The Fathers Arise Programme of The Remnant Generation
Fatherlessness is a growing problem in Uganda in the rest of the world. Whether caused by divorce, or by deliberate single parenting, or by absent fathers, or through adoption, addiction, or a father who is emotionally absent from the home, more and more children are growing up without fathers in Uganda; a phenomenon that is not ordained by God. According to the Uganda National Household Survey 2016/17, 31 percent of households in Uganda were female-headed, with 8 percent of children under 18 years old considered vulnerable.

And these trends are not without negative consequences. Father absence has been shown to be a major disadvantage to the well-being of children while families with fathers do better.

Many researchers and agencies have monitored fathers’ involvement in children’s lives, and results show that families with fathers do significantly better than families with absentee Dads:

- A responsible father in the home promotes improved academic performance in school while reducing disciplinary problems among school-age children;
- Fathers involvement in school activities is associated with the higher likelihood of a child getting good grades.
- Daughters are less likely to engage in risky sexual behaviour when they have consistent contact, and a sense of closeness with their dad
- Children with involved Dads are less likely to be mistreated.
- Boys have fewer behavioural problems and girls have fewer psychological problems when they have involved Dads.
- Dad’s involvement during pregnancy positively influences the health outcomes for mom, dad and the baby.
- Involved Dads improve the overall emotional and social wellbeing of their children.

When men are involved in the care and development of their children, have respectful relationships with their partners, and share decision-making and parental duties, there are positive benefits for children’s development, maternal wellbeing and relationships within the family.

It is NOT acceptable to see the increasing numbers of fathers sexually abusing their daughters either, and having babies with them.

In August 2020, a Uganda Police Report on Child Abuse indicated that a total of 6,888 children were defiled during the Covid19 lockdown period, March to August 2020. 61 children were defiled by their parents, 64 by guardians, 54 by teachers; 110 by HIV+ persons while 38 of these are children with disabilities.

What is the Fathers Arise Programme?

An initiative of The Remnant Generation, a Christian based Non-Governmental Organisation that works to rescue and restore the lives of teenage pregnant girls and survivors of sexual abuse, the Fathers Arise Programme is a platform through which men advocate for change against the increased levels of fatherlessness in our society, and the subsequent ills that have arisen out of this issue such as teenage pregnancy, child abuse and neglect, early marriage, school dropouts, alcohol and drug abuse as well as delinquent behaviour.

Since inception, The Remnant Generation has worked with over 10,000 young people and 300 teen moms who have directly benefited from our community-based programmes and holistic care services. However, one thing remains glaringly visible – the lack of a good and responsible father in the lives of the girls who have been abused and the children they bring forth.

Fatherlessness has many forms.

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We are focused on breaking the cycle of sexual abuse & teenage pregnancy in our country. Our work since 2014 has clearly shown that something must be done about the men behind each case we deal with. We believe that the cycle of abuse can be stopped only if we create awareness and involve men in protecting women.

Without the men ARISING and standing up to be better husbands, fathers, brothers and friends, not much can be achieved. When boys don’t have a clear definition of what a man should be as they grow up, when girls grow up without a loving, involved and present father, they will gravitate towards what’s familiar – absenteeism and abuse respectively.

**Malachi 4:6** - “He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction”

It is time to break the pattern so that our children can have a better future. We want to see a better generation with men being more actively involved in raising and protecting families. This is God’s Heart. We need men present and engaged in protecting, advocating for, nurturing and caring for their children, as well as mentoring their fellow men to become responsible fathers.

We believe that any child can have access to a fatherly figure in absence of a biological one whether by choice or reasons beyond them.

The Remnant Generation has enlisted volunteer services and support of prominent MEN from the worlds of art, sport, business, church ministry and entertainment to highlight the issue of fatherlessness, sexual abuse and teenage pregnancy, who will be called **FATHERHOOD AMBASSADORS** under our **Fathers Arise Programme**.

**Lily’s story**

At the age of 4, Lily’s HIV-Positive father started sexually abusing her. When she was 7 years old, he died of HIV-related complications and she was sent to live with her 70-year-old grandfather and his two wives. Lily’s grandfather made her his 3rd ‘wife’ and the abuse continued until she was 12 years old when she conceived.

Neighbours became concerned when they saw the little girl’s stomach bulging and called the police. The grandfather was arrested and, out of shame, committed suicide in jail.

Lily was ostracized and sent away from home and a good Samaritan brought her to us. She has been with The Remnant Generation since 2016. Her little boy is now 4 years old. After a series of therapy sessions, she’s re-enrolled into school and her dream is to finish Primary 7. Lily will never understand what the love of a father truly is, and her son may never know the same either.
The Remnant Generation founded in 2011 is a Christian-based organisation, registered as Not-for-Profit, Non-Government Organization in 2015 under Non-Government Organization Act of the Laws of Uganda (Reg. No. 1442). We are a member of Children At Risk Action Network (CRANE) and affiliated to Association for Life of Africa (AFLA) and Heartbeat International in the USA.

Our Mission is to rescue and restore pregnant teenage girls who have survived sexual assault. We invest in their flourishing by providing safe space, counselling, spiritual nurturing and access to health care, education and job training.

We hope to see “A generation of healed, healthy and thriving young people in safe communities, fulfilling their God-given potential.”

Objectives

- End Fatherlessness in Uganda
- End Child Sexual abuse
- Change the narrative for teenage mothers

Goal

The overall goal of our Fathers Arise Programme is to ensure that every child has access to a father in their lives. Every child whether born out of wedlock, incest, rape needs a fatherly figure.

Fathers Arise will mobilise men countrywide to take action and define what they will do to make a difference with the “A FATHERLESS GENERATION ENDS WITH ME” slogan.

We want to see men make this commitment and decide to change the story of children in Uganda, by sharing their own stories to inspire others to follow suit. Their individual actions will collectively create the change we need to end fatherlessness in our world.

Activities

- Boys mentorship: “I am her protector campaign” in schools – Boys taught to respect their girl classmates at school, look out for them and protect and love them.
- Intergenerational Dialogues to talk about changing fatherhood trends.
- Parenting, child protection lessons and periodic fatherhood trainings to improve relationships between fathers, mothers and children.
- Public awareness and advocacy for change on issues of child sexual abuse and teenage pregnancy, early marriage, fatherlessness, single parenthood, and call the public to action, through various media;
- Fatherly figure club: We need volunteers to take on the role of a “father” figure to babies born to the girls at The Remnant Generation and to the girls themselves.
- Interactive father and daughter events, where fathers and daughters bond and build stronger relationships.

How can you participate

- Become a Fatherhood Ambassador
- Join the online campaign
- Form a Fatherhood Club in your church, office, neighbourhood, school, etc
- Volunteer to be father figure to our babies and girls
- Apply to mentor young men
- Hold a fatherhood fundraising club or event
- Support the Fathers Arise Campaign financially

About The Remnant Generation

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Follow along On Our social media platforms:

- The Remnant Generation
- @remnantgnration
- the_remnant_generation_uganda
- The Remnant Generation

The Remnant Generation

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