



## Ann Gloag Honours Announcement

We are delighted to announce that at the end of our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year our Founder, Ann Gloag, was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire for her contribution to business and charity.

Ann said. "I am humbled and grateful to receive this Honour. Never in my wildest dreams growing up in a council house in Perth did I think this would ever happen.

"I am pleased the Honour mentions my nursing as what I learned as a nurse, dealing with people from all walks of life, helped me succeed in business and has been the cornerstone of my charitable work.

"Whilst this Honour is being given to me, I would like to pay tribute to everyone who helped us build Stagecoach into the success it has become and thank all our staff and supporters of our charities who are too many to mention."

His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio visited the Aberdeen Women's Centre in Sierra Leone to learn more of our work earlier this year and in June also decorated Dame Ann Gloag with the Grand Commander of the Order of Rokel, GCOR, Sierra Leone's highest and most prestigious decoration, for her work with women and children.



Photo Press Association

"You have worked for this honour and you deserved it. As a nation, we are showing our sign of gratitude to you for all that you have done for our women and this nation. Going forward, I see in you a partner so that we can help the many that need our service. You can rest assured that we will also provide the support that you need to be able to do more work as you promised."

**President Bio**







## Solar stories...

We recently visited former fistula patient Chifundo (35) in the Zomba district of Malawi. She is one of six former patients in the area taking part in our Solar Station project.

Chifundo received her solar unit in 2018 after her successful fistula operation. She is using it to charge mobile phones in her village providing her with a regular income. Any surplus income is used to buy crops for herself and to sell on to others. As well as being an entrepreneur and farmer she is also raising 10 ducks.

Chifundo and her business were affected by the drought that hit most parts of the Southern region of Malawi but she is hopeful things are at last improving. After the recent harvest she is expected to have 40 bags of 90 kg rice to sell.

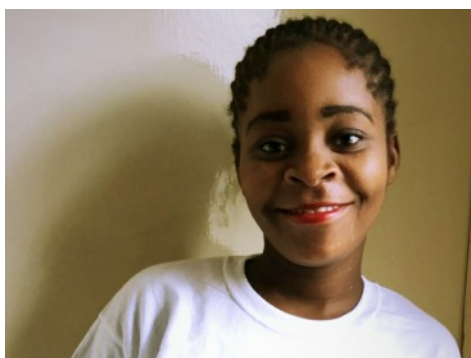


Chifundo, like many of our other patients in Zomba, faces hardship and challenges due to extreme poverty and the rural location. However, the solar units are helping them become independent women in business and the hub of the community.

"I know this lady personally. She comes from my home village. Fistula negatively affected her life for years. She couldn't go farming like normal people do, she couldn't associate with the community because she was always wet and had to change all the time. Her life became miserable. I visited her at the hospital and she couldn't believe how she got transformed. The surgery went so well, nothing close to her fears of a complicated surgery. She was so thankful of the care that she received from the medical staff and the special care and attention she got from Dr Ennet Chipungu specifically. Bravo to you Ennet and team! You have no idea how many lives you have touched. Thank you Freedom from Fistula for giving these ladies back the life they had lost."

**Angela (Facebook 2019)**

**LIVES TRANSFORMED THIS YEAR**





## President committed to ending sexual violence in Sierra Leone

The story of a 5-year-old patient at AWC becoming paralysed by rape has shocked Sierra Leone and hit headlines all over the world.



In February the President of Sierra Leone announced he would be tackling sexual violence against children and has vowed to help the 5-year-old, and other young girls, currently being cared for at our Aberdeen Women's Centre.



## Mums saving each other from a taboo condition features in BBC film

Thanks to the BBC for highlighting the work of Freedom From Fistula in Madagascar where we have launched a Patient Ambassador programme to help find isolated women and girls suffering with fistula across the country. This programme follows the huge success of a similar project in Malawi which now finds more than 50% of our patients and where we have trained **222** ambassadors!

Please watch <https://bbc.in/2JvLw9q>

Source [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) – © copyright 2019 BBC



**200 +**

Patient Ambassadors trained in Malawi



**1300 +**

Babies delivered in Sierra Leone



**200 +**

Solar charging units distributed

## FFF New York update

So far this year we've had lots of new initiatives and campaigns to raise awareness and much needed funds for our fistula patients. Some of the most notable included the #FreedomKiss campaign, the #FreedomRide event, designer India Hicks charity event, International Day to End Fistula Drive and we also continue our close collaboration with Rotary. Looking toward the summer, Angela is going for her treble FFF marathon Fundraising Campaign and will be participating in the Chicago Marathon on Oct 13<sup>th</sup>. Training has already begun and she will be keeping us updated throughout the summer months. Finally, well done to our graduating interns, Fatoumata Sanoh and Jordan Wagner! Congratulations! We're delighted to welcome Jordan to the FFF team in Sierra Leone from August.



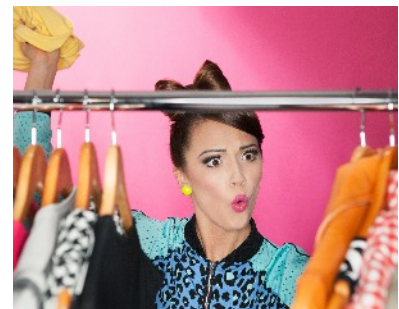
## A sea of yellow at Sydney Opera House

Almost **200** people turned up to take part in the Aminata Maternal Foundation 16k #AMFwalk4mums. The event raised an amazing **\$13,000** (AUS) to support vulnerable young mums at our Aberdeen Women's Centre in Sierra Leone

The AWC runs a support programme for teenage mothers in our maternity unit, supported by the Aminata Maternal Foundation with events like the #AMFwalk4mums. The 'Dream Team' programme provides wraparound help to vulnerable and destitute teenagers before, during and after childbirth. In addition to support from a dedicated counsellor, the Dream Team girls attend classes in health education and how to look after their babies, as well as literacy and numeracy and support to return to school. If you are holding a fundraising event or would like information on how you or your organisation can support our work, please contact [info@freedomfromfistula.org.uk](mailto:info@freedomfromfistula.org.uk) or call +44 (0)1738 633264



### GET INVOLVED



Why not hold a **New2U** party, spend time with friends, bag a bargain and raise funds for women and girls in Africa.

Visit our website for a fundraising pack

## Working in Partnership with Rotary International supporting Women and Girls in Sierra Leone

Rotary Clubs have offered vital support to Freedom From Fistula over many years and we are delighted to once again be working in partnership with Rotarians around the world on a new Global Grant (GG 1981430) - Improving Fistula, Maternity and Child Healthcare in Sierra Leone.

A growing number of Clubs across the UK and the USA have already pledged their support and over the coming months we hope this number will grow. If you are a Rotarian and would like further information about how to get involved, visit - [www.freedomfromfistula.org.uk/about-us/our-partners](http://www.freedomfromfistula.org.uk/about-us/our-partners) and click on the Rotary logo for all you need to know about the new Global Grant or contact: Sue Hope [sue@thehopeconsultancy.org.uk](mailto:sue@thehopeconsultancy.org.uk) (UK) or Angela McCabe [angela@freedomfromfistula.org](mailto:angela@freedomfromfistula.org) (USA).



## Surgical Scousers scale new heights for Freedom From Fistula

In April students from the Surgical Scousers Society (University of Liverpool) hiked Mount Snowdon carrying the weight of a full term pregnancy strapped to their tummy. The Snowdon Challenge was a huge success and the culmination of a number of events raising an amazing **£2414.80** for Freedom From Fistula.