

Report by
U.S. Senator Ben Cardin;
Special Representative on
Anti-Semitism, Racism and
Intolerance

Report November 10 – June 29, 2024

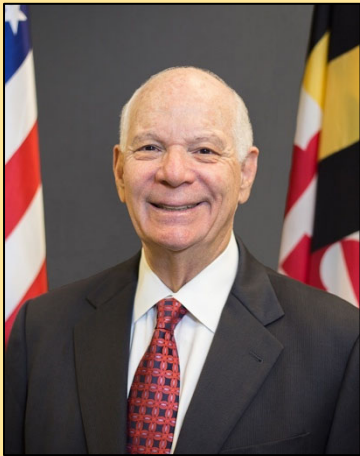


ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE.....	3
MANDATE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE	4
FOREWORD	5
MEETINGS & EVENTS	8
SELECT LETTERS, STATEMENTS, SPEECHES & MEDIA	10
LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS.....	12

ABOUT THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE



United States Senator Ben Cardin was appointed the OSCE PA's Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance in March 2015 and has been reappointed annually since that time.

Senator Cardin has served for more than a decade in the OSCE PA, serving also as Vice-President and as Chairperson of the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment.

Senator Cardin has been a member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (the U.S. Helsinki Commission) since 1993, serving as Chairman in the 111th Congress, the 113th Congress, and the 117th Congress. He is also Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Within both the U.S. Congress and the OSCE PA, Senator Cardin has consistently worked to raise awareness of the global escalation of prejudice, discrimination, and related violence, while striving to promote peace, tolerance, and equality.

This report details Senator Cardin's Special Representative activities between November 11, 2023—June 29, 2024 with the support of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

MANDATE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

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.

FOREWORD

Twenty years ago, OSCE participating States adopted the *Berlin Declaration* which recognized antisemitism for what it is: a threat to democracy, human rights, and the security of the OSCE region and beyond. States pledged to intensify efforts to combat antisemitism in all its forms and to strengthen policies which promote tolerance and non-discrimination.



The following year, my dear friend and colleague Gert Weisskirchen, a German parliamentarian, became the OSCE's first Special Representative on Anti-Semitism at the invitation of OSCE's then Chair-in-Office, Slovenian Foreign Minister, Dimitrij Rupel. He served with distinction in this important role under the successive Belgian, Spanish, and Finnish Chairs.

In my role as a U.S. Senator and Chair of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, I worked tirelessly with him over the years. Together, we supported the implementation of the *Berlin Declaration*, from advocating for the annual appointment by OSCE Chairs-in-Office of three Personal Representatives, to promoting tolerance through the creation of ODIHR's Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Office, to supporting the now more than forty, high-level OSCE and OSCE PA meetings and other events to help States address antisemitism, racism, and intolerance.

Since 2015, I have had the honor to serve as the OSCE PA's Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance. I have used this role to urge OSCE participating States—the United States included—to develop strategies and invest the political will and resources necessary to eradicate hate by developing and sharing best practices. This has included drafting legislation, building broad-based, intercultural and interfaith coalitions, educating young people, advancing global diversity, equity, and inclusion practices, supporting remembrance of Jewish and Roma individuals and other communities impacted by the Holocaust, countering Holocaust denial and distortion, and addressing discrimination impacting LGBTQI+, indigenous, afro-descendant, migrant, and other vulnerable populations.

Today, antisemitic incidents continue to threaten the lives and livelihoods of Jews across our region.

In the approximately nine months since Hamas' terror attacks on October 7, Jews in the United States, and notably on American college campuses, have

experienced a surge in harassment, bullying, and attacks. American synagogues have also been increasingly the targets of swatting and vandalism.

Elsewhere in the OSCE region, civil society and law enforcement have reported violence, intimidation, and dehumanization not only of Jews, but also of Muslims and members of minority groups. Incidents have included cases of genocide glorification, terror attacks, and the burning of religious symbols—including the Quran.

We must work together, and urgently, to end this scourge.

Since my last report in November, I have worked tirelessly to address the wave of hate and violence we are seeing across the OSCE region. In particular, I have conducted interviews, held press conferences, and met with global leaders, the families of people taken hostage by Hamas, and students to address the Israel/Gaza conflict. I have issued myriad calls for the immediate return of all hostages, for the urgent delivery of humanitarian aid, and an end to the hostilities.

In February, I traveled to Germany and France and met with various stakeholders, including parliamentarians, government officials, and interfaith leaders to discuss how to more effectively respond to the rise of antisemitic incidents and increased threats against Muslims both in Europe and the United States.

In May, I joined my Senate colleagues in cosponsoring the Countering Antisemitism Act. This bipartisan legislation would strengthen efforts to combat rising antisemitism in the United States, including by establishing a National Coordinator to Counter Antisemitism. The Coordinator, if appointed, would lead an interagency task force and oversee federal efforts to counter domestic antisemitism.

As parliamentarians, we have a special obligation to act. Not only must we redouble our efforts to ensure the physical safety of Jewish people across our region, but also to actively promote vibrant Jewish communities and foster Jewish life.

As we stated in *Berlin*, we combat antisemitism not only because it is the right thing to do, but because antisemitism is incompatible with democracy. When societies permit antisemitism, they also foster conspiracies, disinformation, and hate. Further, failing to address antisemitism can lead to an erosion of the public's trust in democratic institutions and lead to violence.

To this end:

We must cultivate broad-based and inter-faith coalitions and develop programs and policies which develop trust, facilitate dialog, and enhance social cohesion.

We must confront Holocaust denial and distortion by increasing investments in education, Holocaust remembrance, and a broad awareness of Jewish history and Jewish life.

We must educate ourselves and teach future generations the painful lessons of the Holocaust so that all know the violence that may be unleashed when hatred goes unchecked.

We must develop and implement national action plans and reporting mechanisms to mobilize resources and strengthen efforts to counter antisemitism, racism, and intolerance.

We must stand against terror and counter the instrumentalization of antisemitism for political ends.

We must strengthen participating States' ability to support Jewish communities in their efforts to provide security for synagogues, schools, community centers, and other sites.

We must listen to the concerns of Jewish communities to understand their experiences, both online and offline, and ensure antisemitism is understood, recognized, and properly addressed.

We must adequately fund and staff the OSCE and its institutions as a practical means of augmenting national efforts to foster inclusion, increase accountability, and build resilience to hate, extremism, and disinformation.

Senator Ben Cardin
*OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on
Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance*

MEETINGS & EVENTS



“The safe return of all hostages in Gaza remains our top priority.”

—Senator Ben Cardin

Hosting Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani (left) in Washington D.C. in January for discussions on critical issues - including Qatar's efforts to help to facilitate the release of hostages held by Hamas.

ISRAEL/GAZA

Between November 11, 2023 and the present, I conducted interviews, held press conferences, issued statements, met both with global leaders and the families of people taken hostage by Hamas. I issued myriad calls for the immediate return of all hostages held in Gaza, the urgent delivery of humanitarian aid, and an end to the hostilities. Select initiatives in this area are also reflected below.

SELECT MEETINGS

- October 21, 2024 Met with ODIHR Director Matteo Mecacci on ODIHR activities
- October 22, 2024 Led bipartisan Senate delegation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Israel to discuss the October 7 attack, the release of the hostages held Hamas, and the need for humanitarian assistance to Palestinians in Gaza
- November 15, 2023 Met with families on securing the release of their loved ones
- December 8, 2023 Met with U.K. Foreign Secretary David Cameron to discuss support for Israel and Ukraine

- January 31, 2024 Met with Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani on securing the release of hostages held by Hamas
- February 15, 2024 Met with the French Delegation to the OSCE PA and religious community leaders on strengthening national responses to antisemitism
- February 16, 2024 Participated in the Munich Security Forum and a Shabbat dinner with the World Jewish Congress in Munich, Germany
- March 5, 2024 Met with Israeli politician Benjamin Gantz to discuss the situation in Gaza
- March 20, 2024 Met a group of Jewish students regarding their on-campus experiences
- May 8, 2024 Met with Jordan's King Abdullah II on the release of hostages held by Hamas, delivery of humanitarian aid, and maintaining security in the West Bank
- June 13, 2024 Met with World Food Program Chief Cindy McCain about the profound humanitarian crises in Sudan, Yemen, Haiti, and Gaza



“Antisemitism and Islamophobia are spreading across the United States and European college campuses at an alarming rate.”

—Senator Ben Cardin

Convening a roundtable in Paris with Senator Mark Warner (right) and young leaders to discuss making schools safer for students through shared dialogue and mutual understanding.

EVENTS, HEARINGS, AND BRIEFINGS

- October 18, 2023 [Chaired nominations hearing for Jacob J. Lew to be Ambassador to the State of Israel](#)
- January 15, 2024 [Presented Sister States of Maryland with a \\$1 million grant to explore the cultural linkages, historical ties, and impact Maryland had on African Diasporic liberation movements against discrimination and injustice](#)
- January 23, 2024 [Honored the work and lives of the 60 diplomats who helped Jews fleeing the Nazis](#)
- February 17, 2024 [Organized roundtable in France with young leaders on making schools safe from antisemitism and anti-Muslim hate](#)
- April 9, 2024 [Addressed the OSCE Chair in Office's high-level conference on Combatting Antisemitism](#)
- April 13, 2024 [Spoke on the Present and Future of the Equal Rights Amendment Act](#)
- May 8, 2024 [Highlighted the impacts of racial discrimination in federal contracting](#)
- May 22, 2024 [Keynoted Foreign Policy for America Summit on the importance of values-based foreign policy](#)

SELECT LETTERS, STATEMENTS, SPEECHES & MEDIA

- November 8, 2023 [Pressed for release of hostages held by Hamas](#)
- November 10, 2023 [It is in Israel's and Palestinians' interest to eliminate Hamas](#)
- November 11, 2023 [Abortion is health care](#)
- November 14, 2023 [Response to Hamas' terrorist attacks](#)
- November 15, 2023 [Support for Jewish, LGBTQ-community member for judgeship](#)
- November 20, 2023 [Tribute to trans Marylanders](#)
- November 21, 2023 [Renewed call to release all hostages](#)
- November 24, 2023 [We must protect and empower the rights of every woman and girl](#)
- November 27, 2023 [Shooting of Palestinian students in Vermont motivated by hate](#)
- November 28, 2023 [Cardin and 22 European Foreign Affairs Committee Chairs' Joint Statement on Antisemitism and Anti-Muslim Bigotry](#)
- November 29, 2023 [On the release of hostages and reports of missing hostages](#)
- December 5, 2023 [To Tajikistan President Rahmon: End your government's use of transnational repression against political opponents and religious minorities](#)
- December 6, 2023 [On ending transnational repression](#)
- December 7, 2023 [I have never felt more dedicated to countering all forms of hatred](#)
- December 10, 2023 [In solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community across the globe](#)
- December 12, 2023 [Led a bipartisan condemnation of the United Nations' inaction on Hamas' sexual violence against women](#)
- December 13, 2023 [Called for the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment](#)
- December 13, 2023 [Called on the Supreme Court to uphold women's bodily autonomy](#)

- January 8, 2024 [Urged investigation into alleged sexual violence by Hamas](#)
- January 12, 2024 [On Secretary Blinken's meetings in the region to discuss the war against Hamas in Gaza](#)
- January 13, 2024 [The overturning of Roe v. Wade is unconscionable](#)
- January 13, 2024 [Celebrating the first female Vice Admiral of the US Naval Academy](#)
- January 17, 2024 [Called for the release of hostages held by Hamas](#)
- January 18, 2024 [On foreign assistance: We are not at war with the Palestinian people](#)
- January 19, 2024 [Women should have equal access to reproductive care](#)
- January 20, 2024 [With American and Israeli families of Hamas' hostages: "We will never give up hope"](#)
- January 22, 2024 [On the supplemental appropriations request: freeing the hostages, rebuilding Gaza](#)
- January 23, 2024 [There must be a clear path for a Palestinian state and the state of Israel living side by side in peace](#)
- January 24, 2024 [Gun violence disproportionately impacts adult Black Americans](#)
- January 25, 2024 [Diversity in national security agencies means stronger national security](#)
- January 26, 2024 [Concerned by anti-Israel bias in several UN entities and member states' policies](#)
- January 27, 2024 [It is not enough to remember: we must combat hatred in all of its forms](#)
- February 3, 2024 [Decried voting laws that disproportionately impact Black Americans](#)
- February 7, 2024 [Called for racial equality in health care](#)
- February 13, 2024 [We all have a role to play in combatting antisemitism](#)
- February 14, 2024 [Applauded the release of Department of States' annual Equity Action plans and encourages steps to integrate equity in policymaking](#)
- February 29, 2024 [Condemned the unjust jailing of Bishop Rolando Jose Alvarez for defending religious and civil liberties](#)
- March 8, 2024 [We must build a more equitable world where women are empowered](#)
- March 14, 2024 [On a two-state solution and ensuring critical humanitarian aid reaches innocent civilians in Gaza](#)
- April 2, 2024 [Applauded the State Department's appointment of a new Chief Diversity Officer; our national strength is our diversity](#)
- April 16, 2024 [Praised Argentina's highest criminal court for finding Iran responsible for attacks on Israeli Embassy and Argentinian Israelite Mutual Association Jewish center](#)
- April 23, 2024 [Applauded reauthorization of key provision in Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act in National Security Supplemental](#)
- May 5, 2024 [To all LGBTQ kids: you're valid and we want you here](#)
- May 6, 2024 [Honored six million Jews who perished, those who survived the Holocaust](#)
- May 15, 2024 [The Administration must enforce sanctions against those complicit in extremist settler violence in the West Bank](#)
- May 23, 2024 [Jewish American History month and the importance of the Berlin Declaration](#)
- June 8, 2024 [I'm proud to be an ally and will continue to support legislation that honors the resilience and legacy of the LGBTQIA+ community.](#)
- June 12, 2024 [Applauded Secretary Blinken's proposal for the return of all hostages](#)
- June 12, 2024 [Remembered the LGBTQ+ victims of the Pulse nightclub shooting](#)
- June 13, 2024 [Praised the Supreme Court decision to protect the use of mifepristone](#)

LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

- **Equal Rights Amendment.** This amendment to the Constitution would enshrine gender equality for women and men.
- **Democracy Restoration Act.** This bill would secure the voting rights of all citizens in federal elections, irrespective of felony or misdemeanor convictions, as long as they have been released from prison.
- **Respect for Marriage Act.** This bill would require the federal government to recognize a marriage between two individuals if the marriage was valid in the state where it was performed.
- **A resolution standing with Israel against terrorism.** This resolution standing with Israel in the aftermath of the October 7 attack was introduced with 99 cosponsors and passed the Senate unanimously.
- **A resolution condemning Hamas** for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel and demanding that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety.
- **End Racial and Religious Profiling Act.** This bill establishes a framework to eliminate racial profiling at the federal, state, and local levels. It requires federal law enforcement agencies to maintain policies and procedures to eliminate racial profiling, including training, data collection, and complaint procedures.
- **Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act of 2021.** This bill requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to take specified steps to address accreditation standards, management operations, and misconduct of law enforcement.
- **A bill to establish a National Council on African American History and Culture** within the National Endowment for the Humanities, and for other purposes.
- **Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act.** This act addresses the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African Americans.
- **A resolution calling for the dissolution of the biased United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel.**
- **A resolution declaring racism a public health crisis.** Whereas a public health issue is an issue that affects many people, is a threat to the public, and is ongoing; it is unfairly distributed among different populations, disproportionately impacting health outcomes, access to health care, and life expectancy.
- **A resolution condemning the detention and death of Mahsa Amini and calling on the Government of Iran to end its systemic persecution of women.** This resolution condemns her death and recognizes the bravery and right of the Iranian people protesting the death of Ms. Amini, including many Iranian

women; calls on the Government of Iran to end its systemic persecution of women; calls on the Government of Iran to allow peaceful protest and free elections; supports human rights, including the human rights of women in Iran; and supports holding all human rights violators in Iran to account.

- **Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022.** This legislation modifies and reauthorizes through FY2027 programs and activities under the Violence Against Women Act that seek to prevent and respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.
- **A resolution recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month** and celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and the immense contributions of Latinos to the United States. This resolution esteems the integral role of Latinos and the manifold heritages of Latinos in the economy, culture, and identity of the United States and urges the people of the United States to observe Hispanic Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities that celebrate the contributions of Latinos to the United States.
- **A resolution commemorating the 57th anniversary of the establishment of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.** This resolution recognizes the importance of the Commission in addressing inequities in our economy and recognizing the tremendous amount of work left to further protect the rights of workers, hold employers accountable for workplace discrimination and harassment, and address the wage gap.
- **A resolution affirming, commemorating, and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the enactment of title IX.** This resolution applauds the increase in educational opportunities available to all individuals, regardless of sex or gender, and recognizing the tremendous amount of work left to be done to further increase those opportunities.
- **Resolutions recognizing the month of June as "Immigrant Heritage Month."** This resolution celebrates the accomplishments and contributions of immigrants and their children in making the United States a healthier, safer, more diverse, prosperous country, and acknowledging the importance of immigrants and their children to the future successes of the United States.
- **A resolution recognizing the significance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.** The resolution recognizes the month of May as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States.
- **Resolutions recognizing June as "LGBTQ Pride Month".** This resolution expresses support for the rights, freedoms, and equal treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) individuals. It further recognizes that LGBTQ rights are human rights and protected by the laws of the United States and international treaties. Additionally, the resolution encourages the celebration of LGBTQ Pride Month in June.
- **Strength in Diversity Act.** This bill establishes a program through which the Department of Education may award planning and implementation grants to specified educational agencies (e.g., local educational agencies) to improve

diversity and reduce or eliminate racial or socioeconomic isolation in publicly funded early childhood education programs, public elementary schools, or public secondary schools.

- **A resolution honoring the accomplishments and legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez.** This resolution recognizes the accomplishments and example of Cesar Estrada Chavez. The resolution also encourages the people of the United States to commemorate his legacy and to always remember his rallying cry, "Si, se puede!" ("Yes, we can!").
- **A resolution condemning threats of violence against historically Black colleges and universities.** This resolution condemns violence and threats of violence against historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and reaffirms the federal government's commitment to combating violence against HBCU students, faculty, and staff.
- **A resolution recognizing the growing threats against women and children, religious and ethnic minorities, and LGBTQI persons in Afghanistan.** This resolution recognizes the growing threats against women and children, religious and ethnic minorities, and LGBTQI persons in Afghanistan and against allies of such individuals, such as civil society leaders and activists, scholars, former government officials, journalists, and media workers, and expressing solidarity with and reaffirming the dire need to protect vulnerable and minority populations and their allies in Afghanistan under Taliban rule.
- **African American History Act.** This bill authorizes the National Museum of African American History and Culture to develop and make available accurate, relevant, and accessible resources to promote the understanding of African American history; and expand the collection acquisition and collection access processes.
- **Combating International Islamophobia Act.** This bill establishes within the Department of State the Office to Monitor and Combat Islamophobia and addresses related issues. The office shall monitor and combat acts of Islamophobia and Islamophobic incitement in foreign countries. The bill establishes the position of Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Islamophobia, who shall head the office.
- **Human Rights Defenders Protection Act.** This landmark legislation will enhance the U.S.' ability to protect individuals abroad who are attacked for peacefully defending human rights and democracy.
- **Reauthorization of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).** This legislation reauthorizes USCIRF, a bipartisan commission that monitors and reports on international religious freedom.
- **Access to Family Building Act.** This legislation would protect access to in vitro fertilization.
- **John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2024.** This legislation would enhance and protect voting rights and minimize discrimination by mandating certain reviews by the Department of Justice or the U.S. District Court for the

District of Columbia prior to enacting legal changes which would affect voting rights.

- **Reauthorization of the National Security Supplemental funding package.** This supplemental funding bill includes the reauthorization of section 5(a) of the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act which in 2018 codified into law the prevention of atrocities as a national security interest. In so doing, it continues the important work of institutionalizing U.S. efforts to prioritize prevention of mass violence.
- **Antisemitism Awareness Act of 2024.** Co-sponsor of a bill which would provide statutory authority for the requirement that the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights take into consideration the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA's) working definition of antisemitism when reviewing or investigating complaints of discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance.
- **Countering Antisemitism Act of 2024.** Co-sponsor of a bill which would establish a National Coordinator and an inter-agency task force, direct federal agencies' reporting on activities to combat antisemitism, and direct the National Holocaust Museum to study Holocaust education in grades K-12.
- **Right to Contraception Act.** Co-sponsor of legislation which would codify in federal law American's right to obtain and use contraceptives.

Pictures: page 5 Special Representative Senator Ben Cardin Chairing the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee; page 8 Special Representative Senator Ben Cardin and Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani (left) in Washington D.C.; page 9 Special Representative Senator Ben Cardin at a roundtable with young leaders in Paris, France.