

# ***Covenant with Black America***

## **Youth Call to Action**

The cover of the *Covenant with Black America* book is the face of an eight-year-old child. It is a poignant reminder that future generations may succeed or fail based on the actions of the present. *The Covenant* is the hope of Black youth yet unborn—but it does not mean that youth cannot take an active role *right now* in building a better America.

The **Tavis Smiley Foundation's National Youth Advisory Council** ([www.youthtoleaders.org](http://www.youthtoleaders.org)) presents this **Call to Action** to encourage and inspire youth to make a difference.

**Get the Book!** Spread the word to your friends, your family, and those in your school about *The Covenant* and its purpose. If you read the book and then share the facts and statistics presented, you have the power to inform those around you. We have to get everyone involved to help make a positive change in our community.

**Register to Vote.** You've heard it time and time again, but it is a basic, fundamental right you get the minute you turn 18. Don't be counted out if you have something to say.

**Covenant Teen Book Club:** Why not put this book on the agenda for your next book club meeting?

**Host a Covenant Chat Session:** Invite your friends to log on and chat about how youth can implement *The Covenant*. Then, create an online *Covenant* pledge and see how many people you can get to sign on.

**Senior Project/Report:** We all have to do reports for school. Make this your project. Read the book, pick a chapter issue, research it online or at the library, and write a three- to five-page report on how the issue affects you or your community.

**Media Advocacy:** Call your local radio station and ask it to read one statistic a day from *The Covenant* to help make the community aware.

**Scared Straight:** Organize a field trip to a local juvenile center or jail so that teens can have an opportunity to hear inmates' personal stories and get a firsthand glimpse of what it's like to be incarcerated.

**Share Your Gifts.** If you are good in math, science, or English and know others who are struggling, offer yourself as a tutor or a mentor to younger children. You can empower others on a personal level.

**Organize a Multi-ethnic or Multigenerational Discussion Group.** How do other ethnic groups view the information found in *The Covenant*? With a discussion group made up of people from different minority groups, you might generate new or fresh ideas on solving problems as well as learn from others. What about other generations? See if young people can connect with seniors to work together.

**Teen Town Hall or Youth Rally:** Tired of adults doing all of the talking? Get your friends or classmates together and organize a youth town hall meeting. You select a time, date, and place; invite a panel of speakers; post flyers in the community; invite the media; and moderate the discussion. You could be the next Tavis Smiley! **[Click on this link to download our organizing toolkit.](#)**

**Digital Divide Donation Drive:** Help implement a computer drive in your local community so that gently used computers can be placed in homes of the less fortunate. You may even be able to get a local computer retailer to help.

**Covenant Debate:** Organize a youth debate. Have teams pick and argue different viewpoints of an issue from *The Covenant*.

**Healthy Living:** Don't walk past the trash piled up on your street corner. Instead organize a Neighborhood Block Clean-Up Day.

**Knowledge is Power.** Pay attention in government class, which is designed to help you understand how our system works. The more you know, the better equipped you will be to understand how to effect change. Know who your city council members, state representatives, and senators are. They represent you. Or, talk to a local university about implementing a summer program about democracy where teens can attend and learn about politics and the government.

**Lead by Example.** Finally, do not let yourself become another negative statistic. We need the contributions of every single young African American in this country. Plan and prepare now for your success. Good luck and let us hear from you. Write us at [y2l@tavistalks.com](mailto:y2l@tavistalks.com).