

## UPF Africa: Can the Family Save Society?

Adama Doumbia  
May 2, 2026



# Can the Family Save Society?

Peace Doesn't Start with a Treaty—It Starts at the Dinner Table



As May 2026 begins, the [Universal Peace Federation \(UPF\)](#) enters the final and most vital phase of its [“100 Days of Serving Community”](#) campaign. After months of building partnerships and visible volunteer service, we are now turning our focus to the "human center" of every society: **the family**.



### The "First School" of Peace

If we want a more stable and humane Africa, what must we strengthen first? The answer is not found in abstract policy, but in the daily environment where children first form a conscience, where burdens are shared, and where values are transmitted.

For UPF, the family is the **“first school of love, responsibility, and civic virtue”**. It is the place where children first encounter difference—in age, temperament, and conviction—and learn the essential virtues of patience, forgiveness, and mutual care.

**Lasting peace is built here long before it ever reaches the level of diplomacy or legislation.**

### **A Shield Against Inequality**

This month, we align our efforts with the United Nations' [International Day of Families \(May 15\)](#), which focuses on the theme: *"Families, Inequalities and Child Wellbeing"*.

When social and economic inequality grows, families are the first to absorb the pressure. Promoting family-friendly policies—such as parental leave, affordable education, and community-based support—is not just a social kindness; it is a vital strategy to ensure children receive a fair start in life and households remain stable.

### **UPF Africa in Action**

Across the continent, this family-centered vision is being translated into practical action:

- [In Burkina Faso](#), peace strategies are being integrated into traditional family culture to bolster social cohesion.
- [In the D.R. Congo](#), observances in Kinshasa have focused specifically on **parental responsibility** for children's education, while Brazzaville has celebrated the nurturing role of parents.
- [In Guinea](#), practical support was extended to families with premature infants through the distribution of sanitary and nutritional kits.

### **The Global Outlook: More Than Sentiment**

Our conviction that we are **"One Family under God"** is a moral horizon that complements the UN vision of a "human family". Throughout May, we see this reflected in various global observances:

- **May 16:** [International Day of Living Together in Peace](#).
- **May 21:** [World Day for Cultural Diversity, recognizing that culture is first transmitted through family stories, language, and celebrations](#).
- **May 31:** [World No Tobacco Day, highlighting that safeguarding youth from addiction is a primary parental and community concern](#).

### **Join the Movement**

As we move toward [June 1, the Global Day of Parents](#), we invite you to place family life at the center of your peacebuilding efforts. Whether through a parenting workshop, a youth mentoring initiative, or recognizing exemplary families in your community, your involvement strengthens the very foundation of a peaceful society.



*AI-generated illustration*

**The foundation for peace is built where children first learn love, discipline, and respect. It is built into the family.**



## **Legacy in Action: FPU Africa and FOPA Forge Strategic Alliance on MLK Day**

In a powerful tribute to the universal values of nonviolence and social justice, **FPU Africa (Universal Peace Federation)** and the **Ecumenical Foundation for Peace in Africa (FOPA)** officially solidified a strategic partnership during the commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day in the Republic of Benin.



The event, held under the high patronage of **ECOWAS**, brought together approximately thirty high-level participants—including regional diplomats, religious leaders, and traditional authorities—to witness the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** aimed at strengthening social cohesion across the continent

#### **Key Highlights from the Ceremony:**

- ◆ **A Shared Vision for Peace:** Dr. Paterne Zinsou, Secretary General of FPU Africa, emphasized that sustainable peace is built through an "alliance of consciences" and the convergence of different sectors of society.
- ◆ **The "Flower" of Peace:** H.E. Ambassador Amadou Diongue (ECOWAS Resident Representative) offered a moving reminder that peace is like a flower that requires daily care and constant nurturing to prevent it from withering.
- ◆ **Love as a Foundation:** His Majesty Gilbert Dake Abiaku Djokess Kpotokan II, World President of FOPA, highlighted the need to promote love for one's neighbor as a value that transcends religion and race.

◆ **Institutional Support:** Representatives from **UEMOA** and former government officials praised the initiative, noting the vital role of inter-institutional cooperation in regional integration and stability



This partnership marks a significant milestone in translating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. into **concrete, sustainable actions** rooted in African realities. By combining the strengths of international institutions and traditional leaders, FPU Africa and FOPA are opening new doors for inclusive peace and dialogue throughout the region.

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#### Youth Empowerment

Through its Youth Ambassadors for Peace program, UPF empowers young leaders across Africa to organize service projects, mentor peers, and promote peace.





Jan 9 · 1 min read

# UPF-GUINEA PROVIDES HUMANITARIAN NEONATAL HEALTH SUPPORT



**Conakry, Guinea** – In a vital humanitarian effort to support the most vulnerable members of society, UPF-Guinea organized a wide-scale distribution of specialized sanitary and nutritional kits in January, 2026. This initiative was specifically designed to improve the care and survival rates of premature infants.

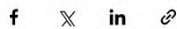
UPF volunteers distributed the health and nutrition kits to a comprehensive network of medical facilities, including two university teaching hospitals, five regional hospitals and four local health centers. This directly improved neonatal care capacity.

By providing these essential resources, UPF directly impacted the quality of neonatal services, offering tangible support to families and medical staff in their efforts to save young lives.

By Paterne Zinsou, Secretary General, UPF-Africa  
January 9, 2026

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Feb 14 · 1 min read

## BURKINA FASO CONFERENCE ADVOCATES FAMILY AND COMMUNITY VALUES



**Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso** – At the invitation of the Palsogo Royal Court, UPF-Burkina Faso organized a public conference on Family and Social Cohesion on February 14, 2026. The event was hosted by His Majesty the Palsogo Naaba (Canton Chief), and attended by 300 members of the community.

Opening prayers were conducted by both Christian and Muslim leaders. The program integrated peacebuilding principles into traditional community structures. **Mr. Thomas Diarra**, secretary general of UPF-Burkina Faso, presented the five principles of peace, focusing specifically on family values as the foundation for a culture of peace.

Eight prominent figures were appointed as Ambassadors for Peace, including the Grand Chief, four notables, a spiritual guide, the president of a women's association and a local business leader.

The Grand Chief recognized the profound importance of this UPF initiative and formally committed to actively promoting peace and participating in the federation's future activities.

By Thomas Diarra, Secretary General, UPF-Burkina Faso  
February 14, 2026

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