

GWPN Africa Launches *HerStory* Program on the UN International Day of Peace

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Karidja Doumbia, HerStory honoree



May Gaye, GWPN Africa director



WFWP Africa Education Director Bernadette Fogue

The Global Women Peace Network (GWPN) Africa successfully launched its HerStory Program to celebrate the International Day of Peace on September 20, 2025, in an engaging online event that brought together 35 participants from across the region.

Highlighting the event was the keynote presentation of Karidja Doumbia, a successful entrepreneur whose remarkable journey of building businesses across multiple African countries inspired participants. In recognition of her outstanding contribution to women's entrepreneurship and community development, Doumbia was honored with the Global Women Peace Ambassador's Award (GWPA).

Doumbia shared how her story began with small ventures in clothing and trading, gradually expanding into diverse sectors including salt, fresh goods, and international trade. Her story reflected resilience, vision, and the courage to seize opportunities.

She shared key pieces of advice for aspiring women leaders and entrepreneurs:

Never stop investing, even with small amounts of money.

Be courageous and open to opportunities.

Communicate effectively, both in business and in personal relationships.

Stay committed and present in your business ventures.

With the theme "Voices of Inspiration from Africa to the World," the HerStory Program highlighted the power of women's stories in inspiring transformation and peace. May Gaye, GWPN Africa Director, introduced the vision of the HerStory Program - a platform dedicated to amplifying women's voices and recognizing their unique contributions to society.

Dr. Susan Kone, WFWP Africa regional president, opened the event and emphasized the importance of women's leadership in peacebuilding and community development.

The program concluded with an engaging Q and A session, where participants expressed admiration for Doumbia's achievements and asked practical questions about entrepreneurship and leadership.

Bernadette Fogue, WFWP Africa Education Director, in her closing remarks, highlighted the importance of storytelling as a tool for empowerment and peace.

The event was moderated by North Africa Subregional Director Jacqueline Sou, whose guidance kept the program lively and well-paced.

The launch of the HerStory Program marked a significant step for GWPN Africa in its mission to uplift

women's voices and strengthen a network of peace leaders across the continent and beyond.



Program moderator Jacqueline Sou and Ms. K. Doumbia