

## UPF Africa: Families as the First School of Peace

Adama Doumbia  
May 14, 2026

May 15, 2026 | [Read online](#)



# Families as the First School of Peace

A Message from the Universal Peace Federation for the United Nations International Day of Families



On the occasion of the United Nations [International Day of Families](#), the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) reaffirms the enduring truth that the family is the first school of peace. It is within the home that human beings first learn dignity, conscience, compassion, responsibility, cooperation, and care for others. Strong and healthy families cultivate the moral and social foundations upon which peaceful societies and nations are built.

The United Nations has long recognized the family as "the natural and fundamental group unit of society," a principle enshrined in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#). The 2026 International Day of Families, observed under the theme Families, Inequalities and Child Wellbeing, brings renewed urgency to addressing the social and economic conditions that shape family stability and children's futures.

Across the world, millions of families face compounding challenges: economic insecurity, unequal access to education and healthcare, insufficient caregiving support, and widening social disparities that narrow the horizons of children before they ever have a chance to grow. These are not abstract policies; concerns, they are lived realities that determine whether a child thrives or struggles.

At the same time, a robust body of research points to the stabilizing role of mature, committed parents. Children raised by a mother and father who are devoted to their upbringing consistently show stronger developmental outcomes and are better positioned to escape cycles of poverty and inequality. This evidence deserves a place alongside broader

conversations about structural reform, not as a substitute, but as a complement to the social investments families need to flourish.



Founded by [Dr. Hak Ja Han](#) and the late [Dr. Sun Myung Moon](#), UPF advances the vision of humanity as One Family under God. This vision affirms that peace begins not only through political agreements or institutional reforms, but through the cultivation of loving, responsible, and ethical relationships within families themselves. In family life, the universal principle of living for the sake of others becomes a lived reality, shaping character and inspiring service to society.

This message carries special significance in May 2026, which UPF has designated as the [Month of the Family](#) within its global initiative, “[100 Days of Serving Community](#),” leading toward the United Nations Global Day of Parents on June 1. This observance also resonates with the objectives of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing ([2021–2030](#)), recognizing that respect for parents, the protection and nurturing of children, and the dignity and inclusion of older persons form an unbroken moral chain linking generations together. Healthy intergenerational relationships strengthen communities and contribute to long-term peacebuilding.

UPF believes that the challenges facing families today require cooperation across all sectors of society. Governments, civil society organizations, faith communities, educators, cultural leaders, and families themselves each

have an important role in creating environments where families can thrive. Through family dialogues, interfaith cooperation, youth service initiatives, caregiver support, marriage and parenting education, and intergenerational community programs, UPF seeks to translate values into meaningful action that uplifts both individuals and society.



In the spirit of the 2026 United Nations theme, UPF calls upon its chapters, ambassadors for peace, and partners around the world to strengthen efforts that support family wellbeing, reduce inequality, honor older generations, protect children, and foster a culture of mutual responsibility and care. By investing in families, we invest in the future of peace itself.

As we commemorate the International Day of Families, may renewed attention to the sacred value of family inspire communities and nations alike to work together for a more compassionate, just, and peaceful world.

**Dr. Tageldin Hamad,  
President,  
Universal Peace Federation**



## INVITATION

The Universal Peace Federation Africa and its affiliated associations have the honor to invite you to join Ambassadors for Peace in Africa and beyond to take part in the International Commemorative Webinar, which will be held online via Zoom on Saturday, May 16, 2026.

Commemorative Webinar in Celebration of the

**INTERNATIONAL**  
**Day of Families**

and the Intern  
Day of Living To  
in Peace

**THEME**  
Strong Families, Peaceful Nations: Transformative Leadership and  
Values-Based Governance for a Sustainable Culture of Peace

**SAT, MAY 16, 2026**

**ONLINE BROADCAST  
VIA ZOOM** **2PM (GMT)**

**JOIN THE ZOOM  
MEETING HERE**

- MEETING ID:  
88582712728
- PASSCODE:  
876511

Or click here:  
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WWW.UFFAFRICA.ORG

This webinar is part of the joint celebration of the United Nations International Day of Families and the International Day of Living Together

in Peace.

Please find below the official poster and the participation link for the International Commemorative Webinar this Saturday, May 16 at 2:00 PM GMT.

Click the link below to join the event:

[JOIN WEBINAR](#)

Join from a Room:

Meeting ID: 88582712728

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Feb 20 · 2 min read

# 100 DAYS OF SERVING COMMUNITY



From February 20 to June 1, 2026, UPF invites cross-sector partners to advance community trust through cooperation, volunteer service, and strengthened family life. This period marks UPF's 100-day campaign entitled, "100 Days of Serving Community." The campaign culminates on June 1, the [Global Day of Parents](#).

As an organization in consultative status with the [United Nations Economic and Social Council](#), UPF connects local peacebuilding with the United Nations agenda and the practical spirit of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), including [SDG 16](#) (peace, justice and strong institutions), which promotes peaceful and inclusive societies. This campaign also resonates with the [International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development](#), which highlights volunteer action and civic participation as drivers of social cohesion and resilience.

Through collaboration with UPF, partners can broaden volunteer engagement around local priorities, gain international visibility through UPF communication channels, and strengthen public confidence by placing measurable community benefit at the center of joint activity. Outcomes can be documented in short public updates and visual materials that acknowledge partner participation and make results accessible to wider audiences.

Work across the campaign is organized around a three-month sequence of themes. March emphasizes partnerships, with attention to cooperation with municipalities, civil society organizations, educators, faith communities, youth networks, and local institutions. April emphasizes visible volunteer service that communities can recognize and welcome. May emphasizes families and values-based education, with special attention to the role of mothers and women as the heart of strong families, a theme that resonates with the [International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026](#). This prepares the ground for the [International Day of Families](#) on May 15 and the Global Day of Parents on June 1.

During the campaign period, partners may also choose to align joint activities with widely recognized UN observances, including the [World Day of Social Justice](#) on February 20, the [International Day of Sport for Development and Peace](#) on April 6, and [International Mother Earth Day](#) on April 22.

UPF founders [Dr. Hak Ja Han](#) and the late [Rev. Sun Myung Moon](#) have taught that lasting peace grows when families are strong, moral responsibility is practiced in public life, and service becomes a living culture that transcends differences. Living for the sake of others is the true source of peace and human dignity. They taught that every act of service is an expression of one's identity as a child of God and a member of One Family under God. In this spirit, by promoting dialogue, partnership, and community service, the campaign serves as a practical contribution to the [2030 Agenda](#).

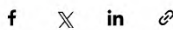
We warmly invite every partner to join us in this spirit of service, so that together we may strengthen communities, strengthen families, and make constructive contributions that endure beyond the campaign period and contribute directly to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr. Tageldin Hamad, President, UPF-International  
February 20, 2026

UN Relations UPF International Act for SDGs Global Day of Parents

International Year of Volunteers 2026

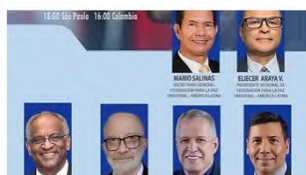
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We support and promote the work of the United Nations and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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