

My fellow Americans:

Since I contributed to our nation's crime, drug and violence problem, it's only right that I pledge my allegiance to taking part in the solution. There is at the outset a very noticeable and almost superficial association between the Civil Rights movement of the '60s and the struggle I, and others, have been undertaking in trying to save our youth.

During the Civil Rights era, for a long time, there seemed to be no real promise for the poor protectors. There were countless lives lost, and it appeared that America would never invest in rehabilitation of its poor. But this great nation did.

Perhaps the most noteworthy recognition of reality is that non-violence was the movement's most powerful tool. In 1957 when Martin Luther King, Jr. formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, they chose as their motto: "To save the soul of America." My motto is: "To Save the Children of America."

Now, it should be perfectly clear that no human being who has real love for American children can disregard the present conditions they live in. If America can deploy soldiers to the streets of Iraq to save Iraqi children, in deed the same can be done in its own homeland.

I call on every American to make this pledge. It is a pledge that will cause us all to match actions with words by seeking out every creative means of saving our children possible.

Make this pledge today...tomorrow may be too late.

MY PLEDGE TO AMERICA

1. I pledge allegiance to saving America's youth - and to their future being crime, drug and violence free.
2. I pledge allegiance to fighting for a real promise of hope for the 15.5 million children living in poverty.
3. I pledge allegiance to raising an insurmountable level of awareness about the harsh realities of gang-life.
4. I pledge allegiance to encouraging the over 7,000 youth who drop out of school daily to get their education.
5. I pledge allegiance to helping our country's youth understand the truth about sex and sexually transmitted diseases.
6. I pledge allegiance to helping America's youth find something positive to do with their energy and skills and talents.
7. I pledge allegiance to helping find the most effective and cost-efficient way to deal with childhood obesity.
8. I pledge allegiance to maintaining an all-embracing and unconditional love for all of our children.
9. I pledge allegiance to never giving up on our children no matter how dark our days get.
10. I pledge allegiance to dedicating myself to the wretched - but worthwhile - struggle for a new way of living for our children.

Name _____

Signature _____

Date_____

Note: Go to www.cedricdean.com and sign the registry of pledgers. It will be forwarded to President Obama.