

## PRESS RELEASE

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### CLEAN BREAK JOINS CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE TO DOUBLE SUPPORTERS' GIFTS

As part of The Big Give's Christmas Challenge 2019, donations to Clean Break will be doubled for just seven days, from today, 3 December (Giving Tuesday) until 10 December.

Now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, the Christmas Challenge is the UK's biggest match funding campaign. Throughout the week, participating charities will see supporters' donations matched (up to £50,000 per organisation), doubling the impact of their gifts.

Through the Christmas Challenge 2019, Clean Break aims to raise income and secure vital funding for its campaign 'Help Me Find My Voice'. The organisation is asking for support to help women find their voice - by funding its theatre training and creative development for women with lived experience of the criminal justice system and at risk of entering it, alongside opportunities to engage with their community through public-facing theatre projects.

*'I've always felt that I've not been listened to, feeling that I've not got a voice; It's having that voice to say I'm here, and that's my opinion, it's people who listen to me and that's what I get here [Clean Break]. I'm not afraid to speak up.'* Clean Break Member

Jonathan Frank, Director of [The Big Give](#), adds:

*"The Christmas Challenge is a great opportunity for the British public to maximise the impact of their charitable gifts. Launching on Giving Tuesday, we're encouraging everyone to consider the causes closest to their heart and to donate, enabling us to help ensure those donations go even further."*

The Big Give matches donations through partnerships with over 20 funding Champions, including Reed Foundation, The Childhood Trust, Four Acre Trust and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

To find out more about Clean Break's campaign 'Help Me Find My Voice' or how to donate, [video](#) or visit <https://donate.thebiggive.org.uk/campaign/a051r00001l85lcAAB>

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## Notes to Editors

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### The Big Give's Christmas Challenge

The Christmas Challenge was launched in 2008 by Sir Alec Reed CBE and is now the UK's biggest online match funding campaign. It offers supporters and charities the opportunity to have their donations doubled on theBigGive.org.uk when the campaign goes live at noon on #GivingTuesday, 3rd December 2019. Last year, the Christmas Challenge raised £13 million, a £3.5 million increase from funds raised in 2017.

The Big Give is a registered charity (1136547) with a mission to promote causes and inspire people to give through a crowdfunding platform for charities, specialising in match funding. Since it was founded in 2007, The Big Give has helped to raise over £113 million for UK-registered charities.

Website: [www.thebiggive.org.uk](http://www.thebiggive.org.uk)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/theBigGive.org.uk>

Twitter: [#biggive](https://twitter.com/biggive) [#ChristmasChallenge19](https://twitter.com/ChristmasChallenge19) [#OnTheDouble](https://twitter.com/OnTheDouble)

**Clean Break** changes lives and changes minds through theatre – on stage, in prison and in the community. It produces ground-breaking plays with women's voices at the heart of its work. Founded in 1979 by two women prisoners who believed that theatre could bring the hidden stories of imprisoned women to a wider audience, it remains true to these roots; inspiring playwrights and captivating audiences with the company's award-winning plays on the complex theme of women and crime.

Its commissioned playwrights have included Zawe Ashton, Alice Birch, Deborah Bruce, Lin Coghlan, E V Crowe, Vivienne Franzmann, Tanika Gupta, Katie Hims, Sam Holcroft, Theresa Ikoko, Lucy Kirkwood, Chloë Moss, Rebecca Lenkiewicz, Winsome Pinnock and Rebecca Prichard.

Clean Break's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary launched with *Inside Bitch* at the Royal Court Theatre, with highlights including *Belong* at Arcola Disruption Festival and Lyric Hammersmith Evolution Festival; *All The Lights Are On*, the company's first collaboration with Cardboard Citizens; *Sweatbox* by Chloë Moss, touring the UK in a prison van; and a series of talks and events. The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year concludes with *[BLANK]* by Alice Birch, a Clean Break commission co-produced by the Donmar Warehouse (from 11 October to 30 November).

The Company is led by Joint Artistic Directors, **Anna Herrmann** and **Róisín McBrinn**, and Executive Director **Erin Gavaghan**.

[www.cleanbreak.org.uk](http://www.cleanbreak.org.uk)

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