



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

**Report June 26, 2020 – February 12, 2021**

## 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 participated in over thirty OSCE PA meetings since 1993, holding the positions of Vice-President (2006-2012) and Chairperson of the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment (2003-2006). He currently serves as Head of the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE PA and has participated in several election observation missions. During this time he has also authored eleven supplementary items focused on tolerance and non-discrimination, Mediterranean issues, anti-corruption, good governance, investigative journalism, nuclear security and Russian violations of Helsinki principles.

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 117<sup>th</sup> 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, Cardin has consistently worked to raise awareness of the global escalation of racism, anti-Semitic violence, and intolerance, while striving to promote peace, tolerance and equality.

This report details Special Representative Cardin's activities from June 26, 2020 – February 12, 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, other religion- and race-based intolerance and other forms of intolerance.

## LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

- **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.
- **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.
- **Economic Justice Act** – A legislative proposal to make \$350 billion in immediate and long-term investments in Black communities and other communities of color.
- **Minority Business Resiliency Act** – A bill to establish the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce and to support the economic resilience of minority business enterprises during and after the COVID-19 outbreak.
- **The Justice in Policing Act** – This Democratic legislative package of police reforms, introduced in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd, would instate 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.

## LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

- **The REUNITE Act** – This act, also known as the Reunite Every Unaccompanied Newborn Infant, Toddler and other children Expeditiously Act, would require 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 would also require 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.
- **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.
- **D.C. Statehood Voting Rights 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.

## 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.
- **National Security Diversity and Inclusion Workforce Act** – This bill would require each national security agency to make available to the public, to appropriate congressional committees, and to the national security agency workforce, a report on its diversity and inclusion efforts. The bill defines "diversity" as 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** – 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.
- **Disability Integration Act** – This bill would prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and support, and for other purposes. The Act would clarify and strengthen the Americans with Disabilities Act, ensure that States provide long-term services that foster integration and independent living, and establish requirements for State public reporting.
- **The NO BAN Act** – This legislation repeals the three "Muslim Ban" executive order/presidential proclamations, repeals "extreme vetting" procedures, and expands congressional oversight by amending the Immigration and Nationality Act.

## LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

- **The Protecting Faith-Based and Nonprofit Organizations from Terrorism Act** – This bill authorizes \$75 million annually for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) for FY 2020-2024. NSGP supports the efforts of nonprofits and houses of worship to protect their facilities and personnel with equipment and other forms of security enhancements.
- **The Guaranteed Refugee Ceiling Enhancement Act** – This bill sets a minimum refugee admissions cap of 95,000 for any given year.
- **The Refugee Protection Act** – This bill would expand the US Refugee Admissions Program, increase protections for refugees, restore due process and dignity for asylum-seekers, and expand protections for immigrants cooperating with law enforcement and foreign nationals assisting US troops.
- **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.
- **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.

## 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 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.
- **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.



# SELECT LETTERS, STATEMENTS, SPEECHES, & SOCIAL MEDIA

- February 5, 2021 - [Cardin Participates in Webinar with Advocates & Black Entrepreneurs to Celebrate Contributions of Black-owned Small Businesses](#)
- January 27, 2021 - [On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Cardin Says We Must Educate the Next Generation So That Our Deadly History Does Not Keep Repeating](#)
- January 8, 2021 - [Helsinki Commission Leaders Decry January 6 Attack on U.S. Capitol](#)
- December 23, 2020 - [Never Again: Cardin Says Spending Package Elevates Holocaust Education, Supports Holocaust Survivors and Expands Program to Protect Synagogues and Houses of Worship from Terrorism](#)
- December 18, 2020 - [Cardin, Colleagues Demand Heightened UN Focus on Detained Migrants' Health and Reproductive Rights](#)
- December 18, 2020 - [Retrospective on the 116th Congress](#)
- December 10, 2020 - [Cardin, Rubio Celebrate International Human Rights Day](#)
- November 24, 2020 - [Baltimore Delegation Announces More Than \\$650,000 for Johns Hopkins University Research on COVID-19 Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Maryland](#)
- November 18, 2020 - [Baltimore Congressional Delegation Announces \\$100,000 for Morgan State-Led Initiative to Increase Minority Representation in Engineering](#)
- November 13, 2020 - [OSCE Election Observers Release 2020 Preliminary Findings on The United States General Elections](#)
- November 2, 2020 - [Maryland Delegation Members Recognize \\$300,000 Federal Award to Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#)
- October 28, 2020 - [Van Hollen, Cardin, Colleagues Call on Trump Administration to Halt Deportation of Cameroonian Asylum-Seekers](#)
- October 23, 2020 - [Cardin, Booker, Stabenow, Whitehouse, Blumenthal, Brown, Van Hollen Unveil New Report on Consequences for Core Civil Rights Protections of Special Interest Campaign to Capture Our Courts](#)

## SELECT LETTERS, STATEMENTS, SPEECHES, & SOCIAL MEDIA CONTINUED

- October 16, 2020 - [Cardin, Senate Democrats Urge USAID to Continue Needed Diversity Training Despite Trump Executive Orders](#)
- October 6, 2020 - [Statement at the OSCE Event "Policing in Diverse Societies: Principles and Good Practices"](#)
- October 6, 2020 - [Baltimore Delegation Announces More Than \\$8.3 Million for Johns Hopkins University Research on COVID-19 Racial and Ethnic Disparities](#)
- October 1, 2020 - [Cardin Calls Record-Low Refugee Cap an Embarrassment](#)
- September 18, 2020 - [Cardin, Van Hollen to DHS IG: Investigate Whistleblower Complaint of Forced Hysterectomies at ICE Facility](#)
- August 5, 2020 - [Cardin, Menendez, Colleagues Urge Trump Admin To Address Reports Of Retaliation Among Workers Of Color Who Report Covid-19 Workplace Concerns](#)
- August 4, 2020 - [Cardin, Scott Introduce Bill to Combat Health Disparities](#)
- August 3, 2020 - [Cardin Commemorates the Romani Genocide](#)
- July 30, 2020 - [Cardin Statement on World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2020](#)
- July 29, 2020 - [Cardin, Van Hollen Continue Push to Bring Harriet Tubman Statue to U.S. Capitol Building](#)
- July 23, 2020 - [Cardin, Van Hollen Introduce John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act](#)
- July 23, 2020 - [Cardin Continues to Press for Increased Federal Investment in Minority-Owned Businesses](#)
- July 22, 2020 - [Cardin, Van Hollen on House Passage of Bill to Replace Roger Taney Bust at Old Supreme Court with Thurgood Marshall](#)
- July 22, 2020 - [Cardin, Menendez Lead Colleagues in Introducing Legislation to Address COVID-19 Racial Disparities](#)
- July 21, 2020 - [Cardin Statement on DHS Deployment of Federal Law Enforcement in Portland and Other U.S. Cities](#)

## SELECT LETTERS, STATEMENTS, SPEECHES, & SOCIAL MEDIA

- October 14, 2020 - [Podcast: Welcome to Observe](#)
- July 16, 2020 - [Cardin, Van Hollen, Colleagues Push Back on Trump Administration's Anti-Immigrant Agenda in USCIS Funding Debate](#)
- July 16, 2020 - [Cardin, Schumer, Senate Democrats Announce Historic Proposal For \\$350 Billion Investment In Communities Of Color](#)
- July 2, 2020 - [Cardin, Cantwell, Schumer, Booker, Cortez Masto & Harris Introduce Legislation to Invest in Minority-Owned Businesses](#)
- June 30, 2020 – [Cardin Statement on MP Hedy Fry Canadian racial justice article](#)
- June 27, 2020 - [Cardin Statement on LGBTQ Pride Month 2020](#)
- June 5, 2020 - [Podcast: Communities at Risk](#)
- April 6, 2020 - [Podcast: The Roma](#)
- February 17, 2020 - [Podcast: Parliamentary Diplomacy in Action](#)
- October 21, 2019 - [Podcast: Equitable and Inclusive Democracies](#)

# MEETINGS, CONSULTATIONS, & EVENTS

## In collaboration with the Helsinki Commission

### Hearings and Briefings:

- December 8, 2020 - [U.S. Priorities for Engagement at the OSCE](#)
- October 6, 2020 - [OSCE Event on Policing in Diverse Societies](#)
- September 22, 2020 - [Racial Equity, Equality, And Justice](#)
- September 17, 2020 - [Albania's Chairmanship of the OSCE](#)
- July 29, 2020 - [Human Rights At Home: Values Made Visible](#)
- July 23, 2020 - [Human Rights at Home: Media, Politics, and Safety of Journalists](#)
- July 2, 2020 - [Human Rights at Home: Implications for U.S. Leadership](#)
- June 12, 2020 - [8:46 \(George Floyd\)](#)

### OSCE Parliamentary Meetings:

- January 27, 2021 - [Roundtable on Helsinki+50/"Call to Action"](#)
- December 3, 2020 - [Ministerial Council Side Event on OSCE PA "Call to Action"](#)
- November 20, 2020 - [Paris Anniversary Event](#)
- November 11, 2020 - [Standing Committee](#)
- July 7, 2020 - [Standing Committee](#)
- June 22, 2020 - [Webinar: COVID's Impact on Diverse Societies](#)
- May 26, 2020 - [Webinar: Protecting Migrants and Refugees During a Pandemic](#)
- May 8, 2020 - [Webinar: Human Rights and Democracy During States of Emergency](#)
- April 27, 2020 - [Bureau Meeting](#)

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