



Press Release: Haitian Christian Leaders Coalition Condemns False Accusations Against Haitian Immigrants

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Miami, FL, September 12, 2024

The Haitian Christian Leaders Coalition (HCLC) strongly condemns the baseless accusations made by Sen. JD Vance and former President Donald Trump targeting Haitian immigrants. On September 9, 2024, Sen. Vance falsely claimed on X (formerly Twitter), "Reports now show that people have had their pets abducted and eaten by people who shouldn't be in this country," while accusing Haitians of "draining social services" in Springfield, Ohio. The next day, during the presidential debate, Trump echoed these claims, stating, "In Springfield, they're eating the dogs, the people that came in, they're eating the cats... the pets of the people that live there."

Local authorities, including the Springfield Police Department, have confirmed that there is no credible evidence to support these allegations. The HCLC finds this harmful rhetoric alarming as it fuels xenophobia and perpetuates damaging stereotypes about Haitian immigrants.

As a non-profit organization representing thousands of Haitian Christian churches worldwide, the HCLC advocates for social justice, economic development, and civic engagement. Our condemnation of these baseless accusations is rooted in our commitment to defend human dignity, not as political ammunition for any party. We uphold justice for all Haitians and urge the public to recognize the Haitian community's valuable contributions.

We want to remind political leaders and the public that Haitians have long contributed to the growth and prosperity of the United States. From the Haitian Revolution's impact on the abolitionist movement to today, Haitians play crucial roles as business owners, healthcare workers, educators, and public officials. Their efforts not only boost local economies but also strengthen the nation through civic engagement and leadership. These contributions deserve recognition and respect, not defamation through harmful, unfounded accusations.

We must reject inflammatory remarks and uphold the dignity and respect every human being deserves, including Haitian immigrants. This nation was built by the hard work of immigrants, and Haitians have played a significant part in shaping its identity.

We urge our elected officials to protect the dignity and rights of all, including Haitian immigrants. We call on Haitian communities to stay united and actively pursue justice and equality. Let's rise above division and work together for a society where everyone is respected and valued. Our voices matter; let's demand the respect and protection every person deserves.