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GRADUATE SCHOOL for
PEACE AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

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National Day of Peace in Côte d'Ivoire, the Universal Peace Federation–USA, in partnership with Women for Peace in Africa

OUTSTANDING LEADERS OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA COMMUNITY HONORED AT HJI



On November 15, 2025, the National Day of Peace in Côte d'Ivoire, the Universal Peace Federation–USA, in partnership with **Women for Peace in Africa**, honored three outstanding leaders of the African diaspora community during a special ceremony held at the new campus of **HJ International** in Manhattan.

Three dynamic young Africans received the **Ambassador for Peace** certificate in recognition of their service, leadership, and commitment to promoting peace within their communities.

Mr. Bakary "Bouba" Kida, Manager at American Express and Founder of the **Malian Students and Professionals Association**, was honored for his mentorship to young Malians across the United States. A strong believer in the American dream, he encourages African youth to pursue education, professional excellence, and integrity in all areas of life.

The second honoree, **Mr. Brice Sidnôma Ouédraogo**, serves as a Delegate and Community Organizer within the **Haut Conseil des Burkinabè de New York (HCBE-NY)**. He has played a pivotal role in strengthening relationships between the Burkinabè diaspora and Burkina Faso's diplomatic institutions. Mr. Ouédraogo currently serves as the official liaison between the community and Burkina Faso's government representatives.

The third honoree, **Coach Fatou Bakayoko**, is a Certified Personal Trainer, Group Instructor, Nutrition Coach, and Entrepreneur. She has transformed her personal journey of hardship, resilience, and healing into a mission dedicated to empowerment and peace. Fatou has inspired many women in the community to embrace fitness, cultivate confidence, and pursue holistic well-being.

Mr. Barry, the National Coordinator of the **AP Initiative Project**, joined **Dr. Drissa Kone** to present the Ambassador for Peace certificates to the distinguished nominees.

Dr. Walsh, President of HJI, congratulated the awardees and encouraged them to remain connected with the HJI community. He also announced that in January, HJI will confer an **honorary doctorate** upon Imboni Radebe, a prominent spiritual leader in South Africa, and extended an invitation to all African communities to participate in this historic event.

The evening concluded with a warm dinner reception and networking among attendees.



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Campus:
481 8th Avenue
Suite 1223
New York, NY 10001
Phone: (212) 563-6647



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