

# Standing Voice and the Pierre Fabre Foundation

## PRESS RELEASE

### **‘Skin Cancer Prevention for People with Albinism in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Model of Intervention’**

This press release marks the formal announcement of a new partnership between Standing Voice and the Pierre Fabre Foundation.

Standing Voice is an international NGO based in Tanzania, with its headquarters in the United Kingdom. Its team has over ten years’ experience promoting the social inclusion of people with albinism in Tanzania and Africa more widely. The charity delivers initiatives in Health, Education, Advocacy and Community to thousands of people with albinism across Africa.

In much of Sub-Saharan Africa, vulnerability to sun damage and poor access to healthcare cause people with albinism to suffer epidemic rates of skin cancer. In 2013 Standing Voice established its Skin Cancer Prevention Programme to combat this situation. The programme operates at 27 clinic sites across 9 regions of Northern and Western Tanzania, serving 2,000 people with albinism in their own communities every 4 months. Delivered by in-country Community Dermatologists, the clinics provide skin screening; preventative education; and, where needed, liquid nitrogen cryotherapy and referral for emergency surgery. Patients also receive Kilimanjaro Sunscreen, or ‘Kilisun’, a locally made sunscreen specifically designed for people with albinism. Standing Voice helps to fund the Kilimanjaro Sunscreen Production Unit (KSPU) to manufacture Kilisun, distributing thousands of bottles every year through its network of clinics.

The Pierre Fabre Foundation is a public utility improving access to medical care in developing countries around the world; its four intervention priorities are to train drug professionals, broaden access to healthcare, combat sickle cell disease, and promote tropical dermatology. In line with its activities in that field, the Foundation has identified albinism in Africa as an area of potential intervention, given the unmet needs of people with this condition.

Wishing to support organisations involved in early detection, information and medical care for people with albinism, the Pierre Fabre Foundation has recently launched a call for projects to non-profit agencies working on this issue in Africa. Standing Voice’s Skin Cancer Prevention Programme has been selected to receive the highest grant.

This press release therefore announces a new partnership between Standing Voice and the Pierre Fabre Foundation. Together we are launching a new phase of expansion in the development of Standing Voice's Skin Cancer Prevention Programme. Over the next four years, we will expand and consolidate the programme in Tanzania and replicate it internationally in other Sub-Saharan African countries. By the end of 2020 we aim to be serving 8,000 people with albinism every four months across multiple African countries with a specialist team of dermatologists delivering 24,000 medical consultations annually. This will quadruple the programme's current reach.

*"We have been really impressed by the quality of Standing Voice's programme, which empowers local communities, patients' associations and local dermatologists, making it both sustainable and scalable. In Tanzania, where we met many people with albinism, it was obvious that these medical services have been saving lives. We are confident in the potential for growing the number of beneficiaries and happy to be able to contribute."*

Béatrice Garrette, Managing Director of the Pierre Fabre Foundation

*"We are extremely proud to announce this new partnership with the Pierre Fabre Foundation. This funding and valuable expertise will enable our life-saving Skin Cancer Prevention Programme to expand, reaching more people with albinism in the remotest parts of Tanzania and in other Sub-Saharan African countries too."*

Harry Freeland, CEO and Founder of Standing Voice