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| **Koya Bakare** |

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Born with a heart for service, Koya M. Bakare, native of Washington, D.C., is the reigning Eilte Ms. U.S. United. As an educator, author, and survivor of sexual assault and bulimia, self love is not only Koya’s platform, it is the compass that permeates her way of life.

Koya co-founded Pat’s Heart, a foundation established to extend emotional and financial wellness to support those in need. It was birthed in honor of her mother, Patricia D. Staten, a breast cancer survivor who was later diagnosed with myosarcoma (cancer of the muscle) in March 2020 and passed in April 2020.

In the spirit of her mother, Koya’s life work is to be a light to others, to stir hope, and remind all that love births and manifests within.

Koya, a dual doctoral candidate, in Social Impact Management and Spiritual Leadership, a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., has been seen in InStyle, Vogue, HypeHair, Essence.com and many other publications and runways. She believes all human beings have the ability to love - and that same love must first ignite within.