



Make A Stand

Re-Entry Component / Response

	<p><i>Immediately</i> after going through the 3 workshops of “Make It Happen”, the formation component of this program, the participants are led to this second component, “Make A Stand”.</p>
Objectives	<p>This session hopes to motivate the participants to commit to a life marked by a deep love for their country and, concretely, to uphold the constitutional process. It also intends to help them realize that such a commitment is done not only in the face of elections, that it is a lifetime undertaking. Above all, it aims to help them understand that such a commitment can only overflow from their great love for God and rooted in their earnest desire to follow Christ’s example in all aspects of their lives.</p>
	<p>This component aims to initiate the participants into different efforts for social transformation, particularly in the electoral process. This will be a way of supplementing the work of various organizations, movements and interfaith groups which focus on the elections, and of networking with these entities.</p>
Involving Other Groups	<p>One way of doing this is for the program organizers to invite the presence of some members of these entities (e.g. if the program is organized in a parish, to have representatives from groups working at that level such as the PPCRV, city or municipal COMELEC office, etc.) towards the end of the session, for them to briefly present their program of involvement or engagement, possibly with visual aids and other helpful materials. If circumstances allow, this may even be done by setting up booths around the area which the participants can visit and have time for interaction.</p>
Time Element	<p>Maximum of 45 minutes for the session</p>

Handout	My Personal Commitment
Materials	Promotional materials of invited groups, Music of “Make A Stand”
PROCESS	As an animated way to begin, the team of facilitators invites the assembly to learn “Make A Stand” (both song ¹ and dance steps ²). Lyrics are on pp. 18-19.
Input	<p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Link with striking words and thoughts from the song “Make A Stand” + As Filipino Catholic youth, why do we need to be involved? When Jesus Christ called us to “proclaim the Gospel to all creation” [Mk 16:15], he called us to proclaim the Gospel to everyone and in the totality of each one’s human life. Nothing is disregarded. + Our Catholic faith is concerned about the religious as well as the moral dimensions. On the other hand, politics affects not only our social identity but also our being Christians; it may help lead us either to grace or to sin. + The Gospel has the power to influence all aspects of life and calls us to “restore all things under Christ” [Eph 1:10]. If we profess to live the Gospel, we are bound by our faith to actualize this through a life integrated in Christ, a life that is not dichotomized (“<i>Kristiyano lang ‘pag nasa simbahan</i>”) and compromised (“<i>Kristiyano ako, pero sige, siya na lang ang iboboto ko; talunan kasi ‘yung isa kahit matino</i>”). <p><i>Paano ba ang maging isang KABATAANG BAYANI?</i></p>
A Personal Commitment	<p>The first and foremost response to our socio-political reality is to make a conscious and firm commitment to a concrete political action. This could be done through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Auto-formation, that is, to continually and personally seek to be educated in the faith and in the socio-political scene as well, formally or informally, through the use of various media at hand (internet, social media, seminars, workshops, etc.);

¹ “*Make A Stand*” is the theme song of the CBCP Year of the Youth on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the ECY last 2011. It is included in the commemorative music album “*XXV: Rooted in Christ, Firm in the Faith*” available from the ECY office.

² Animation steps can be viewed on YouTube through the following:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FH_G4K6hXBM

- b. A conscious choice to live with dignity, despite hardships and difficulties, by saying “no” to various forms of corruption in one’s daily life, and especially during elections, where corruption could be most prevalent;
- c. A commitment to serve and protect one’s rights as a citizen, which is a social as well as a Christian responsibility, that goes beyond the election time. One way of achieving this is through engaging in concrete, collective political action/s;
- d. A cycle of getting politically involved: During this election, by casting votes borne out of serious scrutiny of the candidates and, after each election, by monitoring performances of government officials in view of the next elections; and/or
- e. Active membership in a group, or involvement in a community within one’s locality, that works for clean elections and good governance.

**A
Communitarian
Commitment**

A personal commitment means an initial transformation. But with the many challenges before us, we can concretely effect social transformation if we work together.

We are invited to exercise our Christian responsibility and noble calling to be involved through membership in various groups that work for clean elections and good governance. Some of these groups are the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) and the National Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL).

We may also explore other initiatives that lead toward a more aware and involved participation, e.g. organizing or taking part in a candidates’ forum, animating a prayer rally for social involvement in your barangay, family praying of the rosary for the intentions of honest and clean elections, informal election-information campaign in your neighborhood, among many others.

Let us all believe that we have the power to transform society. There are various do-able ways to become KABATAANG BAYANI. Let us get actively involved. Let us make a stand, to make it happen!

**Activity:
Pledge of
Commitment**

Each participant is to be encouraged to personally pursue a concrete political action. The Main Facilitator concludes the activity by asking all participants to write down their concrete political action as their pledge of commitment. He/She invites them to accomplish the handout as concretely and concisely as possible.

As they sign their name, the Main Facilitator makes them aware that it is a sincere commitment between the participant and God.

Loving God,

*As my personal commitment,
I promise to*

*And as my communitarian commitment,
I pledge to*

Your beloved child,

Conclusion The entire program could be concluded by a short and meaningful prayer ritual prepared by the organizers, according to context and available resources.

It is strongly suggested that this ritual make use of the dreams which each participant wrote and which the small groups have illustrated. A possible thematic Scripture reading could be a **“A New Heaven and a New Earth”** [Rv 21:1-4].

It is also suggested that a ritual of offering the Pledge of Commitment to God be done.

As a closing song, “Make A Stand” may be used.

Next Steps The team of facilitators gives a brief orientation about “A Candle or HOPE”, and how the community (parish, school, youth organization, etc.) will celebrate this. Invite everyone to take part in this.

If the organizers asked for the presence of some organizations or groups, they may be invited to share their program/s with the participants after the conclusion, as concrete ways of already living one’s commitments. These invited organizations should be ready with their respective modules, materials, registration forms, etc.

Share the Experience!

The organizers would also do well to document the experience, i.e. from “Make It Happen” to “Make A Stand” until “A Candle for HOPE”, keep a file for their use, and share highlights as well as feedback to the CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Youth.

MAKE A STAND

Theme Song of the Double Celebration: CBCP Year of the Youth and ECY 25th Anniversary

How long must we sit and wait for a hero?
And how long must we waste today for tomorrow?
To our people that's lost in the dark
We can be guiding hand, shining star
If we only could see that the hero is here
In our hearts, young as we are...

*We can stand and make a stand
Heart to heart and hand in hand
Let that voice out inside
That we can't keep on hiding
Gotta work to make things work
Gotta change to change the world
'Cause we cannot deny, we gotta give it a try
We are never too young to come as one
And to make a stand.*

Stand firm, be a guiding light to the nation
Stand proud, let's unite in one celebration
With the Power of God from above
We can tell all the world of His love
Standing firm in the faith
Doing all of our work from the heart
We've got to start to make a stand

*We can stand and make a stand
Heart to heart and hand in hand
Let that voice out inside
That we can't keep on hiding
Gotta work to make things work
Gotta change to change the world
'Cause we cannot deny, we gotta give it a try
We are never too young to come as one
And to make a stand.*

For together, we're strong
Now it won't be for long
Till we heal this broken land
If we live what we've learned
Take this time to take our turn
To make a stand!

*Let that voice out inside
That we can't keep on hiding
Gotta work to make things work
Gotta change to change the world
'Cause we cannot deny, we gotta give it a try
We are never too young to come as one
And to make a stand.*

*We can stand and make a stand
Heart to heart and hand in hand
Let that voice out inside
That we can't keep on hiding
Gotta work to make things work
Gotta change to change the world
'Cause we cannot deny, we gotta give it a try
We are never too young to come as one
We can make a stand.*

© Episcopal Commission on Youth

Music by Jude Gitamondoc

Lyrics by Jude Gitamondoc and Episcopal Commission on Youth