

**Report by U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin
Special Representative
on Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Intolerance
Report June 15, 2018 – January 29, 2019**

**Winter Meeting, Vienna
February 21-22, 2019**

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 L. Cardin to serve as the OSCE PA's first Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance (SRARI). Special Representative Cardin has been annually reappointed to the position since that time.

This report details Special Representative Cardin's activities from June 23, 2018 – January 29, 2019, that, with the support of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, focus on the following four priorities the Special Representative has outlined: 1) anti-Semitism and community security; 2) anti-Muslim bigotry; 3) improving law enforcement and community relations with diverse communities; and 4) anti-migrant/refugee bias.

Special Representative Cardin asks that other delegations of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly provide him with information regarding the efforts being undertaken by their respective parliaments to address intolerance and discrimination at home. Any information received will be included in future reports of the Special Representative.

These activities include:

Legislative Efforts

- ***Addressing increasing hate crimes and prejudice in the OSCE region*** – annually providing U.S. State Department funds to support civil society initiatives to address anti-Semitism, and racism and xenophobia towards Afro-descent, Muslim, Roma, migrant and refugee persons in Europe.
- ***Reappointing the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism at the State Department*** – Legislation included in State Department authorization and appropriations bills called for the new Administration to reappoint a Special Envoy position at the State Department to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, at a time when anti-Semitic incidents have been on the rise in several OSCE nations. A new Special Envoy was appointed in January 2019.

- ***Advancing Women's Economic Empowerment*** - The Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment (WEEE) Act, legislation introduced by Senators Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and John Boozman (R-Ark, became law on January 9, 2019. The Act seeks to eliminate global gender-related barriers and empower female entrepreneurs around the world, by establishing a development cooperation policy of the United States to reduce gender disparities related to economic participation and opportunity, strive to eliminate gender-based violence, support women's property rights and increase the capability of women and girls to determine life outcomes.
- ***Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act (S.1158)*** - This bill was signed into law January 14, 2019 and bolsters the efforts of the U.S. Government to prevent and respond to genocide and other mass atrocity crimes. The bill affirms the importance of strengthening U.S. efforts around mass atrocities through interagency tools like the Atrocities Prevention Board (APB); states that preventing genocide and mass atrocities are core U.S. national security interests and calls on the Administration to pursue a government-wide strategy on the issue; requires specialized training for Foreign Service Officers who will be deployed to a country experiencing or at risk of mass atrocities; and mandates annual reporting to Congress of Administration efforts to prevent and respond to mass atrocities and an assessment of countries and regions at risk of such violence.
- ***Equal Rights Amendment (S.J. Res. 6)*** would immediately revive consideration of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution which needs to be ratified by one additional state to ensure that the Constitution guarantees full and equal protections to women.
- ***End Racial and Religious Profiling Act (S. 411)*** - This legislation 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.
- ***Democracy Restoration Act (S.1588)*** - 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.
- ***National Security Diversity and Inclusion Workforce Act (S. 924)*** - This bill requires each national security agency to make available to the public, appropriate congressional committees, and the national security agency workforce, a report on its diversity and

inclusion efforts. The bill defines "diversity" as diversity of persons based on gender, race, ethnicity, disability status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, and other demographic categories. It also requires each such agency to: develop a system to collect and analyze applicant employment data to identify areas for improvement in attracting diverse talent, with emphasis on senior and management positions; seek a diverse and talented pool of employment applicants; create opportunities for senior personnel to participate in outreach events and to discuss issues relating to diversity and inclusion; and expand training on bias in the workplace and flexible work policies.

- ***LOVE Act (S.1420)*** - This bill requires 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 (S.Res.552)*** - This resolution, introduced to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 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.
- ***Disability Integration Act (S.117)*** – This bill would prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes. The Act clarifies and strengthens the Americans with Disabilities Act, ensures that States provide long term services that foster integration and independent living, and establishes requirements for State public reporting.
- ***Condemning the Tree of Life Synagogue Attack in Pittsburgh (S.Res.694)*** – A resolution condemning the horrific, anti-Semitic attack at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, expressing support and prayers for all those affected by the tragedy, and applauding the dedication and bravery of law enforcement and emergency response officials in responding to the attack.
- ***Recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month (S.Res.655)*** – The resolution commemorates the rich heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and the immense contributions of Latinos to the United States.
- ***The Strengthening Minority-Serving Institutions Act of 2018 (S.3467)*** – Legislation to permanently reauthorize mandatory funding programs for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

- ***Designating September as National Voting Rights Month (S.Res.626)*** – This resolution would encourage all people in the United States to uphold the right of every citizen to vote, would support the development of academic curriculum to foster a robust historical understanding of voting issues, and would allocate requisite funds by Congress for public service announcements.
- ***The REUNITE Act (S. 3227)*** – This act, also known as the Reunite Every Unaccompanied Newborn Infant, Toddler and other children Expeditiously Act, requires that the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Health and Human Services ensure the immediate reunification of children separated from their apprehended parent or guardian at or near ports of entry. The Act also requires that the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Health and Human Services publish guidance describing the coordinated efforts the agencies will undertake to reunite apprehended parents or guardians and children; jointly establish an interagency office responsible for expediting the reunification of alien children and parents; and introduce secure alternatives to detention programs.
- ***Commemorating the legal end of slavery in the United States (S.Res.547)*** – 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.
- ***Honoring the Victims of the Pulse Orlando Nightclub Attack (S.Res.545)*** – On June 12, 2016, 49 people were killed and 53 were wounded in a horrific terrorist attack on Pulse Orlando, a lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender nightclub, during Latin night. On the two-year anniversary of the attack, the Senate unanimously passed this resolution commemorating the victims of the horrific attack, honoring the survivors of the attack, and recognizing the unity, compassion and bravery of the Orlando community and the federal, state, and local law enforcement for their efforts in responding to the attack. The passing of the resolution signifies the United States commitment to stand together with all Americans, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, or sexual orientation in the face of terror and hate.
- ***First Step Act*** – Became law on December 21, 2018 and focuses on (1) reducing penalties, especially mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment, for various federal drug and firearm offenses and (2) allowing prisoners to be placed in pre-release custody earlier by earning additional time credits as part of a recidivism reduction program built upon a risk and needs assessment system. The law also attempts to address racial and other disparities in the justice system.

Select Letters, Statements, Speeches, & Tweets

- *January 25, 2019 - Cardin on International Holocaust Remembrance Day*
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-on-international-holocaust-remembrance-day>
- *January 19, 2019 - Cardin Responds to President Trump's Latest Statement on Border Security* - <https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-responds-to-president-trumps-latest-statement-on-border-security>
- *January 18, 2019 - Cardin, Van Hollen 170 Members of Congress Sign Letter to Trump on Shutdown Housing Crisis* - Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen joined 170 of their Democratic colleagues in sending a letter to President Trump on the consequences of the shutdown on housing security for more than four million Americans across the country who rely on the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) rental assistance initiatives.
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-van-hollen-170-members-of-congress-sign-letter-to-trump-on-shutdown-housing-crisis>
- *January 9, 2019 - Cardin-Boozman Bill Advancing Women's Economic Empowerment Signed into Law* <https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-boozman-bill-advancing-womens-economic-empowerment-signed-into-law>
and
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/congress-sends-cardin-boozman-bill-to-strengthen-womens-economic-empowerment-to-presidents-desk>
- *December 21, 2018 - Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act Heads to President for Signature after Final House, Senate Passage*
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/elie-wiesel-genocide-and-atrocities-prevention-act-heads-to-president-for-signature-after-final-house-senate-passage>
- *December 18, 2018 - Cardin Praises Bipartisan Passage of the First Step Act by 87-12 Vote, Says It Must Be the Start of Criminal Justice Reform Efforts, Not the End*
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-praises-bipartisan-passage-of-the-first-step-act-by-87-12-vote-says-it-must-be-the-start-of-criminal-justice-reform-efforts-not-the-end>
- *December 13, 2018 - Saying America's Strength is in Our Values, Cardin Says US-Saudi Relationship Can Endure but Must Change* - U.S. Senator Ben Cardin released the following statement after the full Senate approved Senate Joint Resolution 54, which would end unauthorized U.S. military support for the Saudi- and UAE-led intervention in Yemen. The Senate also approved a strong rebuke to Saudi Crown Prince Muhamad bin Salman, identifying him as responsible in the murder of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi. <https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/saying-americas-strength-is-in-our-values-cardin-says-us-saudi-relationship-can-endure-but-must-change>

- *November 21, 2018 - Cardin, Van Hollen Urge Trump Administration to Rescind Rule Unnecessarily Punishing International Students* - Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen (both D-MD) joined 16 of their colleagues in sending a letter to Director Francis Cissna of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) urging him to rescind a policy change that would unnecessarily punish international students who inadvertently violated the terms of their visa.
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-van-hollen-urge-trump-administration-to-rescind-rule-unnecessarily-punishing-international-students>
- *November 16, 2018 – Cardin Calls on Secretary DeVos to Protect Victims of Campus Sexual Assault* - <https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-calls-on-secretary-devos-to-protect-victims-of-campus-sexual-assault>
- *November 9, 2018 – Cardin Calls on President Trump to Follow the Law and Withdraw His Latest Anti-Immigration Policy*
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-calls-on-president-trump-to-follow-the-law-and-withdraw-his-latest-anti-immigration-policy>
- *November 7, 2018 – Cardin Commemorates the 80th Anniversary of Kristallnacht* - Senator Cardin called on leaders across the United States and around the world to condemn hate speech and the violence that it spurs on the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht.
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-commemorates-the-80th-anniversary-of-kristallnacht>
- *November 2, 2018 – Cardin, Senate Democrats to Secretary Azar: End Efforts to Redefine Sex to Exclude Transgender Persons*
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-senate-democrats-to-secretary-azar-end-efforts-to-redefine-sex-to-exclude-transgender-persons->
- *October 29, 2018 – Cardin Condemns Deadly Attack Against Worshipers at Pittsburgh Synagogue* - Senator Cardin calls for political leaders to end divisive rhetoric and stand up against hate crimes and hate speech in a statement condemning the deadly attack against worshippers at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue.
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-condemns-deadly-attack-against-worshippers-at-pittsburgh-synagogue>
- *October 24, 2018 – Cardin Statement on Discovered Explosive Devices* - Senator Cardin releases a statement addressing the discovery of explosive devices in packages addressed to public officials, media, and others.
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-statement-on-discovered-explosive-devices->
- *October 11, 2018 – Cardin Statement on Hispanic Heritage Month 2018* - Senator Cardin issued a statement recognizing Hispanic Heritage month and the invaluable contributions of the Latino community to the United States.
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-statement-on-hispanic-heritage-month-2018>

- *October 11, 2018 – Cardin, Colleagues Press Administration on LGBTQ Diplomatic Discrimination* - Senator Cardin joined 19 of his colleagues in calling on U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to amend a new Department policy halting the provision of diplomatic visas for unmarried, same-sex partners of foreign diplomats and employees posted to the United States.
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-colleagues-press-administration-on-lgbtq-diplomatic-discrimination>
- *October 2, 2018 – Cardin asks McMahon for Explanation, Information Following Removal of SBA Spanish-language Website* - Senator Cardin wrote to Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Linda McMahon requesting an explanation and information regarding the removal of the SBA's Spanish-language website.
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-asks-mcmahon-for-explanation-information-following-removal-of-sba-spanish-language-website>
- *September 28, 2018 – Cardin Statement on Judiciary Committee Testimony from Dr. Christine Blasey Ford and Judge Brett Kavanaugh* - Senator Cardin issued a statement on Dr. Christine Blasey Ford's judiciary committee testimony regarding the allegations of sexual assault levied against Judge Brett Kavanaugh. Senator Cardin called Dr. Ford "compelling, credible, and forthcoming" in her accounting.
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-statement-on-judiciary-committee-testimony-from-dr-christine-blasey-ford-and-judge-brett-kavanaugh>
- *September 21, 2018 – Cardin, Van Hollen Cosponsor Legislation to Permanently Extend and Increase Funding for Minority-Serving Institutions* - U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen joined a group of 22 Senators in cosponsoring legislation to permanently extend and increase mandatory funding levels for minority-serving institutions, including Maryland's historically Black colleges and Universities.
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-van-hollen-cosponsor-legislation-to-permanently-extend-and-increase-funding-for-minority-serving-institutions>
- *September 20, 2018 – Cardin Statement on Mass Shooting in Aberdeen, Maryland* - Senator Cardin issues a statement after visiting the site of a mass shooting in Hartford County, Maryland
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-statement-on-mass-shooting-in-aberdeen-maryland>
- *September 18, 2018 – Cardin: Trump Administration's New Refugee Cap Cruel, Makes U.S. Weaker* - Following the Trump Administration's further reduction in the number of refugees that will be admitted and settled in the U.S., Senator Ben Cardin issued a statement that the policy decimates and weakens U.S. moral leadership.
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-trump-administrations-new-refugee-cap-cruel-makes-us-weaker>

- *August 22, 2018 – Cardin Joins SFRC Democrats in Advising Sec. Pompeo Against Lowering Refugee Cap* - <https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-joins-sfrc-democrats-in-advising-sec-pompeo-against-lowering-refugee-cap>
- *August 10, 2018 – Cardin Encourages Peace and Compassion on the One-Year Anniversary of the Deadly Charlottesville Protests*
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-encourages-peace-and-compassion-on-the-one-year-anniversary-of-the-deadly-charlottesville-protests>
- *July 25, 2018 - Cardin, Van Hollen Call on Republicans to Drop Harmful Plan Discriminating Against Potential Foster or Adoptive Parents and Youth in Foster Care* - Senator Ben Cardin joined 38 Senate colleagues to call on Republicans to drop a harmful plan that would discriminate against LGBTQ Americans seeking to be foster or adoptive parents.
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-van-hollen-call-on-republicans-to-drop-harmful-plan-discriminating-against-potential-foster-or-adoptive-parents-and-youth-in-foster-care>
- *July 18, 2018 - Cardin Introduces Legislation to Encourage Police Departments to Improve Training and Standards* - Senator Ben Cardin re-introduced the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act (LETIA), S. 3195, to encourage police departments to improve training and standards: “We need to ensure that all our citizens’ rights are preserved while giving police the tools they need to re-engage with the families and individuals they are there to protect.”
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/07/18/2018/cardin-introduces-legislation-to-encourage-police-departments-to-improve-training-and-standards>
- *June 26, 2018 - Cardin Responds to SCOTUS Ruling on Travel Ban* - Senator Ben Cardin stated, “This decision is a major blow to American values, the rule of law, and our country’s standing as leader of the free world. Essentially, the Court has said that a religious litmus test can now be used for granting or denying foreigners the ability to travel to our country.”
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-responds-to-scotus-ruling-on-travel-ban>
- *June 22, 2018 - Cardin, Finance Democrats Demand Plan to Reunite Children Separated from Their Parents at the Border*
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-finance-democrats-demand-plan-to-reunite-children-separated-from-their-parents-at-the-border>
- *June 20, 2018 - Cardin Introduces World Refugee Day Resolution, Urges U.S., Global Community to Prioritize Resettlement, Stabilization*
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-introduces-world-refugee-day-resolution-urges-us-global-community-to-prioritize-resettlement-stabilization-efforts> and <https://www.cardin.senate.gov/news/press-releases/world-refugee-day-and-the-crisis-at-our-southern-border>

- *June 19, 2018 - Cardin Statement on Juneteenth 2018* - Senator Ben Cardin recognized Tuesday, June 19, 2018 as Juneteenth, the date on which slavery legally came to an end across the entire United States. Senator Cardin is a cosponsor of S.Res. 547, which was approved unanimously by the Senate and recognizes the significance of Juneteenth in American history. <https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-statement-on-juneteenth-2018>
- *June 15, 2018 - Cardin Statement on Trump Policy of Separating Children from Parents at U.S.-Mexico Border* - <https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-statement-on-trump-policy-of-separating-children-from-parents-at-us-mexico-border>

Meetings, Consultations, Events

Also in collaboration with the Helsinki Commission

- *October 15, 2018 – Event: Fighting Racism and Xenophobia Against People of African Descent (Warsaw, Poland)* - <https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/fighting-racism-and-xenophobia-against-people-african-descent?page=1>
- *September 12, 2018 – Briefing: Race, Rights, and Politics* – a Congressional briefing featuring European political leaders and civil society representatives of African descent, who discussed the state of their democracies and recent efforts to address issues of inclusion and human rights <https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/race-rights-and-politics>
- *July 25, 2018 – Briefing: Attacks on Roma in Ukraine* – a panel of civil society leaders and the Ukrainian Deputy Chief of Mission to the United States assessed discrimination and bigotry against Roma in Ukraine and evaluated proposed solutions to the issue. <https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/attacks-roma-ukraine>
- *July 18, 2018 – Briefing: Transatlantic Relations in Flux* – a panel of MEPs from France, the UK, and Poland discussed current obstacles in the transatlantic relationship, including human rights and identified opportunities to strengthen the relationship moving forward <https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/transatlantic-relations-flux>
- *July 13, 2018 – Report: The OSCE and Roma* – a summary of Helsinki Commission and OSCE engagement with Roma on human rights issues <https://www.csce.gov/sites/helsinkicommission.house.gov/files/OSCE%20and%20Roma%20Designed%20FINAL.pdf>
- *July 9, 2018 – Report: Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network TILN Workshop 2018* - The 7th annual TILN Workshop took place March 4-10 in Brussels, Belgium, and alumni led projects in Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, and Bosnia. <https://www.csce.gov/sites/helsinkicommission.house.gov/files/TILN%202018%20Report-FINAL.pdf>

- *June 8, 2018 – Event: The Inaugural PADWEEK (People of African Descent Week) Addresses Racial Discrimination Across Europe (Brussels, Belgium)*, addressed racial discrimination across Europe and made policy recommendations.
<https://www.osce.org/international-impact/inaugural-padweek-addresses-racial-discrimination-across-europe>
- Consultations with Jewish civil society and government officials on anti-Semitic incidents in the OSCE region, including the United States.
- Consultations with Roma civil society and government officials on increasing prejudice and discrimination, and recognition of communities in the U.S.
- Consultations and events focused on diverse communities and inclusion with government officials, political leaders, civil society and private sector in Europe, including members of the Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network (TILN).

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.