



## **Launch of a nationwide survey on the Haitian Diaspora in the United States**

**Miami, FL 02/01/2023** – Ayiti Diaspora Collaborative (ADC)\* is launching a nationwide survey in an effort to gain better insights and understanding of Haitian American communities across the United States. The survey's results will help craft a roadmap to amplify the voice of the Haitian diaspora and increase its influence.

With the first wave of Haitians arriving in the United States in the 1960s, the Haitian diaspora in the U.S. is today estimated at over 1 million people according to the US Census Bureau. The states with the largest Haitian American communities are in Florida (500,000), New York (200,000), Massachusetts (80,000), New Jersey (70,000) and a growing number in the tens of thousands in Georgia along with significant numbers in Illinois, Pennsylvania and the D.C.-Maryland-Virginia region.

The survey is part of a broader research initiative spearheaded by ADC, in collaboration with the W.K Kellogg Foundation, to harness Haitian American collective power. The last date to participate is March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The results will be unveiled in May, during Haitian Heritage month.

The survey's goals are to:

- 1.** Obtain a better understanding of the various coalition groups already active in the Haitian diaspora in the United States;
- 2.** Gain accurate insight into the opinions and lived experiences of the Haitian diaspora in the United States, including its socio-economic diversity, geographic representation and its needs;
- 3.** Identify the various issues directly impacting the Haitian American community.

The results, which will be available to the public in the coming months, will inform a needs-based gap analysis of how the diaspora community can harness its power to influence both U.S. domestic policies and US policies vis-à-vis Haiti. ADC will also develop relevant recommendations for an effective organizational structure, it's framework, the start-up, and five-year cost for a National Haitian Diaspora Council.

*“This survey is part of an ongoing effort to determine how the Haitian diaspora can play an active role on economic, political, and social issues in the U.S. and Haiti,”* said Haitian American Foundation For Democracy Board Chair and ADC Lead, Dr. Jean-Philippe Austin *“Community involvement is paramount to unifying the voices of people of Haitian descent living in the United States. This survey will assist us in identifying the values that are important to the Haitian American community as we work together to continue to build collective power. We’re eager to hear from the members of the diaspora. We know much has been said about the collection of data on various social media platforms, for example, and we’re sensitive to the apprehension people may have. Our survey guarantees confidentiality and anonymity”*, Austin continued.

*The diaspora plays a key role in Haiti’s development and welfare,”* said Alix Cantave, W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s senior program officer for Haiti.

*“With a united voice and collective power, it could have an even greater impact by influencing US policy affecting Haiti. The ADC’s research is a step toward better coordination of the diaspora, to help it become an even stronger advocate for Haiti.”*  
- Alix Cantave

ADC (Ayiti Diaspora Collaborative) is a collective of Haitian-led renowned organizations, based in the U.S. and in Haiti. Its members have been advocating on behalf of Haitian communities for over forty years. ADC members include the Haitian-American Foundation for Democracy (HAFFD), Sant La, Avanse Ansanm, Ayiti Community Trust, FOKAL, Haitian-American Professionals Coalition, Haitian-American Voters Empowerment Coalition, Haitian Bridge Alliance, Haitian Ladies Network, Haiti Renewal Alliance, Quisqueya University, and Replenish 509.

Survey participation ends March 15<sup>th</sup> 2023, via <https://haffd.org/adc>

The survey can also be taken in person. For information: [adc@haffd.org](mailto:adc@haffd.org)

Dr. Jean-Philippe Austin, Haitian American Foundation For Democracy Board Chair and ADC Lead, is available for interviews.