



## MANHOOD ACADEMY GLOBAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

### The Year of Return 2021 - Rites of Passage Trip to The Gambia

Are Black boys really in crises? With 50% of young black men are unemployed and an over-representation of Black males in prisons, the rise in racist incident, low-income families, single-parent homes and the propensity in impoverished areas to joining gangs, what is the future of black boys in Britain?

The steering committee at Manhood Academy Global has just announced that on the 1 April to the 11 April 2021 a group of 20 teenagers will journey back to Africa for a 10 day 'Rites of Passage Transformational Trip' so they can **DISCOVER** manhood, **CONNECT** to their culture, **BATHE** heritage and **DEVELOP** an unbreakable sense of tradition, self-love and direction.

#### The Aim

To take a group of Alpha Males to The Gambia, West Africa, so they can;

- Become healthy and conscientious men.
- Reconnect with their heritage
- Develop lifelong leadership skills
- Build lasting friendships with young people from around the world
- Become a global citizen

#### Why The Gambia?

The aim of taking our sons to a new environment which is alien to their usual surroundings is to explore and experience a space entrenched in authenticity, history and opportunity.

#### The Gambia will provide;

1. A healing process for our challenged teenagers
2. The opportunity for our teens to fully express unspoken challenges and concern.
3. A platform that will help towards self-development and improve mental health
4. A new narrative. Being in a new environment will inevitably force them to focus upon their specific fears, which will consequently lead to them reassessing their purpose, with no distractions from negative external factors (social media blackout)

Africa is a continent for the future. Africa and the world are the ideal places for our children, not only to become men but to reconnect them to the robust and unexplored wealth, that this landmass has to offer. We want our children to become ethical leaders, that not only think and act globally but make an impact globally and locally.

***“There's nobody to guide through the process of becoming a man...to explain to them the meaning of manhood. And that is a recipe for disaster” Barack Obama***

### **How long Do Our Rites of Passage Last?**

Our ROP in The Gambia lasts **10 days** and during this time they will participate in the following (with variations)

- A 3 Day and 3 Night Rites of Passage Ceremony
- Cultural Exchange with young Gambians
- Sightseeing, Visiting historical sites
- Giving back, helping orphans at a local school
- Team building, challenges and transformational exercises
- Various adventures and cultural experiences

### **What Are The Costs?**

The Room and board are provided, as well as any travel costs and activities related to the rites of passage. Each family unit is responsible for;

- Round-trip airfare
- Travel insurance
- Travel documents (such as passports, vaccines and visas etc.)
- Spending money and any additional travel or tours

We have calculated that this will cost £1500 all-inclusive.

**Parents/carers do not need to dip into their savings or take out a loan! We do not want our families to look at this as a burden, but as a challenge.**

We want our families to practise group economics.

*“I have 7 close friends. I explained the vision, the why and the intention. By the end of the week each friend invested £50, as a collective they supported my child.  
My son in turn got to go on the trip” **Father of 4 boys***

To raise the funds required for The Gambia each family unit has to take responsibility, they must enrol their immediate networks into the vision, promote it and become involved. This is about a collective response.

### **Fundraising - Create a Wave**

By fundraising, parents/carers can enhance what MAG does and provide new opportunities for our Young Masters. Besides the money, there are plenty of other reasons you as the parent should fundraise. IT TAKES A VILLAGE!!!

There is nothing better than coming together to work towards a common and shared goal. Fundraising efforts will help bring the community together, break down barriers between different cliques and bridge that gap between families.

Parents/carers can host fundraising events. Fundraising creates a heightened awareness of the noble cause. Being unapologetic, putting up posters around the office, local shops, making announcements at local events, running advertisements in the local paper and on the radio and TV stations and posting about the cause will benefit the community in so many ways.

Parents/carers are already involved in the process, by working together the message becomes amplified.

MAG welcome funds raised by businesses, sponsorships, investments and syndicates etc. Funds raised via our GO FUND ME campaign will be used towards the combined total costs of the trip resulting in parents/carers fundraising for a smaller amount.

### **When will the trip happen?**

We journey to The Gambia between the following dates

- Thursday 1 April
- 11 April 2021

The duration will be 10 days during the Easter Half Term 2021.

### **How can I apply?**

The trip to The Gambia is the penultimate stage of our rites of passage programme which lasts 12 months. If you are interested you must enrol the nominated teenager by January 31st 2020. The programme has already begun, we have one last wave for you to jump onto.

Our rites of passage programme is not a short course. We focus on manhood, which is a life-long process. For us to successfully prepare our sons for the journey ahead we require the following

1. Full MAG membership
2. 100% Commitment
3. Completion of our preparatory workshops (Earth, Fire, Water Air Cycles)

**“We have to figure out a way for them to come back to the soil, there is something healing about it.”**

**For more information please contact**

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