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Zetteler brings UK artists  
**Camille Walala** and **Alex Booker**  
to Tanzania with human rights charity  
**Standing Voice**

*Turning creativity into community*



Artists Camille Walala and Alex Booker.

This summer, a diverse team of Zetteler-recruited artists and makers will touch down in Tanzania for a one-of-a-kind social project. Over two weeks, they'll share their creative visions, practical insights and generous spirits with one of the most marginalised communities in East Africa, helping overcome prejudice and ignorance, build bridges across a divided community, nurture potentially life-changing skills and shining a global spotlight on one of the most inspiring charities working in Africa today.

For the last **12 years**, Standing Voice has been working with the community of **Ukerewe Island, Tanzania**, home to one of the country's largest populations of people with albinism. In sub-Saharan Africa, albinism is a life-threatening condition, both because of the dramatically increased risk of skin cancer it entails, and the widespread stigma it carries in many African communities. People with albinism are often seen as subhuman or cursed, ostracised from society and family, denied essential health and education services, and – because of the belief that their body parts can be used in witchcraft to bring wealth or good fortune – maimed and murdered with terrifying regularity. There have been more than **550 such attacks in Africa since 2006**, with many of the victims being children.

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*'People with albinism and their families will come together to develop skills, build businesses, and celebrate one another's differences. Every day we see how social integration improves health and education, creates jobs, and builds stronger civil support networks to protect people with albinism from future persecution.'*

– **Harry Freeland**, founder, Standing Voice

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Standing Voice exists to fix this. Alongside its life-saving **medical programmes addressing visual impairment and cancer prevention**, the charity campaigns locally and globally to spread awareness and understanding, and works on the ground with Ukerewe communities to integrate people with albinism into wider society, giving them access to the **educational, professional and social opportunities** that they have previously been denied.



*Photography by Chihiro Tagata Fujii*

Now in its second year, Standing Voice's **Summer Skills Workshop** plays a significant part in its mission to reconnect a divided community. Held on **16–29 June** at the purpose-built Umoja Training Centre, the workshops provide an opportunity for the island's families to come together and develop new creative skills, learning to look beyond the colour of their skin as they work alongside each other. For people with albinism, it is a chance to build confidence, explore untapped talents, and form stronger connections within the community. For some, it can mean acquiring practical skills that can be turned into entrepreneurial careers, offering a much-needed pathway to economic stability.

Last year, the printmaker **Alex Booker** travelled to Tanzania for the first series of Summer Skills Workshops, teaching the art of woodblock printing to the Ukerewe community. This summer, he is returning with graphic artist **Camille Walala** and her collaborator **Julia Jomaa**, and designer and fabricator **Simon Sawyer** for the two-week programme.

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The participants' contribution to Standing Voice extends beyond the classroom. Alongside the workshops, the **visiting artists** will be bringing their skills to the restoration of the centre and its surroundings, with Camille and Julia painting the community's essential water tanks and new radio production lab with **signature Walala prints and patterns** and Simon **fabricating tables, stools and shelves** for the centre.

Zetteler, a long-standing fan of Standing Voice (founder Sabine Zetteler is a trustee), has helped to curate this year's programme, which will culminate with an **exhibition in London in November 2018**, raising awareness and further funds for the charity to continue its crucial work.

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Photography by Harry Freeland and Chihiro Tagata Fujii

*'Having been a trustee for Standing Voice for the last few years, seeing their growth and the miraculous work they're doing to protect the lives of those with albinism, it's really exciting that Zetteler has now reached the stage where we can use our team, connections and channels to help amplify their work.*

*We're all thrilled and moved that this group of kind and influential artists will be travelling across the globe to give 10 days of their time and love to Harry and his team in Tanzania. That kind of positive energy, sense of global community and generosity is heart-warming and gives more meaning to everything they do. I'm really proud of everyone involved.'*

**Sabine Zetteler**, founder and co-director, Zetteler

## Notes for editors

### About Standing Voice

Standing Voice is an international NGO defending the rights of people with albinism in Africa: a deeply marginalised population experiencing extreme social segregation and violence. Working widely across health, education, advocacy and community, Standing Voice has transformed thousands of lives by establishing clinical networks to treat visual impairment and prevent skin cancer. The organisation has relocated vulnerable children with albinism to inclusive schools and universities, and helped hundreds of adults to rebuild their lives through apprenticeships and training at its state-of-the-art Umoja Training Centre. Standing Voice was founded by filmmaker Harry Freeland, whose 2012 documentary *In the Shadow of the Sun* exposed the plight of Africans with albinism to international audiences and catalysed a wave of global interest in this issue. Today, Standing Voice continues to amplify the voices of people with albinism, from grassroots community contexts through to the halls of the United Nations.

[standingvoice.org](http://standingvoice.org)

To find out more about **Standing Voice**, and the Summer Skills Workshops, please contact Jodi Moss at [jodi@zetteler.co.uk](mailto:jodi@zetteler.co.uk) or on +44 (0)7910 705147.