Breast Cancer Now Speech Template

Hello everyone. **Introduce yourself** (e.g. Thank you for allowing me the time to come and talk to you today. I am a local representative for Breast Cancer Now, the UK's largest breast cancer charity.) Some of you may be aware Breast Cancer Now is the product of two inspirational charities coming together, Breast Cancer Campaign and Breakthrough Breast Cancer. Together we truly believe that if we all act now, by 2050 everyone with breast cancer will live.

[Your story]

If you feel comfortable please feel free to talk about why you have chosen to support Breast Cancer Now and about your breast cancer experience.

[Breast Cancer Now]

We're acting now to stop women dying from breast cancer. Bringing together everyone affected by the disease and all those working to stop it, we're improving early diagnosis, developing new treatments and preventing all types of breast cancer.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in the UK. One in eight women will face it in their lifetime. Nearly 700,000 people living in the UK have experienced a diagnosis.

Around 1,000 women in the UK die from breast cancer every month. That's one woman every 45 minutes whose life is cut short by the disease.

Almost all these deaths are caused by secondary breast cancer, where cancer has spread from the breast to other parts of the body.

Survival rates for breast cancer have thankfully increased dramatically. More than 80 percent of women who develop breast cancer will now live beyond five years. 40 years ago, it was only around half. But that doesn't mean we've got breast cancer under control.

However, imagine living in a world where breast cancer has no power over our lives. Where the fear, pain, uncertainty, helplessness, loss and anger we currently feel are replaced with answers – and the ability to act.

Imagine a day when we can tell every woman what her risk of breast cancer is. Imagine personalised health and lifestyle plans to help stop the disease developing, and routine blood tests that could detect breast cancer at its very earliest stages.

Imagine treatments that could stop breast cancer before it ever gets a chance to take hold. They'll be so effective – and so readily available – that for most women, they'll be enough to stop the disease in its tracks. But if it does spread, no one will have to cope with the devastating knowledge that it will one day take their life.

Secondary breast cancer will no longer kill. We'll be able to contain it. Control it. Live with it. But never die from it.

We believe that if we all act now, by 2050, we won't have to imagine any more.

Research holds the key to a world where everyone who develops breast cancer lives. Breast Cancer Now supports nearly 450 of the world's brightest researchers at more than 30 institutions across the UK and Ireland. With our funding, they're working on more than 70 projects covering the full spectrum of scientific discovery – from short term explorations to the major questions in breast cancer research.

With your help, by 2050, we believe we will live in that world – but only if we all act now to keep up the pace of discovery.

It's time to make it happen. It's time to support research into breast cancer now.

[call to action for the event – please: sign up; donate generously; buy a raffle ticket]

Thank you for your support.

This is just a template to support you in your talks on behalf of Breast Cancer Now. Please feel free to adapt it to suit your personal style. If you would like any additional statistics please let us know. Thank you for your support.