

A Pledge to Rescue Our Youth

by

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*Young women, young men of color, we add our voices to the voices of your ancestors
who speak to you over ancient seas and across impossible mountain tops.*

Come up from the gloom of national neglect, you have already been paid for.

Come out of the shadow of irrational prejudice, you owe

no racial debt to history.

*The blood of our bodies and the prayers of our souls have bought you a future
free from shame and bright beyond the telling of it.*

*We pledge ourselves and our resources to seek for you clean and well-furnished
schools, safe and non-threatening streets, employment which makes use of your talents, but
does not degrade your dignity.*

You are the best we have.

You are all we have.

You are what we have become.

We pledge you our whole hearts from this day forward.