



**For immediate release**

## Board of Survivors Fund acknowledges the outstanding contribution made by Mary Blewitt

**(London – 04 April 2008)** The Board of Survivors Fund acknowledges the outstanding contribution made by Mary Blewitt to help and empower survivors of the Rwandan Genocide. Mary has been the driving force of the charity. As acknowledged by the OBE she has recently received, she has worked tirelessly to ensure the development of a strong vibrant organization.

After fourteen years dedicated to this agenda, Mary has decided to move on AND take up new challenges. She plans to open up a social business in Uganda which will continue to provide support to Survivors Fund; she also has plans to write a book and to take forward other humanitarian work in Africa. We all wish her every success and we are delighted that she will continue to support the mission of Survivors Fund in her future endeavors.

The Board of Survivors Fund is now working with a specialist recruitment agency to secure the best possible Director to replace Mary in the summer.

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**Notes to editors:** For more information, on SURF, please visit: [www.survivors-fund.org.uk](http://www.survivors-fund.org.uk)

### **What is the Survivors Fund?**

Survivors Fund, or SURF, is a charity dedicated to aiding and assisting the survivors of the Rwandan genocide. Since 1997, SURF has been supporting medical care and providing counselling for survivors, vocational training and home building. The work ensures that the:

- Voices of survivors are listened to and heard
- Memories of the genocide are kept alive
- Victims of the genocide are never forgotten
- Survivors of the genocide are supported - in Rwanda and the UK

Over the past year alone, SURF has:

- Supported 3200 women raped and infected with HIV/AIDS with antiretroviral treatment
- Provided grants for 5000 households for Income Generating Projects
- Built 70 homes for child-headed households, giving shelter to nearly 400 young survivors
- Provided vocational training to 360 children, and supported 370 children with school fees
- Built 22 mass graves, giving over 100,000 victims of the genocide a decent burial

In 2007, SURF hopes to build 500 new homes for survivors and a further 23 mass graves. It has just completed work on a Resource and Testimony Centre – called Humura (“calm” in kinyarwanda), based just outside Kigali - to provide a place of sanctuary for survivor’s still under threat.

SURF is a registered UK charity (no. 1065705/5).