

25 RIGHTS OF FOUNDATIONAL BLACK AMERICANS

Securing the Full Humanity and Future of the FBA Lineage

INTRODUCTION

In the United States of Black America, the *25 Rights of Foundational Black Americans* are not granted by institutions. They are inherited through lineage, affirmed through struggle, and carried forward in covenant.

They exist because we exist. Not as requests, but as requirements. These are not goals to chase. They are instructions to protect freedom—in our daily lives, our relationships, our land, and the future we’re building.

The *25 Rights* name what we must never allow to be denied again. They form the foundation of how we live, how we heal, and how we govern as a people.

Each right includes *Covenant Guidelines for Alignment* to help translate principle into practice—showing how these rights are secured, protected, and made real across our communities.

PREAMBLE

We, the people of the *United States of Black America*, affirm the following rights as inherent, sacred, and non-negotiable. These rights are rooted in our ancestral dignity, forged through generations of resistance, and necessary for the full repair and restoration of *Foundational Black American* life in the United States. They are not contingent on recognition by any government but arise from our collective will to live fully, lead freely, and heal completely.

CLASS I: LIFE, HEALTH, AND WHOLENESS

1. The Right to Live Fully

Every FBA has the right to exist without fear, surveillance, or suppression. To live fully is to breathe freely, walk safely, and move with dignity—without external permission or internal compromise. This right affirms life as a permanent condition of value, not a temporary act of survival.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You are not followed, questioned, or profiled when existing in public space.
- You are not forced to shrink, adjust, or perform in order to stay safe.
- You see children, elders, and vulnerable people treated with full dignity.
- You are not criminalized for being present, expressive, or at rest.
- Your daily environment reflects the belief that your life is important.

2. The Right to Complete Wellness

Wellness is not a luxury or a reward, it is a living right. FBAs are entitled to healing, rest, nourishment, and care without cost barriers, stigma, or system delays. This right affirms a culture of wholeness across every stage of life.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You can access care—physical, mental, or spiritual—without shame or delay.
 - You are supported in practicing rest without being called lazy or unproductive.
 - Your well-being is affirmed even when you are not in crisis.
 - You are not blamed for the structural or social conditions that harmed your health.
 - You see wholeness modeled around you—not burnout or silent suffering.
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3. The Right to Food and Water

FBAs have the right to clean water and nourishing food without dependence on harmful systems. This right affirms that access to sustenance is structural, not transactional.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You can drink clean water from your tap without fear of contamination.
 - You can access fresh, culturally relevant food near where you live.
 - You are not punished for hunger or forced into trade-offs between eating and surviving.
 - Food in your community is grown, prepared, and distributed with care.
 - Sharing meals is a sacred act, not a charity performance.
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4. The Right to Environmental Safety

The environment around you must not harm you. This right affirms your protection from toxins, structural decay, and climate risks—because the land should not be weaponized against us.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You are not exposed to pollutants, unsafe infrastructure, or unmanaged waste.
- You can open your windows and step outside without risking your health.
- You are not forced to live near harmful facilities due to race or income.
- You see care reflected in how your neighborhood is built and maintained.
- You experience land as a source of life, not sickness.

5. The Right to Reproductive Justice

Reproductive justice affirms full sovereignty over your body, honoring the sacred choice to give life and ensuring real support for those who parent. This right protects your ability to birth, raise, or not raise children without fear, coercion, or punishment.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You make reproductive decisions without being surveilled, coerced, or shamed.
 - Your care providers understand and respect your values and choices.
 - You are not forced to choose between your well-being and your ability to care for your family.
 - You have access to support whether you parent, choose not to, or are healing from loss.
 - You are never defined by your fertility status or reproductive history.
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CLASS II: EDUCATION, CULTURE, AND EXPRESSION

6. The Right to Culturally Grounded Education

Education must affirm who you are, not erase where you come from. This right ensures access to truth-based learning that reflects your lineage, lived reality, and inherited brilliance—not systems built to distort or diminish your identity.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You are taught your history and contributions with clarity, not shame.
 - Your educators reflect your culture and teach with care, not control.
 - Your learning environment reflects your identity without distortion.
 - You are trained to think, create, and lead—not just to comply.
 - Education prepares you to build systems, not just navigate them.
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7. The Right to Language and Literacy

You have the right to express yourself fully in words that carry your history, culture, and power. Language is not a barrier—it is a bridge. This right affirms your freedom to read, write, speak, and be understood without distortion or shame.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You can speak freely in your natural voice without being corrected or silenced.
- You can read and write using tools that reflect your reality and values.

- Your communication style is respected, not used to measure your intelligence.
 - You have access to learning spaces that support full literacy and expression.
 - Cultural and ancestral language practices are preserved and honored in your zone.
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8. The Right to Cultural Expression

Your culture is not content. It is covenant. This right protects your ability to create, perform, adorn, and share your traditions, innovations, and artistry without theft, dilution, or exploitation.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You can express your identity through music, movement, design, or craft without fear.
 - Your creative work is protected from unauthorized use or cultural theft.
 - Community spaces reflect your traditions, not just trends or external approval.
 - Your expression is seen as a necessary part of governance, not just celebration.
 - Culture is passed on intentionally—not lost or erased through neglect.
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9. The Right to Spiritual Freedom

You have the right to commune with the divine in ways that honor your calling, your people, and your truth. This right affirms your freedom to protect your spirit without hierarchy, judgment, or distortion.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You are free to engage in spiritual practices that give you clarity and peace.
 - You are not mocked, controlled, or punished for how you connect to the sacred.
 - Your spiritual life is nourished through community, rest, and sacred rhythm.
 - Sacred spaces are accessible to you without gatekeeping or elitism.
 - Your spiritual wisdom is valued as real knowledge, not dismissed or co-opted.
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10. The Right to Create and Own Intellectual Property

Your ideas are your inheritance. This right affirms your ability to create, own, and protect original work—from strategy to story, design to data—without being extracted, renamed, or erased.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You maintain authorship and control over your creations.
- Your work is not used, replicated, or profited from without your consent.
- Legal, spiritual, and cultural systems exist to defend your ownership.

- You are fairly compensated when your ideas are shared or commercialized.
 - The origin of your intellectual labor is always acknowledged and respected.
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CLASS III: LAND, HOUSING, AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

11. The Right to Housing and Shelter

A safe and stable place to live is not a reward, it is a right. This right affirms your freedom from displacement, neglect, and predatory systems. Shelter must support your dignity, not undermine it.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You live in housing that is structurally sound, toxin-free, and dignified.
 - You are not constantly at risk of eviction, code violations, or price hikes.
 - You are not criminalized or displaced based on your income, history, or identity.
 - Local housing is preserved and protected for those who live there, not for speculation.
 - Shelter is understood as a sacred condition of community, not a transactional commodity.
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12. The Right to Land, Space, and Accessible Infrastructure

You deserve space to move, gather, build, and belong. This right affirms your ability to live on land that supports your well-being, not land that pushes you out. Infrastructure should make life easier, not more dangerous.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You move through your neighborhood without obstruction, hazard, or restriction.
 - Public spaces—parks, sidewalks, transit—are functional, safe, and culturally affirming.
 - You have access to communal space for gathering, building, and organizing.
 - The land you occupy is protected from extraction, surveillance, and forced removal.
 - Local infrastructure reflects the needs and design of your people, not outside developers.
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13. The Right to Work, Innovation, and Economic Dignity

You are not here to labor for others while dying broke. This right affirms your ability to work, build, and own in ways that honor your time, skills, and creativity—without being underpaid, over-policed, or boxed in. Dignified work includes ownership, autonomy, and the power to create without permission.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You engage in work that reflects your value, purpose, and potential, not just survival.
- You are not funneled into roles that limit your growth or extract your labor.

- You have access to resources and support to launch and sustain your own business.
 - Cooperative economics, family enterprises, and community-owned models are supported.
 - Ownership is treated as a right, not a privilege reserved for institutions or outsiders.
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14. The Right to Generational Wealth

Wealth is not just income—it is time, protection, and control. This right affirms your ability to pass down assets, knowledge, and systems that endure beyond your lifetime. FBA wealth must not stop at survival. It must be built to last.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You can create and protect assets for your children or chosen heirs.
 - Estate planning, trusts, and wealth transfer tools are accessible and trusted.
 - Your family history and property are preserved, not erased by bureaucracy.
 - You are not taxed, targeted, or undermined for trying to build lasting value.
 - Wealth is measured not just in money, but in memory, land, and strategic design.
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15. The Right to Reparative Economic Justice

You are not starting from scratch. You are starting from loss. This right affirms that wealth was taken, ownership was blocked, and labor was stolen. The systems that caused that harm must be rebuilt to return what was lost and restore what was denied. Repair is not charity. It is justice in action.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You have access to land, capital, and income that were once denied.
 - Public funds and budgets are used to restore what was taken.
 - You are not asked to relive harm to receive repair.
 - Policies prioritize those harmed in decisions about ownership and access.
 - Repair is realized when impacted people lead, own, and benefit first.
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CLASS IV: SAFETY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND GOVERNANCE

16. The Right to Safety and Protection

Safety must be built into the system, not left up to chance. This right affirms your freedom from violence, neglect, and constant alertness. Protection is not performance—it's design. Your life should never depend on being palatable, visible, or polite.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- Your environment is designed to prevent harm—through lighting, layout, and access.
 - You are not forced to adapt to unsafe systems just to meet your basic needs.
 - Community safety measures are active, visible, and not dependent on police presence.
 - Emergency response is rooted in care and clarity, not punishment or delay.
 - Protection is not a privilege—it's a baseline built into housing, education, and space.
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17. The Right to Legal, Political, and Physical Self-Defense

You are allowed to defend your body, your voice, and your future. This right affirms your power to say no, stand firm, and organize without being criminalized. Defense is not disruption—it is dignity in motion.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You know your rights and can assert them without retaliation.
 - You are supported when protecting yourself or others from harm—physically or institutionally.
 - Political engagement is protected, not punished, in your zone.
 - Tools and training for lawful self-defense are available without discrimination.
 - Defense is understood as a sacred act, not a threat.
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18. The Right to Truth and Transparency

You have the right to know what is happening around you, and why. This right affirms your access to information, decisions, and systems that impact your life. Truth is not a secret. Transparency is not a favor.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You can access public data, budgets, and decisions without obstruction.
 - You are informed about changes that affect your land, safety, or livelihood.
 - Leaders are accountable to the people, not protected by silence or vague language.
 - Truth-telling is a practice in your community, not just a reaction to crisis.
 - Transparency is embedded in systems—clear, timely, and culturally fluent.
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19. The Right to Digital Justice and Data Sovereignty

Digital life is real life. This right affirms your control over your data, image, and presence. Technology must serve you—not track you, extract from you, or silence you. Sovereignty doesn't stop offline.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- Your personal data is not collected or shared without consent.
 - You can participate in digital spaces without fear of surveillance or manipulation.
 - Tools for digital literacy, safety, and ownership are accessible in your zone.
 - Your creative content is protected from theft, erasure, or algorithmic suppression.
 - You are supported in reclaiming your digital narrative, not forced to conform to platforms.
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20. The Right to Self-Governance

You do not need permission to lead. This right affirms your authority to build systems, make decisions, and govern in alignment with your people, not external approval. Sovereignty starts at the street level.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You have a voice in how your community is run, not just during elections.
 - You know who holds power and how to hold them accountable.
 - Your ideas influence actual decisions, budgets, and policies.
 - You are equipped with tools and training to lead effectively.
 - Governance is part of everyday life, not just a reaction to crisis.
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CLASS V: LEGACY, BELONGING, AND RESTORATION

21. The Right to Belong

You are not a guest in your own community. This right affirms that you deserve to be seen, known, and rooted—without performance, credentials, or conformity. Belonging is not earned through perfection. It is secured through presence.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You are welcomed into spaces that reflect your culture and values.
- You are not isolated, excluded, or displaced based on appearance or status.
- You see yourself reflected in leadership, language, and local life.
- Your presence is affirmed without needing to prove your worth.
- Belonging is practiced through shared memory, mutual care, and open doors.

22. The Right to Intergenerational Connection

You are part of a longer story. This right affirms your access to elders, youth, and legacy relationships that hold memory, wisdom, and future promise. Generational gaps are not barriers, they are bridges.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You have meaningful relationships with elders and youth in your community.
 - Stories, lessons, and life skills are passed between generations with intention.
 - All ages are included in planning, leadership, and celebration.
 - Intergenerational tension is addressed with care and respect.
 - Legacy is built in real time, not left to chance.
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23. The Right to Healing and Return

This right affirms your ability to return to yourself, your lineage, and your community's shared purpose without shame, isolation, or disconnection. Healing is the process of becoming whole again, and return is the restoration of identity, belonging, and alignment—not the excusing of harm or violation.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You are supported through recovery without pressure to perform or explain.
 - Your reconnection to community life is honored as part of cultural continuity.
 - Healing spaces are available for support even outside of crisis situations.
 - Your return to clarity and alignment is respected as personal and sacred.
 - Reentry is met with warmth, patience, and structural support for the lineage.
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24. The Right to Record, Protect, and Honor Our Story

Our story is infrastructure. This right affirms your power to preserve, defend, and elevate the truth of FBA life—without distortion, deletion, or dependence on outside approval.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You have access to archives, records, and stories that tell the truth.
- Community memory is preserved in physical and digital forms.
- You are encouraged to contribute your voice to the living record.
- Historical harm is named and documented, not erased.
- Memory is protected through practice, not just preservation.

25. The Right to Full Repair

Repair is not about restoring the past. It is about rebuilding the future. This right affirms that harm must be structurally addressed, not symbolically acknowledged. Restoration means the systems that caused harm no longer exist.

Covenant Guidelines for Alignment:

- You see repair through restored access, opportunity, and security.
 - The root causes of harm are removed, not managed.
 - You are not asked to settle for survival when restoration is possible.
 - Repair is built into the systems that shape your daily life.
 - The next generation inherits protection, not the burden of fixing what was broken.
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