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Igniting Our Power: HAFFD Amplifies Voices at the Haitian Ladies Network Weekend

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The Haitian-American Foundation for Democracy (HAFFD) proudly sponsored two key events during the Haitian Ladies Network Weekend from October 11-13, 2024, in Washington, DC. Organized by the Haitian Ladies Network, this impactful gathering of more than 600 women of Haitian descent aimed to empower them by fostering dialogue, collaboration, and networking. Bringing together professionals from around the globe, the weekend addressed critical issues facing Haiti and its diaspora, focusing on advocacy, education, and community building.

A key highlight was the panel discussion titled “**Engaging with Haiti: What is the State of Affairs,**” moderated by Ms. Monique Clesca. Panelists Véline Elysée Charlier, Danièle Magloire, and Pascale Oriol, who live in Haiti, traveled to the event to share their firsthand experiences and insights into the realities on the ground. They addressed critical challenges facing Haiti, including security, women’s empowerment, and gender equality. Their discussions sparked essential dialogue about our collective responsibility to confront these pressing issues. Ms. Magloire’s poignant remark, “*One thing that women in the diaspora can do to help us in Haiti is to organize yourselves first. If you are strong, you will be able to empower your sisters in Haiti,*” underscored the importance of unity in driving meaningful change.

On Sunday, participants engaged in the workshop titled “**Changing the Narrative: Empowering Haitian Women Through Advocacy.**” With over 100 attendees, the workshop provided essential tools for reframing narratives surrounding Haiti, particularly in light of recent negative portrayals in global media. Discussions centered on reclaiming their stories and highlighted the importance of community action and voting - both in Haiti and the U.S.

This weekend served as a powerful reminder of the impact of Haitian women’s voices in shaping a brighter future for Haiti. Through ongoing dialogue, education, and collaboration, HAFFD is dedicated to supporting Haitian women and amplifying their contributions. By investing in

initiatives that empower women and foster collaboration between Haiti and its diaspora, we can collectively work towards sustainable solutions that benefit both communities.

HAFFD invites potential funders and community partners to join us in this mission, supporting programs that empower women and promote advocacy for a more just and equitable society.

About Haitian American Foundation for Democracy

The Haitian American Foundation for Democracy engages the Haitian American Diaspora and promotes policies that foster democracy, human rights, economic development, and inclusion. The Haitian-American Foundation for Democracy's Board of Directors is composed of a stellar group of renowned men and women, all leaders who have worked in the community for over 40 years.

For more information, visit the [Haitian-American Foundation for Democracy \(HAFFD\)](#)