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Media Release

A young woman from Worthing is turning her driving test failures in positive motivation for discouraged student motorists.

Sarah Diallo, 23, took six attempts to pass her driving test, and her experiences inspired her to create a booklet entitled 'Take the L' to encourage drivers not to be disheartened by failures.

'I was disappointed the first time I failed, but not particularly upset because I know a lot of people don't pass time,' she explained. 'However, with every failure it got worse and I felt like I was never going to be able to pass.'

'I think it was the anxiety of the tests; I'd overthink simple things, and in one of the ones I failed my leg started shaking so badly that I couldn't operate the pedals and had to ask the examiner if I could pull over.'

'It was disheartening because I got to a point where my friends were telling me to stick to taking an Uber everywhere.'

Sarah, who is a blogger and YouTuber, was determined to turn her negative experiences into something positive, and after finally passing in December 2017, she uploaded a video to her YouTube channel about her driving journey that has since amassed over 19,000 views.

'It was great to get such a positive response from my video, and that's why I want to be able to help other people in a similar situation with this booklet,' says Sarah.

'I want people to know it's important not to give up, and that you don't need to put pressure on yourself. Everyone wants to pass quickly, but no one thinks about the negative effects that unsafe driving can have.'

'Now I've passed, I'm thankful because I'm a much safer driver because of the setbacks, and in the end they taught me the value of having a licence.'

Going forward, Sarah wants her booklet to reach as many people as possible, and is hoping to share it with driving schools and promote it on her social media.

'It's all about motivating people,' says Sarah. 'Failure doesn't mean that you can't do it, it's just about trying again, until you're comfortable and confident.'

Fixers works with young people aged 16-25 across the UK by providing them with professional resources to help them campaign on issues they feel strongly about.

The charity has helped more than 23,600 youngsters across the UK to have a voice in their community on issues such as cyber-bullying, self-harm, suicide or transphobia.

For more information or to make a donation to fund more Fixer projects, visit www.fixers.org.uk

Picture attached: Sarah Diallo.

For more images, interviews or information, please contact Matthew Mills on matthew@fixers.org.uk or phone 01962 810970.

Notes to editors

About Fixers:

- Since 2008 more than 23,600 young people have become Fixers and created over 2,400 projects. With a £7.2 million grant from the Big Lottery Fund, Fixers extended from England into Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland as well in 2013.
- There are lots more stories about young people doing great things on the Fixers website, Twitter and Facebook pages:
www.fixers.org.uk
www.twitter.com/FixersUK
www.facebook.com/FixersUK

