

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

Report July 1, 2023 – November 10, 2023

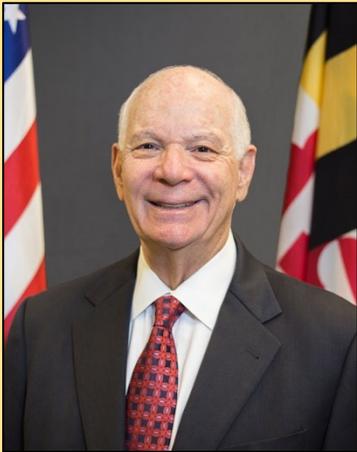


ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE.....	3
MANDATE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE	4
FOREWORD.....	5
MEETINGS & EVENTS	10
SELECT LETTERS, STATEMENTS, SPEECHES & MEDIA	11
LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS.....	13

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. 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 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 July 1, 2023—November 10, 2023 with the support of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

MANDATE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

The mandate of the OSCE PA Special Representative on Antisemitism, 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

In my last report to this assembly delivered a mere five months ago, I raised the alarm over the dramatic rise in antisemitism and hate-based incidents across our region. On October 7, these alarms became



object terror when Hamas attacked thousands and savagely murdered more than 1,400 Israelis: young people enjoying a music festival, men and women going about their daily lives, children at play.

Fueled by intolerance, antisemitism, and hatred, October 7th has been one of the darkest days for the Jewish community since the Holocaust. I categorically condemn this violence and mourn with Israel, affirming its right to self-defense even as we seek ways to: provide humanitarian assistance to the region, protect Israeli and Palestinian lives while ensuring the horrific actions of Hamas can never be repeated, and return the hostages to their loved ones.

While we struggle to comprehend and confront the scope of this horror, we are witnessing an alarming rise in antisemitic and anti-Muslim bigotry and violence throughout the OSCE region. In the weeks following the October 7th attacks, police in New York and London

investigated triple the number of antisemitic hate crimes over the same period last year. In France, the Interior Ministry documented 1,040 antisemitic incidents in the month immediately following the October 7 attack.

Jewish and Muslim civil society organizations are also reporting a distressing surge in incidents. For instance, the Anti-Defamation League reported a distressing surge in antisemitic incidents, including an estimated triple digit increase in antisemitic incidents in Germany, Austria, and the United Kingdom as compared with the same period last year. Significant increases in antisemitic and anti-Muslim acts have been recorded in at least eight other countries in the OSCE region, including acts of online hate, verbal assaults, vandalism, desecration of Holocaust memorials and cemeteries, intimidation, death threats, and physical attacks. Disproportionately, targets of hate were individuals who were identifiably Jewish or Muslim.

In my own country we have already witnessed the tragic death of six-year-old Wadea Al-Fayoume murdered because he was Palestinian and the death of 69 year old Paul Kessler, a Jewish man who died following an altercation at a pro-Israel rally.

On October 31, FBI Director Christopher Wray warned that antisemitism in the United States is reaching “historic levels.” According to an ADL report published in January 2023, approximately

20% of Americans believe six or more antisemitic tropes, a significant increase from the 11% that ADL reported in 2019 and the highest level measured in decades.

To address the rising tide of hate, I welcomed the creation of the U.S. government's Interagency Policy Committee to Counter Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and Related Forms of Discrimination and Bias that resulted in the adoption of my country's first National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism in May 2023. The strategy aims to address both the symptoms and root causes of antisemitism through education and solidarity. I again urge each of you to work with your governments at the earliest opportunity to develop similar national strategies if your country does not already have one.

National strategies—and the political will to implement them are but one way to turn our words into action and to realize the promise of our commitments—to human rights, to religious freedom, to never again.

It is imperative to remember that peddlers of hate do not stop at targeting Jews. I am deeply alarmed by the concurrent rise of anti-Muslim hate across the OSCE region. I look forward to working with the Administration as it crafts the first-ever National Strategy to Counter Islamophobia. I agree with the Administration that “for too long, Muslims in America, and those perceived to be Muslim, such as Arabs

and Sikhs, have endured a disproportionate number of hate-fueled attacks and other discriminatory incidents.” I am pleased that the Administration has established an interagency group to increase and better coordinate U.S. Government efforts to counter Islamophobia, Antisemitism, and related forms of bias and discrimination. These efforts will provide guidance and leadership for whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to better address the scourge of hate plaguing our society. As leaders and parliamentarians, we must speak out loudly and clearly against every form of hate whenever and wherever it occurs. There is strength in numbers, as we must build coalitions within civil society and between different religions, and we must stand united against hate. We must never allow antisemitism—or any other type of prejudice or discrimination—to become normalized in our societies.

Helsinki commitments also require that we stand against terror. I again call on Vladimir Putin to end his repression of the people of Russia and cease his aggression abroad. Putin’s antisemitic lies and distortion of the Holocaust which he attempts to use to justify his genocidal war against Ukraine are particularly egregious as they detract from critical efforts to counter antisemitism and prejudice. They are also dangerous, as they set the stage for events such as the November 2nd Russian mob that attempted to attack passengers arriving on a flight from Tel Aviv.

But as we know, hatred breeds more hatred. In every aspect of our lives, we must combat hate with solidarity, lies with the truth. Ultimately, learning the truth—learning about history—is fundamental to defeating antisemitism and all forms of intolerance. We must recall for ourselves and teach future generations important truths so that all may understand the violence that is unleashed when hatred goes unchecked. It is why I continue to support the efforts of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum to educate the world on the horrible lessons of the Holocaust, and have called for my government to increase funding for initiatives that address antisemitism, racism, and intolerance across the OSCE region.

Even in these dark times, we must not lose hope. We must continue to be vigilant, persistent, and ultimately optimistic. We can build a world that is safe, peaceful, and prosperous for all.

Senator Ben Cardin
*OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on
Antisemitism, Racism, and Intolerance*

MEETINGS & EVENTS



We must speak out loudly and clearly against antisemitism when it occurs. We cannot allow antisemitism—or any other type of prejudice or intolerance—to become normalized.

—Senator Ben Cardin
Shearith Israel Congregation, Maryland

SELECT MEETINGS

- October 19-23, 2023 Co-led a bipartisan Congressional Delegation to Israel, Saudi Arabia
- October 24, 2023 Meeting with ODIHR Director Matteo Mecacci
- October 26, 2023 Meeting with American families of the hostages in Gaza
- October 27, 2023 Roundtables with Montgomery County Jewish Leaders, Muslim Leaders
- October 31, 2023 Meeting with the Jewish Federation of North America on Nonprofit Security Grant Program

EVENTS, HEARINGS, AND BRIEFINGS

- July 1, 2023 Unveiling of the US Postal Service commemoration of civil rights champion Congressman John Lewis
- July 3, 2023 Hosted a side event at the OSCE PA Annual Session in Vancouver on Countering the Rise in Antisemitic and Other Hate-based Incidents: Government Action and Leadership

- September 8, 2023 Announced \$15.9 million in grants at an event at the Shearith Israel Congregation to better prepare & secure houses of worship of many faiths around Maryland
- October 18, 2023 Confirmation hearing for Jacob Lew, nominee for U.S. Ambassador to Israel
- October 17, 2023: Awarded Human Rights First's 2023 Global Accountability Guardian Award
- October 19, 2023: Awarded the 2023 Anne Frank Award for Human Dignity and Tolerance by the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- October 19, 2023: Speech on the floor of the U.S. Senate expressing shock and horror at Hamas' terror attack on Israel, pledging solidarity with Israel and mourning victims of atrocities
- October 23, 2023 Tribute to Maryland native and Israeli Defense Force reservist Omer Balava who died in an antitank missile strike fired from Lebanon by the militant group Hezbollah
- October 28-30, 2023 Urgent calls in various televised interviews to support Israel's right to defend itself and ensure civilians in Gaza have access to urgent and lifesaving humanitarian aid

SELECT LETTERS, STATEMENTS, SPEECHES & MEDIA

- July 2, 2023 115th Birthday commemoration of civil rights defender, Justice Thurgood Marshall
- July 7, 2023 Defense of transgender rights in the context of 80 anti-transgender bills passed in the US to date
- July 12, 2023 Promotion of small businesses' efforts to identify and combat antisemitism
- July 17, 2023 Tribute to the human rights legacy of Congressman John Lewis
- July 18, 2023 Condemnation of three-year prison sentence handed down to Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights human rights defender Patrick Zaki for highlighting discrimination faced by Coptic Christians in Egypt
- July 31, 2023 Underscored the power of allyship advanced at the NAACP National Convention in Boston denouncing racism and antisemitism
- August 9, 2023 Amplifying constituents' work to promote tolerance and stop anti-Asian hate

- Aug 21, 2023 Railing against Jim Crow Era voting laws as outdated and unconstitutional and in favor of the Democracy Restoration Act
- Aug 22, 2023 Advocating for laws which end sexual orientation discrimination and in defense of the Respect for Marriage Act to protect ALL marriages
- August 26-28, 2023 A series of calls for tolerance and standing up to hatred sixty years after Martin Luther King's generation-defining March on Washington
- August 28, 2023 Call for justice for shooting victims Angela Carr, Anolt Laguerre Jr. and Jerrald De'Shaun Gallion. The hatred and cowardice shown by the shooter has no place in our society
- Aug 29, 2023 Advocacy for equal rights as enshrined in the Equal Rights Amendment because equality has no deadline
- September 22, 2023 Condemnation of antisemitic graffiti and hate in Baltimore
- October 7-10, 2023 A series of condemnations of the brazen and ongoing terrorist attack that killed innocent Israeli citizens across southern Israel
- October 16, 2023: Condemnation of the murder of 6-year-old Wadea Al-Fayoume following Hamas' terror attack against Israel. There is never any excuse to commit hate crimes
- October 17, 2023: Floor remarks denouncing Hamas terrorist attack, reaffirming support for Israel, humanitarian assistance for Palestinians, and introduction of bipartisan resolution with 99 cosponsors
- October 31, 2023: Floor speech ahead of final confirmation vote for U.S. Ambassador to Israel
- November 7, 2023 Floor speech U.S. Senator Ben Cardin condemns violence committed by terrorist group Hamas



The struggle against hatred and intolerance has always been profoundly important to me and my family. We must teach future generations these stories so they understand the violence that can be unleashed when hatred goes unchecked.

—Senator Ben Cardin

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Washington D.C.

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 bill 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.

- **A resolution recognizing the month of June 2022 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.
- **A resolution recognizing June 2022 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 of 2022.** 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.

Pictures: page 5 Special Representative Senator Ben Cardin with U.S. Helsinki Chairman Joe Wilson at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Annual Session in Canada; page 10 Special Representative Senator Ben Cardin at an event on the safety of houses of worship, Maryland; and page 13 Special Representative Senator Ben Cardin, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the United States, Birgitta Tazelaar, and U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) at the Anne Frank Award Ceremony, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Washington, D.C.