

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**PORT-AU-PRINCE, MAY 11, 2026**

**The dismissal of Mme Sandy François as Director General of the MCFDF:  
A decision that further undermines women's rights**

We, feminist organizations, women's organizations, and individuals committed to defending women's rights, condemn the decision of Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aimé to remove Mme Sandy François – a career public servant with over thirty years of experience within the Ministry on the Status of Women and Women's Rights (MCFDF) – from her position as Director General and to replace her with Mr. Hermanex Gonzague Désir.

The number of women serving as Director General now falls to just three (3) out of a total of eighteen (18) ministries, far short of the constitutional guarantees of equality and the minimum quota of 30% women in public office required by the Haitian Constitution. Indeed, such an act by the Prime Minister – removing a woman from the leadership of the only institution specifically tasked with defending and promoting the rights of Haitian women and girls within the State – demonstrates that the exclusion of women from national governance is not a matter of chance, but a deliberate political choice.

This move by the Prime Minister is part of a long series of practices that marginalize the rights of women and girls, in contradiction of policies formulated for an effective and equitable transition. These failures constitute clear violations of Haiti's national and international legal obligations and jeopardize the country's future. Further weakening women's participation within the MCFDF, in this context of crisis and during an election period, constitutes a particularly serious violation of women's rights.

This Ministry is the result of decades of struggle and mobilization by the Haitian feminist movement to establish an institution capable of combating discrimination and integrating women's rights into national public policies.

Further distancing this institution – built by women and for women – from the principles of equity and representation demonstrates that women's rights are not a priority for the present government. This reality should lead to a much more critical assessment of the government's commitments and statements regarding gender equality as a whole.

This decision must compel us all to take immediate, firm, and uncompromising action.

**SIGNATORIES:**

1. NÈGÈS MAWON
2. Organisation Féministe MARIJÀN

3. Fondation Toya
4. OEFE
5. SANPOUSAN FANM
6. RÈG
7. OTRAH
8. UPROFEM
9. Fanm Deside
10. REFKAD
11. Mouvman Fanm Vizyonè Dayiti
12. Rassemblement des Femmes Engagée de Ouanaminthe
13. KRIFA
14. MOFAVIDA
15. NWAYO FANM DAYITI
16. Platfòm Fanm Angaje pou Ayiti
17. Organisation des Femmes Leaders pour le Développement
18. Collectif des Femmes pour une Meilleure Alternative Sociale
19. Òganizasyon Fanm Fanmi a
20. Solidarite Famm Lakay
21. Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (IJDH)
22. Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI)
23. Réseau Pluriel des Femmes de Partis politiques
24. FIEF
25. ENFOFANM

26. DEMWAZÈL
27. Haitian Women's Collective
28. KareDrew Haitian Children's Foundation, Inc.
29. Quixote Center
30. Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
31. Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)
32. New England Human Rights (NEHRO)
33. Zantray Fanm Kreyòl
34. La troupe Makandal
35. Haitian Neighborhood Center, Inc.
36. WE ARE WOMEN ORG
37. Regroupement des Organisations de Femmes de Gressier et de Léogâne- (ROFGL)
38. Marie Denise Claude
39. Gabrielle Hyacinthe
40. Eunide Innocent
41. Evelyne Sainvil
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43. Marjorie Michel
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45. Marie Margareth
46. Sabine Martelly
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50. Lucie Marie Carmel PAUL-AUSTIN
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