

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

Report **January 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023**

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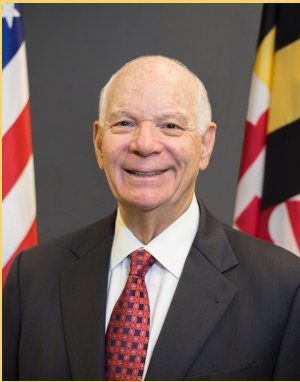
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OSCE PA SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON ANTI-SEMITISM, RACISM, AND INTOLERANCE – U.S. SENATOR BEN CARDIN



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 **the** 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 January 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 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



The alarms have been ringing loud and clear for years about an extremely disturbing rise in antisemitism and related hate-based incidents. Organizations monitoring hate crimes found that 2022 had the highest number of antisemitic incidents of harassment, vandalism, and assault since such reports began in the 1970s.

Antisemitism, racism, and intolerance is clearly on the rise across the OSCE region.

I am very concerned that some popular entertainers and public figures are spreading antisemitic tropes to their followers on social media or through public statements. It is alarming that such disinformation, conspiracy theories, and hate speech can be disseminated so quickly and globally through the use of today's digital technology to their followers.

We must speak out loudly and clearly against antisemitism when it occurs. As leaders in government, politics and society, we must lead the fight against hate. We cannot allow antisemitism – or any other type of prejudice or intolerance – to become normalized.

The spread of antisemitic and intolerant disinformation and conspiracy theories also threatens to undermine our democratic institutions, as they attack the veracity of the government and mainstream media.

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FOREWORD (cont'd)

Over the last 20 years, the OSCE has developed its work to address antisemitism, both in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and on the governmental side. Participating States have adopted many OSCE commitments to prevent antisemitism, and OSCE Institutions – particularly ODIHR – have developed tools to assist states in implementing them, including a hate crimes database, practical guidelines and handbooks, educational materials, and police training programs. I urge all of you to avail yourselves of the assistance that the OSCE can offer, particularly educational materials and police training.

I appreciate that President Joe Biden created a new inter-agency group to heighten and better coordinate U.S. government efforts to counter antisemitism, Islamophobia, and related forms of bias and discrimination within the United States.

Its first accomplishment, at the urging of Congress and others, was to develop a unified, national strategy to counter antisemitism. The Biden-Harris administration's whole-of-society national strategy sets forth an aggressive agenda for dealing with both the symptoms and root causes of such hate. At its core are education and solidarity. It is essential that we expand programs and initiatives that accurately discuss the Holocaust and the harmful ideologies that gave it life.

The U.S. strategy is built around 4 pillars: increasing awareness and understanding of antisemitism; improving safety and security for Jewish communities; reversing the normalization of antisemitism and countering antisemitic discrimination; and building cross-community solidarity and collective action to counter hate.

Some of the concrete actions in the strategy include:

- Increasing Holocaust education and Jewish studies in schools;

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- Better educating the public through programs in libraries, museums and art institutions and through both traditional and social media;
- Increasing support for research on antisemitism and its intersection with other forms of hate;
- Enhancing physical security of Jewish and other religious communities and institutions;
- Increasing engagement among law enforcement, government leaders, civil society organizations, and communities to combat hate crimes;
- Strengthening support for victims, including by providing mental services;
- Partnering with other countries to strengthen international efforts to counter antisemitism;
- Tackling antisemitism online and holding those responsible accountable through better enforcement of terms of service and increased transparency on algorithms;
- Addressing antisemitism in schools and on college campuses through awareness-raising;
- And building cross-community coalitions and expanding multi-faith partnerships.

I urge all of you to work with your governments to develop a similar national strategy if your country does not already have one.

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 2021 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 Antisemitism, Racism, and Intolerance
Member of the United States Senate

MEETINGS & EVENTS



I know the hatred is draining, but our voices #ShineALight in the dark.

- Senator Ben Cardin

Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony, U.S. Capitol

SELECT MEETINGS

- June 13, 2023 Meeting of National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry
- May 16, 2023 Meeting with the Orthodox Jewish Political Group
- April 27, 2023 Congressional event on Preserving and Fostering Jewish Life Against Contemporary Antisemitism in the United States
- March 29, 2023 Meeting with OSCE/ODIHR Director Matteo Mecacci
- March 1, 2023 American Jewish Committee (AJC) roundtable with international envoys tasked with combating antisemitism
- December 8, 2022 Meeting with UK All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism and the Antisemitism Policy Trust
- November 30, 2022 [Cardin Leads Working Meeting of Officials and Agencies Countering Antisemitism](#)
- June 8, 2022 Meeting with U.S. Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt
- June 9, 2022 Meeting with Canadian Antisemitism Special Envoy Irwin Cotler
- February 7 – 8, 2022 [Cardin Participates in High-Level Conference in Warsaw on Combating Anti-Semitism in the OSCE Region](#)

EVENTS, HEARINGS AND BRIEFINGS

- February 6-7, 2023 [Skopje Conference on Addressing Antisemitism in the OSCE Region](#)
- December 13, 2022 [Cardin Chaired CSCE hearing on the “The Alarming Rise in Antisemitism and its Threat to Democracy”](#)
- February 03, 2022 [Cardin Chairs Hearing on Poland's Leadership of the OSCE](#)

SELECT LETTERS, STATEMENTS, SPEECHES & MEDIA

- May 25, 2023 [Cardin Responds to Biden-Harris National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism](#)
- February 06, 2023 [Cardin and Colleagues Announce the Removal of the Bust of Dred Scott Author Roger Taney from Display in the U.S. Capitol](#)
- February 04, 2023 [Statement on the Death of Tyre Nichols at the Hands of Police](#)
- January 31, 2023 [Cardin and colleagues announced the introduction of a resolution to affirm the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and take a critical step toward enshrining equality for women in the U.S. Constitution.](#)
- January 13, 2023 [Statement on Anti-Jewish Rhetoric and Conspiracy Theories](#)
- December 03, 2022 [Statement on Marriage Equality for All](#)
- November 18, 2022 [Cardin and Colleagues Urge DHS and DOJ to Adopt Stronger Guidance Against Discriminatory Profiling](#)
- October 24, 2022 [Cardin Releases Joint Statement on the Recent Report from the United Nations Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry Showing Clear Anti-Israel Bias](#)
- September 12, 2022 [Cardin and Colleagues Urge the Dept. of Ed to Strengthen Protections for Survivors of Sexual Assault and Trans Students](#)
- July 26, 2022 [Cardin Commemorates 32 Years of the Americans With Disabilities Act](#)
- June 24, 2022 [Cardin, Baldwin, Gillibrand, Warren and Colleagues Push FDA for an Update on Changes to Discriminatory Blood Donation Policies](#)
- June 10, 2022 [Senators Cardin and Wicker lauded unanimous passage in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Thursday of S. Res.124, the first official acknowledgement by Congress of the genocide of the Romani people by the Nazis](#)
- May 25, 2022 [Cardin Praises Biden Executive Order on Police Reform Which Improves Public Safety and Hold Police Accountable.](#)

SELECT LETTERS, STATEMENTS, SPEECHES & MEDIA

- April 20, 2022 [Cardin joins his colleagues in a letter to the Council on Environmental Quality \(CEQ\) urging it to prioritize transparency, community accessibility, and racial, economic and environmental justice in the design and implementation of its Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#)
- March 23, 2022 [Cardin and Van Hollen announce key provisions in the Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations package that support Holocaust education and Holocaust survivors, and expand available assistance to enhance security at houses of worship](#)
- February 08, 2022 [Cardin, Van Hollen Urge Swift Response from DOJ, FBI to Recent HBCU Bomb Threats](#)
- January 27, 2022 [On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Cardin and Cohen Denounce Recent Antisemitic Activity Across the United States](#)
- January 18, 2022 [Cardin, Van Hollen Introduce Legislation Removing the Name of Segregationist from Chevy Chase Circle](#)
- January 06, 2022 [Statement Calling for Leaders to Speak Out Against Hate and Antisemitism in the Wake of Texas Hostage Tragedy](#)
- November 03, 2022 [Cardin, Padilla, Colleagues Call to Permanently Re-establish DOT Advisory Committee on Transportation Equity](#)



LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

- **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.

LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

- **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.

LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

- 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!" (which means "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 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.