

**Report by U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin
Special Representative
on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance
Report July 5, 2015 – February 10, 2016**

**Winter Meeting, Vienna
February 25-26, 2016**

On March 9, 2015, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) appointed U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin to serve as the OSCE PA's first Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance (SRARI). Following are the activities from July 5, 2015 – February 10, 2016 that focus on the following four priorities the Special Representative has outlined for this year: 1) anti-Semitism and community security; 2) anti-Muslim bigotry/Islamophobia; 3) discriminatory policing; and 4) anti-migrant/refugee bias.

Activities:

January 12, 2016 – SRARI Cardin recommended U.S. President Obama nominate Roma scholar Dr. Ethel Brooks to to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Council.

<http://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-welcomes-nomination-of-dr-ethel-brooks-to-us-holocaust-memorial-council>

<http://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-statement-on-poll-showing-overwhelming-support-for-ending-racial-profiling-in-america>

December 18, 2015 – US Congress passes legislation authored by SRARI Cardin requiring the Department of Justice (DOJ) to improve racial profiling training and data collection for state and local law enforcement officers.

<http://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-highlights-numerous-successes-on-civil-rights-law-enforcement-and-homeland-security-priorities-in-the-omnibus-spending-bill>

see also <http://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-mikulski-introduce-legislative-package-to-restore-community-trust-in-baltimore-and-nationwide>

see also <http://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-convers-reintroduce-federal-ban-on-racial-profiling-by-law-enforcement>

November 4, 2015 – SRARI Cardin and Maryland Attorney General host briefing with Civil Rights Groups and Law Enforcement on Criminal Justice Reform and Discriminatory Profiling

<https://medium.com/@SenatorBenCardin/watch-live-9adb8caa348f#.hp56elspx>

October 21, 2015 - SRARI Cardin hosted a briefing with Human Rights First honorees on youth civil society coalition efforts to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance with youth leaders Jane Braden-Golay (Switzerland), Siavosh Derakhti (Sweden), Niddal El-Jabri (Denmark).

October 9, 2015 – SRARI Cardin introduced the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act (LETIA), S. 2168. The legislation takes a comprehensive approach to addressing the issue of police accountability and building trust between police departments and their communities.

<http://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-introduces-legislation-to-encourage-police-departments-to-improve-training-and-standards>

Select Statements, Speeches, and Meetings:

February 12, 2016 – SRARI Cardin statement on Black History Month

<http://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-statement-on-black-history-month-2016>

February 11, 2016 – SRARI Cardin statement at the “Update on the OSCE: Religious Freedom, Anti-Semitism, and Rule of Law hearing with the Director of the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

http://www.osce.org/index.cfm?FuseAction=ContentRecords.ViewWitness&ContentRecord_id=1656&ContentType=D&ContentRecordType=D&ParentType=H

February 3, 2016 - SRARI Cardin roundtable with Maryland Muslim Community Leaders highlights Muslim communities’ strength, countering prejudice and profiling

<http://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-roundtable-with-maryland-muslim-community-leaders-strengthens-dialogue-understanding-unity->

January 27, 2016 – SRARI Cardin delivered a speech in the U.S. Senate in honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

<http://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/international-holocaust-remembrance-day>

January 27, 2016 - SRARI Cardin met with the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent on an official visit to the United States to address current concerns, and assess progress made in the fight against racial discrimination, Afrophobia, xenophobia, and protecting and promoting the human rights of African-Americans.

January 20 and 21, 2016 – SRARI Cardin delivered speeches in the U.S. Senate addressing prejudice and humanitarian concerns related to Syrian and other refugees.
http://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/statements_and_speeches/american-safe-act-hr-4038

<http://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-embracing-politics-of-fear-is-no-way-to-increase-national-security>

January 15, 2016 – SRARI Cardin delivered a speech in the U.S. Senate commemorating Martin Luther King Jr. Day (January 18)

<http://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-reflects-on-the-life-of-dr-martin-luther-king-jr->

Dec. 15, 2015 - SRARI Cardin delivered a speech in the U.S. Senate on his mandate and the need for further efforts to combat intolerance in the OSCE region, including in his areas of focus anti-Semitism, discrimination towards Muslims, profiling, and anti-migrant Sentiments.

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CREC-2015-12-15/pdf/CREC-2015-12-15-pt1-PgS8654.pdf#page=1>

Dec. 2, 2015 - SRARI Cardin condemned efforts by the Hungarian government to erect a statue honoring Balint Homan, one of the architects of Hungary's anti-Jewish laws.

<http://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-urges-hungarian-government-dont-build-tribute-to-architect-of-hungarys-anti-jewish-laws>

September 17, 2015 - SRARI Cardin Addressed NAACP Rally for Justice, Calls for Ending Racial Profiling, Restoring Voting Rights, Promoting Economic Equality

<http://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-addressed-naacp-rally-for-justice-calls-for-ending-racial-profiling-restoring-voting-rights-promoting-economic-equality>

see also <http://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-reid-leahy-durbin-lead-reintroduction-of-bill-to-create-nationwide-standard-for-restoring-voting-rights-for-americans-released-from-prison>

October 22, 2015 – SRARI Cardin co-hosted a meeting with the U.S. Senate Diversity Initiative for Swedish Minister of Culture Alice Bah Kuhnke on Swedish efforts to adopt a national anti-racism plan.

August 28, 2015 - SRARI Cardin supports legal efforts to End Discriminatory Profiling in Maryland, Continues to Push for National Ban

<http://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-lauds-guidance-to-end-discriminatory-profiling-in-maryland-continues-to-push-for-national-ban>

Appendix I

Mandate of the Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance

The mandate of the OSCE PA Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance is to:

- Raise awareness in and report to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on the persisting problem of prejudice and discrimination in the OSCE area, including anti-Semitism, other religion- and race-based intolerance and other forms of intolerance;
- Raise awareness in and report to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on the track records of OSCE participating States in combating these problems;
- Advise the Assembly on the implementation of its agreed policies in these matters as well as on the development of new policies and strategies, including on how to protect the individuals and communities affected;
- Seek to promote dialogue and exchange of best practices within the Assembly on combating these problems; and
- Communicate with relevant actors within the OSCE who work on combating prejudice and discrimination in the OSCE area, including anti-Semitism, other religion- and race-based intolerance and other forms of intolerance.