in accessing healthcare, education, housing and employment. The majority live short and cruel lives, abused and hunted for the colour of their skin.

Standing Voice is working to transform this situation. Empowering initiatives in health and education are now reaching more than 3,000 people with albinism in East Africa: preventing skin cancer, restoring sight, and spreading understanding - giving people with albinism brighter futures.

I’ll be helping to organise a programme of activities on Ukerewe, a small island in Lake Victoria, Tanzania. The workshops, to be held this June, will bring communities together to foster understanding, and to boost the skills and economic potential of people both with and without albinism.

Please help me with your sponsorship so that I can raise as much as possible to help people on Ukerewe Island.
Run with us

This year, to mark our 5th anniversary, the extended Standing Voice family will gather for the Hackney Half Marathon on Sunday May 20. Participants will raise funds for Standing Voice’s work in Tanzania, while running through our home neighbourhood in East London.

Participants of our Summer Skills Workshop will find the Hackney Half Marathon to be a perfect fit for their fundraising activities. It will also be a fantastic opportunity to meet the Standing Voice team and our other Summer Skills Workshop volunteers before heading out to Tanzania.

We will help you to raise funds, and meet you on the day with goodies and encouragement. After the run, we will gather to recharge over a drink, and share our excitement over the Summer Skills Workshop!

SIGN UP HERE
We’re looking for motivated, personable and interested individuals to make our Summer Skills Workshop the best it can be. Our volunteers will gain an incredible experience, and make memories with us that we will treasure for a lifetime. If that sounds like something you’d love, get in touch with us.

Let us know a bit about yourself by filling in our APPLICATION FORM, and we’ll get in touch with you as soon as we can. If we think you’re a good fit, we’ll work with you to craft the perfect experience so that you get the most out of it, and so do our participants in Tanzania.