



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

Report February 13, 2021 – October 29, 2021

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OSCE PA SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON ANTI-SEMITISM, RACISM, AND INTOLERANCE – U.S. SENATOR BEN CARDIN



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

He has served for more than a decade in the OSCE PA, holding the positions of Vice-President and Chairperson of the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment. He also currently serves as Head of the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE PA.

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 current 117th Congress. He is also a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Within both the U.S. Congress and the Parliamentary Assembly, 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 Special Representative Cardin's activities from February 13, 2021 – October 15, 2021 with the support of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission).

MANDATE OF THE OSCE PA 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, religion-, race-based, and other forms of intolerance.**

FOREWORD



In July, the OSCE PA adopted at the Annual Session, the Urgent Item I authored, *Addressing the Rise in Hate, Intolerance, Violence and Discrimination* to address the intolerance we were witnessing throughout the OSCE region.

The situation has yet to improve. The coronavirus pandemic continues to disproportionately impact people of color, alongside heightened anti-Asian, anti-migrant, and anti-Semitic conspiracy theories and violence.

And while George Floyd's death highlighted abuses within our law enforcement system and racial injustice around the world, systemic racism remains a problem throughout the region.

Xenophobia has also increased with the recent influx of migrants and refugees from Afghanistan and Haiti amidst ongoing migration flows from other countries.

Tensions in the middle east continue to lead to an explosion of anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim bigotry throughout the OSCE region.

While authoritarian regimes continue to use bigotry to justify past injustices and ongoing conflicts that sow division, weaken democratic norms, and threaten regional security.

This report details the legislative and other efforts I have led to address these concerns alongside efforts to work with the OSCE and OSCE Participating States to enact the plan of action outlined in the Urgent Item *Addressing the Rise in Hate, Intolerance, Violence and Discrimination* as a means of implementing OSCE human rights and security commitments.

Ben Cardin

*Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Intolerance
Member of the United States Senate*

OSCE PA URGENT ITEM ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL SESSION

Question of Urgency under Rule 26 RESOLUTION

Addressing the Rise in Hate, Intolerance, Violence and Discrimination Across the OSCE Region

Principal Sponsor: Mr. Benjamin Cardin (United States of America)

1. Alarmed by the recent escalation of anti-Semitic incidents, attacks on persons of Asian descent, anti-Muslim incidents, and systemic racism impacting people of African descent and others along with the rise of conspiracy theories targeting various vulnerable communities throughout the OSCE region during the pandemic,
2. Expressing the urgent need for immediate action to thwart a continued rise in hate motivated violence, discrimination, and prejudice across the OSCE region, including through the adoption of an Action Plan to address its root causes,
3. Emphasizing that the OSCE participating States have adopted numerous commitments to prevent and respond to prejudice, discrimination, and extremism, including commitments in the fields of, inter alia, tolerance and non-discrimination, freedom of religion or belief, national minorities, Roma and Sinti, migrants, gender, youth, and the rule of law,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

4. Condemns manifestations of hatred and intolerance that have recently taken place in the participating States;
5. Pledges to intensify ongoing efforts of the Assembly to address racism and intolerance in the OSCE region, including supporting capacity-building efforts for political and other leaders to address intolerance and discrimination, and foster equity and inclusion;
6. Urges the participating States to immediately adopt an OSCE Anti-Discrimination, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan, that includes but is not limited to:
 - Building the capacity of law enforcement, including police, to counter discrimination (including profiling) and violent extremism, strengthen relationships with vulnerable communities, and foster diverse and inclusive workforces;
 - Building the capacity of the OSCE and governments to prevent and respond to prejudice and discrimination in the public and private sector, including by addressing institutionalized racism, the continuing impact of historical injustices on vulnerable populations, and implementing equity and inclusion strategies, including utilizing the work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) and the Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies, and increasing diversity in the OSCE Offices of the Chair-in-Office, Secretary General, Secretariat, ODIHR, HCNM, and Field Missions;
 - Supporting civil society efforts to address prejudice, discrimination, and extremism, and foster equity and inclusion, including sustaining the ODIHR Turning words into action to address anti-Semitism project focused on addressing the security needs of Jewish communities, countering anti-Semitism through education, and fostering civil society coalition-building against all forms of bias and discrimination.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS: AUSTRIA, ESTONIA, BULGARIA

- July 5, 2021 – Vienna, Austria, meeting with OSCE Secretary General Helga Schmid (Germany) on regional security, including women, peace, and security efforts.
- July 7-8, 2021— Tallinn and Narva, Estonia – meetings with Prime Minister Kaja Kallas; Former President of Estonia Toomas Ilves; members of the Russian-speaking community; and visit to the Estonian/Russian border
- July 8, 2021 – Sofia, Bulgaria - meeting with Mr. Andrzej Duda, President of Poland on regional security, anti-Semitism, and legislation endangering Holocaust survivors and others restitution of World War II properties
- July 9, 2021 – Sofia, Bulgaria – religious tolerance tour and meetings at St. Nedelya Church with the Sofia Metropolitan Vicar, Bishop Polikarp on the Bulgarian Orthodox Church; St. Joseph Church (Catholic); Sofia Synagogue with Sophia Cohen of Bulgaria's head of the Central Israelite Spiritual Council on Jewish history and culture in Bulgaria; and at the Banya Basi Mosque, with Grand Mufti Mustafa Hadji on Bulgaria's Muslim population
- July 9, 2021 – meetings at the Kavaklia Roma Settlement in Dupnitsa on Bulgaria's Roma community



SELECT WASHINGTON D.C. AND VIRTUAL MEETINGS

- Meeting with OSCE ODIHR Director Matteo Mecacci
- Meeting with OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Teresa Ribeiro
- Meeting with High Commissioner on National Minorities Kairat Abdrakhmanov
- Meeting with USOSCE Ambassador Michael Carpenter
- Meetings w/ civil society groups on discrimination impacting Roma, Jewish, African descent communities

EVENTS: HEARINGS AND BRIEFINGS

- July 20, 2021 – U.S. Senate - [Modernizing the State Department for the 21st Century](#)
- June 11, 2021 – Helsinki Commission - [Sweden's Leadership of the OSCE](#)
- June 8, 2021 – ODIHR - [Addressing Anti-Asian Racism and Xenophobia: Challenges and Opportunities](#)
- May 13, 2021 – Helsinki Commission - [Preventing Mass Atrocities](#)

SELECT LETTERS, STATEMENTS, SPEECHES & MEDIA

- October 27, 2021 - [Cardin Statement On The Third Anniversary Of The Attack On Pittsburgh's Tree Of Life Synagogue](#)
- October 19, 2021 - [Cardin, Rubio Laud Committee Approval of Bipartisan Bill to Strengthen Reconstruction Efforts, Promote Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Efforts in Haiti](#)
- October 15, 2021 - [Cardin Marks Hispanic Heritage Month 2021](#)
- October 15, 2021 - [Maryland Congressional Delegation Announces More Than \\$600,000 for Community Policing Development Programs](#)
- October 1, 2021 - [Cardin Urges Biden Administration to Send Highest-Level Representatives to Ukraine on 80th Anniversary of Babyn Yar Massacre](#)
- October 1, 2021 - [Cardin Urges Biden Administration to Send Highest-Level Representatives to Ukraine on 80th Anniversary of Babyn Yar Massacre](#)
- October 1, 2021 - [GAO Report Confirms Cardin Policies Increased Equity and Fairness in Paycheck Protection Program](#)
- September 22, 2021 - [Cardin Statement on Police Reform Negotiations](#)
- September 21, 2021 - [Baltimore Lawmakers Call on DOJ to Prevent Return to Prison for Individuals Posing No Danger to Public Safety, Released Due to COVID-19](#)
- August 10, 2021 - [Cardin, Democratic Colleagues Introduce Resolution Condemning Politically Motivated Imprisonment of Women around the World](#)
- August 10, 2021 - [Cardin, Senate Colleagues Honor the Service of World War II Ritchie Boys](#)
- August 02, 2021 - [Cardin Joins Bicameral Push to Boost Humanitarian Assistance to Afghans in Need](#)
- July 28, 2021 - [Cardin, Risch Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Make SBA Venture Capital Fund More Equitable](#)
- June 22, 2021 - [Cardin, Van Hollen Strongly Applaud House Action to Replace Capitol Statue of Dred Scott Decision's Author with Tribute to Trailblazing Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall](#)
- June 22, 2021 - [Cardin Statement on the Reconvening of SBA's Council on Underserved Communities](#)
- June 17, 2021 - [Cardin Marks the First Official Juneteenth Federal Holiday](#)

SELECT LETTERS, STATEMENTS, SPEECHES & MEDIA

- June 16, 2021 - [Cardin, Casey Introduce Legislation Aimed to Prevent Future Hate Crimes Committed with Firearms](#)
- June 07, 2021 - [COVID-19 Vaccination Rollouts Expose Underlying Inequalities, Underscore the Need for Equitable, Coordinated Response to Global Health Crises](#)
- June 07, 2021 - [Helsinki Commission Leadership Joins Inter-Parliamentary Discussion on Human Rights](#)
- June 04, 2021 - [As VP Travels to Mexico and Central America, Cardin, Van Hollen, and Other Senate Democrats Boost Diplomatic Efforts to Address Causes of Migration, Foster Stability in Central America](#)
- June 01, 2021 - [Maryland Congressional Delegation Announces Nearly \\$28 Million in COVID-19 Relief Funding to Address Health Disparities in Minority and Rural Communities](#)
- May 27, 2021 - [Cardin Responds to Rising Anti-Semitic Incidents Nationwide](#)
- May 20, 2021 - [Cardin Bill Calls for National Standards to Address Police Misconduct](#)
- May 20, 2021 - [Cardin, Van Hollen Call for Increased Federal Investment in HBCUs](#)
- April 28, 2021 - [Cardin, Van Hollen Urge President Biden to Increase Refugee Admissions Target](#)
- April 22, 2021 - [Cardin, Van Hollen Urge President Biden to Nominate Ambassador to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism](#)
- April 20, 2021 - [Cardin Statement on Chauvin Guilty Verdict](#)
- April 08, 2021 - [Helsinki Commission Leaders Commemorate International Roma Day with Senate and House Resolutions](#)
- March 30, 2021 - [Cardin Welcomes Return of Human Rights to U.S. Foreign Policy Formulation](#)
- March 24, 2021 - [Cardin Lauds Signing of New Funding Bill for Maryland's Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#)
- March 18, 2021 - [Helsinki Commission Leaders Commemorate International Day Against Racial Discrimination](#)
- March 08, 2021 - [Cardin, Collins, Trone, McMorris to Introduce Bill to Promote Girls' Leadership and Political Participation Around the World](#)
- February 25, 2021 - [Cardin Leads Senate Call for Restoring Voting Rights to Formerly Incarcerated Individuals](#)



LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

- **COVID-19 Health Disparities Action Act** – This bill directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop an action plan, make targeted grants, and develop public awareness campaigns with respect to COVID-19 and the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on racial and ethnic minorities and other vulnerable populations.
- **A resolution condemning all forms of anti-Asian sentiment as related to COVID-19** – This resolution calls on all public officials to condemn and denounce anti-Asian sentiment, racism, discrimination, and religious intolerance related to COVID-19, and to call on federal law enforcement officials, working with state and local officials, to expeditiously investigate and document all credible reports of hate crimes and incidents and threats against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community, and investigate and prosecute perpetrators.
- **The COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act** – This legislation, which was signed into law on March 23, 2021, requires a designated officer or employee of the Department of Justice to facilitate the expedited review of hate crimes and reports of hate crimes.
- **The Justice in Policing Act** – This Democratic legislative package of police reforms, introduced in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd, would institute a ban on police chokeholds; a ban on no-knock warrants; limit the transfer of military equipment to police departments; more body cameras for police; eliminate qualified immunity; as well as Senator Cardin’s End Racial and Religious Profiling Act (ERRPA) and Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act (LETIA).
- **The Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act** – This legislation, also known as LETIA, would establish a system of grants and incentives for law enforcement agencies to adopt community-oriented policing standards, set limits on police misconduct, develop new accreditation standards, and improve transparency and oversight.
- **Protecting Human Rights During Pandemic Act** – This bipartisan, bicameral legislation would require the State Department and USAID to take steps, through diplomacy and development assistance, to prevent human rights abuses from being carried out under the guise of response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **A Resolution Celebrating the Heritage of Romani Americans** – This resolution expresses remembrance for the genocide of the Roma by Nazi Germany and its Axis partners and commemorates the 75th anniversary of the destruction of the “Gypsy Family Camp” where Romani people were interned at Auschwitz.
- **Economic Justice Act** – A legislative proposal to make \$350 billion in immediate and long-term investments in Black communities and other communities of color.

LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

- **End Racial and Religious Profiling Act** – This legislation, also known as ERRPA, makes it clear that law enforcement actions based on discriminatory profiling such as an entry ban on Muslims are both inconsistent with U.S. values and ineffective. The bill would ban discriminatory profiling by all levels of law enforcement nationwide. It is designed to enforce the constitutional right to equal protection of laws through changing policies and procedures for law enforcement and promoting best practices in community-based law enforcement.
- **Washington DC Admission Act** – This bill provides for admission into the United States of the state of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, composed of most of the territory of the District of Columbia. The commonwealth shall be admitted to the Union on an equal footing with the other states.
- **Introduce Bill to Install Statue of Justice Thurgood Marshall in U.S. Capitol** – This bill to direct the Architect of the Capitol to install the statue of Justice Thurgood Marshall in U.S. Capitol to replace the bust of Roger Brooke Taney in the Old Supreme Court Chamber of the United States Capitol. Roger Brooke Taney is the author of the infamous Dred Scott decision that ruled that African Americans were not U.S. citizens and that Congress could not prohibit slavery. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall was the first African American to serve on the nation's highest court.
- **Equal Rights Amendment** – Legislation that would immediately revive consideration of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution to ensure that the Constitution guarantees full and equal protections to women.
- **A resolution commemorating the legal end of slavery in the United States** – This resolution designates "Juneteenth Independence Day" in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which slavery legally came to an end in the United States.
- **John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act** – To amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.
- **Girls' Leadership, Engagement, Agency, and Development Act** – This bipartisan legislation seeks to strengthen girls' participation in democracy, human rights, and governance worldwide by directing the State Department and USAID to develop and implement a strategy for achieving these goals.
- **The Guaranteed Refugee Ceiling Enhancement Act** – This bill sets a minimum refugee admissions cap of 95,000 for any given year.

LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

- **Democracy Restoration Act** - This legislation would reduce recidivism rates by restoring voting rights to individuals after they have served their time and have been released from incarceration. Studies indicate that former prisoners who have voting rights restored are less likely to reoffend, and that disenfranchisement hinders their rehabilitation and reintegration into their community.
- **LOVE Act** – This bill would require the Department of State to review employee terminations at the State Department in the 1950s and 1960s to determine who was wrongfully terminated due to their actual or perceived sexual orientation (known as the Lavender Scare). The bill contains an apology from Congress for its role in encouraging the termination of State Department employees based on sexual orientation.
- **Establishing World Refugee Day** – This resolution commemorates World Refugee Day. The resolution acknowledges the courage, strength, and determination of women, men, and children forced to flee their homes because of persecution or conflict while calling on the United States government to uphold its leadership role in responding to the global refugee crisis.
- **A resolution commemorating the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz** – This bipartisan resolution, commemorated the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp by Allied Forces during World War II.
- **Keeping Women and Girls Safe from the Start Authorization Act** – Against the backdrop of the largest refugee crisis in recorded history, this bipartisan legislation seeks to bolster United States and international efforts to address gender-based violence during humanitarian emergencies by affirming U.S. support for prevention and response programs and by better equipping humanitarian actors with the resources necessary to confront both present and future challenges.
- **Juneteenth National Independence Day Act** - This bill designates Juneteenth National Independence Day, June 19, as a legal public holiday.
- **Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act (CROWN Act)** - This bill prohibits discrimination based on a person's hair texture or hairstyle if that style or texture is commonly associated with a particular race or national origin. Specifically, the bill prohibits this type of discrimination against those participating in federally assisted programs, housing programs, public accommodations, and employment.
- **A resolution honoring the Contributions of the Ritchie Boys** - This resolution honors the bravery and dedication of the Ritchie Boys and the importance of their contributions to the success of the Allied Forces during World War II.

LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

- **Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act**

- This bill would establish a commission that shall examine slavery and discrimination in the colonies and the United States from 1619 to the present and recommend appropriate remedies. Among other requirements, the commission would examine (1) the role of federal and state governments in supporting the institution of slavery, (2) forms of discrimination in the public and private sectors against freed slaves and their descendants, and (3) lingering negative effects of slavery on living African-Americans and society.



- **A resolution celebrating Black History Month** - This resolution recognizes Black History Month as an opportunity to reflect on U.S. history and to commemorate the contributions of African Americans. It calls for the United States to (1) honor the contribution of pioneers who helped to ensure its legacy; and (2) move forward as a nation "indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

- **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 recognizes (1) the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month; and (2) the integral role of Latinos and their manifold heritage in the economy, culture, and identity of the United States.

- **A resolution recognizing June 2021 as "LGBTQ Pride Month"** - This resolution expresses support for the rights, freedoms, and equal treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) individuals. The resolution 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.



Pictures: page 7 Special Representative Senator Ben Cardin with Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas and Ranking Member Senator Roger Wicker; page 9 Special Representative Senator Ben Cardin and U.S. Delegation at Sofia Synagogue, Bulgaria; and page 13 Special Representative Senator Ben Cardin and U.S. Delegation at Banya Bashi Mosque in Sofia.

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