



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Haitian-American Foundation for Democracy (HAFFD) to Empower Women at Haitian Ladies Network Weekend Uniting Voices for Change**

**Florida, USA — October 09, 2024**

The Haitian-American Foundation for Democracy (HAFFD) is excited to participate in the Haitian Ladies Network Weekend from October 11-13, 2024, at the Capital Hilton in Washington, DC. This annual event brings together hundreds of professional women of Haitian descent around the world for a weekend of empowerment, networking, and cultural celebration.

Aligned with its mission to elevate Haitian voices globally, HAFFD will host influential women leaders from Haiti to engage in discussions about the nation's future with approximately 800 attendees.

The dialogue will begin on **Saturday** with a panel discussion titled ***At the Crossroads: Engaging with Haiti***, moderated by Ms. Monique Clesca, a seasoned leader with over 25 years of experience developing programs for youth and women globally. She will be joined by:

- **Véline Elysée Charlier:** Feminist activist and founding member of “Nou Pap Dòmi,” dedicated to combating corruption and promoting accountability.

- **Danièle Magloire:** Leader of “Kay Fanm,” and vice-president of the Board of Directors of the “Fondasyon Konesans ak Libète (FOKAL).”

- **Pascale Oriol:** CEO of Vox Evolution, focused on building sustainable communities in Haiti.

*“I am dedicated to ensuring Haiti provides essential services to its 11.5 million citizens, over half of whom are women,”* says Ms. Clesca. Given the challenges facing the Haitian Diaspora and Haiti's socio-economic and political turmoil, this dialogue is timely.

*“Restoring security in Haiti is paramount. Living in fear is paralyzing,”* states Ms. Charlier. Ms. Clesca adds, “We must uplift one another, both in big ways and small.”

On **Sunday**, an advocacy workshop will focus on two critical movements: changing the narrative about Haiti and advocating for human rights amid the ongoing crisis. **Haiti is often portrayed in the media as a victim of its own making through the repetition of phrases like “poorest country in the Western Hemisphere” and characterizations of the country as totally out of control and in the hands of violent gangs. Now, Haitians are in the spotlight because a racist smear campaign led by Republicans has demonized Haitian immigrants, with baseless claims that have been repeated across media platforms. This workshop will center the true narratives of the women at Haitian Ladies Network weekend so that we can ignite our power to tell our own story. Together, we have the power to change the way the world is talking about Haitians right now.**

Participants will explore how media portrayals and political discourse impact community mobilization and discuss strengthening connections between Haitians in Haiti and the Diaspora. By centering women’s true stories, we can reshape global narratives about Haitians.

*“We are thrilled to be part of this significant event that aligns with our mission of amplifying Haitian voices,”* said Ariel Dominique, Executive Director of HAFFD. *“This weekend will inspire actionable steps to strengthen our communities and make Haiti safe again for its people.”*

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### **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 \(HAFFD\)](#)**