


BECOMING A NEW GENERATION (BANG) with morals and character



**BECOMING**  
**A NEW GENERATION**

**OUR VISION**

Building a new generation of youth with values, morals and character who will make Uganda a GREAT Nation

**OUR MISSION**

Equipping and empowering youth with principles based on TRUTH and challenging them to develop values, morals and character that will enable them prepare for and build strong and happy families, become autonomous, innovative, productive, responsible, economically stable and transformational leaders who will make Uganda a better place to live in and a GREAT nation, regardless of sex, race, ethnic, political inclination, social or religious background.

## **Project Team**

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## **1. What is BANG?**

BANG an acronym for Becoming an New Generation with morals, values and character started in 2017 at Makerere University whose overall goal was to supplement efforts of the university to fulfil her vision of becoming the leading institution for academic excellence and innovation in Africa. Hosted by Makerere University and Family Life Network (FLN), in 2019 the programme received support and has been funded by the Government of Uganda through the Research and Innovation Fund (RIF). The project titled: “Rebuilding the Moral Infrastructure of the Youth in Uganda: Nurturing a New Generation for National Transformation” focused on critical moral values and character that are necessary for academic excellence, social innovations, positive mindset, attitude and behavioral change essential for individual, family, institutional as well as national transformation and was conducted at Makerere University. The BANG project focused on interrogating the moral values, character and ethical conduct necessary for academic excellence, social innovations, positive mindset, attitude and behavioral change essential for national transformation at different levels - individual, family, institutional. The project comprised of two components - research and innovation, with the former focused on evidence generation, while the latter focused on building the capacity of students and staff (mainly lecturers) of Makerere University with relevant skills towards enabling moral values, character and ethical conduct of the youth for national transformation. Research took an action-oriented approach using a mixed methods study approach using the survey and interview methods and tools. The study was premised on the fact that despite the wide lamentations about the youths’ fast deteriorating moral values and character, they are still perceived as the future leader. Therefore, this study sought to explore the possibility of rebuilding the Moral Infrastructure of the Youth in Uganda by Nurturing a new Generation for National Transformation. It focused on the following objectives:

- I. Identify institutions engaged in nurturing and equipping the youth with the right moral character and values in Uganda
- II. Explore existing opportunities for enabling the youth to acquire the right moral character and values.
- III. Identify the prevailing constraints pertaining to nurturing and equipping the youth with the right moral character and values.

BANG aims at contributing towards the accomplishment of the noble cause of the university community starting with students, teaching, non-teaching staff and the entire university community including parents and the surrounding community

The BANG **program** is therefore one of the models to address the deteriorating moral values and ethical conduct in the nation. It's a holistic and pragmatic nationwide intervention whose overall goal is to rebuild the values, character and moral infrastructure of Uganda's youth based on the proven values and principles of integrity, honesty and personal responsibility.

## 2. How do you join BANG?

Formation of the BANG clubs in Makerere University and other Universities. Following the completion of the study titled *Rebuilding the Moral Infrastructure of the Youth in Uganda: Nurturing a New Generation for National Transformation*, BANG clubs were formed in all the 9 Colleges and one school in Makerere University. The membership is spreading to other universities of Kampala International University, MUBS, Busitema and UCU. Membership to the BANG Club is open to students who fulfil these conditions: -

- i. Students who believe in the vision, mission and objectives of the BANG Club, the BANG Declaration, and are willing to abide by the BANG Club Constitution.
- ii. Students who have signed the BANG Sexual Purity/Abstinence Card regardless of sex, race, ethnic, social status or religious back ground, [However any youth who is not a member is welcome to attend activities and functions as long as they fulfil the requirements for the particular event or activity.]
- iii. Students who have read the recommended books and or resource materials that the FLN management will prescribe from time to time.

Those interested are advised to contact the BANG club leadership on: 0393243517 or [bangfamily2019@gmail.com](mailto:bangfamily2019@gmail.com)

The FLN and BANG alumni usually organise meetings with prospective students who are told about BANG and called upon to join. Guided by the **BANG DECLARATION**, the club member pledge to become a new generation *“that is ready not to take the easy, short, convenient - wrong path; BUT rather to take the long, difficult, complicated, inconvenient, and painful BUT the right path, and not to settle for lies when the truth can be found”*.

## 3. What is BANG declaration?

### To be recited by ALL

- ***We are becoming a new generation that has decided to live by our national motto; “For God and My Country”***
- ***We know that our parents, relatives, friends and nation are counting on us to be the New Generation that will build a new foundation for our national reconciliation, restoration, healing and transformation.***
- ***We choose to take on this challenge and to build our lives and character on values that are based on TRUTH.***
- ***We know who we are. We respect and value our bodies. We honor marriage and family. We choose to keep our sexuality for the right time of marriage.***
- ***We choose to be responsible, hardworking and to have a positive attitude towards life. We choose to live and get along with Ugandans of all tribes and races irrespective of their social, political and religious backgrounds.***

### To be recited by BOYS/MEN

- ***We are becoming a new generation of men who want to keep our word and the promises we make.***
- ***We understand that it is our God-given duty to protect women and children wherever we are and never to take advantage of them;***

- *We choose to avail ourselves to be part of the solution that our families, institutions, communities and nation needs. We make a commitment to do our best at all times. We understand that it is a noble thing to put the interest of others and of the society around us before our own.*

**Photo 1: Students reciting the BANG declaration in 2019**



**Photo credit: Makerere University COBAMS Students reciting the BANG DECLARATION in March 2019**

#### **4. What activities do BANG members engage in?**

BANG Club members are trained to engage in activities that promote and inculcate positive values in the youth for national transformation. The members are required to seek knowledge on the prevailing opportunities and constraints to nurturing and equipping the youth with the right moral value and character, learn how to avoid the different temptations and become responsible university youths. They are also trained and equipped with skills and knowledge for responsible living. Including how to keep themselves sexually pure. Those recruited into the BANG club have been equipped with the appropriate moral values and skills to contribute to the achievement of Uganda's desired transformed society.

Advertisement for recreational activities for the BANG Club members at Makerere University

Makerere University students from the BANG clubs engaging in sports and games to keep fit and healthy



Several trainings about moral values have been held with students to enable them have the requisite skills to navigate the university life, and live morally ethical lifestyles during and after university.

## 5. Friday meetings/fellowships

The BANG members meet every Friday to share challenges and testimonies, they learn from each other and sometimes share some drinks and bites.



Time for testimonies include those youth who have faced different challenges of relationships, drugs, alcohol and how they have managed to overcome them.



#### **Testimonies from a BANG alumni**

BANG interventions have been very useful for transformation lives of many students as testimonies from some of the participants indicate. One student blogged that *“The main problem affecting our families today is disintegration before and after marriage. People are insufficiently prepared for marriage and are even already disintegrated... some very broken. Henceforth the capacity of building a very firm foundation which can sustain a good and happy marriage is minimal or nonexistent. Is our generation really dying out morally? Are we loosing hope of a better generation? Yes...some souls have resigned to this but not us! Not us who believe that we can make a difference... not you who is tired of the status quo. It’s time to rise up and take our place in the restoration of family morals and values. It’s time to become a new generation of young people who are focused on introducing principles of TRUTH in all spheres of life including those we call secular.*

## 6. Signing abstinence cards

During the BANG club members training, participants were taken through what it takes keep sexual purity and encouraged to try it. Below is a sample of sexual purity card that individuals sign and keep a copy with their mentors.

| COMMITMENT CARD   |   |
|---|---|
| Sch./ Institution: _____  | <i>Believing that TRUE LOVE WAITS,<br/>I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, my country, my friends, my future spouse and my future children to a life of sexual purity, waiting until the day I give myself only to my marriage partner in a FAITHFUL MARRIAGE CONVENANT.</i> |
| Name: _____   |   |
| Date of birth: _____ Sex: <input type="checkbox"/>  |   |
| Religion: _____   |   |
| Date: _____   |   |
| Personal Tel: _____   |   |
| Email: _____  |   |
| Facebook A/C: _____   |   |
| WhatsApp: _____   |   |
| Parent's Contacts: _____  |   |
| Name: _____   | Signature: _____  |
| Date: _____   | Date: _____   |
| Contact us at Family Life Network (FLN) P.O. Box 28614-Kampala<br>Tel. 0414-268981 Mob. 0779-283119<br>Facebook A/C: Family Life Network<br>Email: Youthnetwork2016@gmail.com WhatsApp: 0779-506949 |   |

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