

PRESS RELEASE – Tuesday 28 July 2015

## BBC3 presenter and journalist crowdfunding to transform the lives of people with disabilities in Ghana

**Sophie Morgan, the journalist and disability campaigner, has launched a JustGiving Crowdfunding page to buy a school bus and other life-changing equipment to help the people featured in her BBC3 documentary, *The World's Worst Place to be Disabled?***

Sophie, who was paralysed in a car accident aged 18, travelled to Ghana to report on the plight of the 25 million people living with a disability in a country where there is almost no access to equipment, education, transport, healthcare or work.

During the course of the documentary, which airs on Tuesday evening at 9pm, Sophie discovers the harsh realities of the many disabled people who end up living on the streets of the country's capital; and visits one of Ghana's popular prayer camps where disabled people are taken to be 'cured'. At the camp she witness patients chained up as part of their treatment, and learns how they are beaten, starved and worse so that they can't escape.

In the most shocking moment of the programme, a local disabled activist takes Sophie to where he says children are poisoned and killed, and she goes to meet a so-called Fetish Priest who admits that he will dispose of a disabled child for payment.

Sophie Morgan, said: "Our own society is by no means perfect, we have difficulties here that act as a catalyst for much of the advocacy and campaigning work I do and the UK, like many other parts of the world, have a long way to go before we can say that being disabled isn't, by definition, disabling.

"When I became disabled the support of my friends, family, society and even Government enabled me to go on to create a new life, one in which I feel deeply fulfilled and happy. Sadly, this is not the case for disabled people in Ghana who are subjected to the most appalling conditions and human rights abuses. By launching a crowdfunding page on JustGiving I hope to be able to directly help some of the people I met and to expose the horrifying reality of the many disabled people who in Ghana."

The crowdfunding page aims to raise a total of £9,000, which will be split between the Orthopedic Training Centre, the purchase of a school bus for Mr. Barima's School for The Physically Challenged and the purchase and shipping of additional equipment which will be distributed by the DESO and the Ghanaian Society for the Physically Challenged.

**To donate:** <https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/worlds-worst-place-to-be-disabled>

**To view the trailer for *The World's Worst Place to be Disabled?***

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_PhQjsiYzBQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_PhQjsiYzBQ)

**ENDS**

**For further information:** [helen.dagley@justgiving.com](mailto:helen.dagley@justgiving.com) / 07840 282 116

## **About Sophie Morgan**

Journalist and disabled rights activist Sophie Morgan has been in a wheelchair since a car accident when she was 18.

Overnight her life changed dramatically and the future she had planned disappeared.

Ten years on, Sophie believes that she is more fulfilled since her accident.

She lives independently in London and has a successful career as a journalist, award-winning campaigner and designer.

## **About JustGiving**

Voted Best Giving Platform by the charity members of the Institute of Fundraising in 2014 and 2015, JustGiving is the world's social platform for giving, enabling over 24 million people across 164 countries to raise more than \$3 billion since 2001.

JustGiving Crowdfunding Pages have 30 days to raise money in the form of pledges. Once the 30 days is complete and the stated target has been reached the pledges will be processed and the funds passed to the page owner.

Some examples of successful pages already funded on the JustGiving Crowdfunding platform:

- [saving lives in a local community with the purchase of a defibrillator](#)
- [starting a mentoring programme for young people](#)
- [funding a gold medal winning Paralympic team](#)
- [helping a dog called Lola to walk](#)