



**September 19-25, 2017
Washington, DC
FINAL REPORT**

Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference



TMPLC Past Participants

Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference (TMPLC)

The Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference (TMPLC) was created in 2010 and aims to support a network of racially and ethnically diverse elected officials, address the underrepresentation of diverse populations in policymaking, and advance inclusive and equitable policies and governance.

The Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference (TMPLC) annually convenes a select group of political leaders and practitioners from the United States and Europe, representing diverse political parties, civil society, and backgrounds, to exchange information on inclusive governance and leadership initiatives. Annual events have taken place at the European Parliament in Brussels and U.S. Congress in Washington D.C. since the seminal 2009 “Black European Summit (BES): Transatlantic Dialogue on Political Inclusion” as an initiative of Congressional Members of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (i.e., U.S. Helsinki Commission) in cooperation with Members of the European Parliament and other stakeholders.

TMPLC has been a catalyst for global change:

- 2017, the European Parliament held its first hearing on People of African Descent in Europe.
- 2016, German, UK, and U.S. Parliaments held consultations with U.S. counterparts on staff diversity in Parliaments.
- 2015, diverse U.S. and European legislators and other leaders met in Brussels to discuss the creation of a transatlantic caucus.
- 2014, the European Parliament held its first event on “Afrophobia in the EU” in concert with the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) following the 2013 Helsinki Commission hearing in the U.S. Senate “Europeans of African ‘Black Europeans’: Race, Rights, and Politics.”
- 2013, MEP Hannes Swoboda, President of the Socialists and Democrats (S&D) party of the European Parliament launched the 2013 EuroPlus Initiative to ensure fair access to citizenship and rights for everyone in Europe, regardless of their nationality or origin, and particularly for the new generation of children and young people born, raised, living and studying in the EU.
- 2011, the Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network (TILN) was launched with the support of the U.S. State Department, German Marshall Fund (GMF), and Open Society Foundations, in conjunction with the U.S. Helsinki Commission, TMPLC, and other stakeholders. TILN empowers diverse young leaders committed to inclusive governance. There are currently more than 120 TILN alumni representing diverse communities in leadership.
- 2011, 15 Members of Congress and the European Parliament sent letters to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy Catherine Ashton requesting the adoption of an EU-U.S. Action Plan on Racial and Ethnic Equality and Inclusion modeled after Brazil and Colombia agreements.
- 2010, the Migration Policy Group developed a toolkit for mainstreaming diversity in political parties; hosted national workshops to assist diversity in political parties; and published an EU report on minority and migrant political representation.
- 2009, UN Expert on Minority Issues, Gay McDougall held a forum entitled “Minorities and Effective Political Participation” at the United Nations that included TMPLC participants.
- 2009, participants of the BES: Transatlantic Dialogue on Political Inclusion adopted the Brussels Declaration stating - “recognizing the full access of racial and ethnic minorities to participate in the political sphere and relevant areas of decision making at the levels of national, regional, and locally elected government appropriate to each nation is critical to combating racism and inequality and ensuring our democratic societies.”

Representative Alcee L. Hastings, U.S. Congress

MEP Hannes Swoboda, European Parliament

Ambassador William Kennard, U.S. Ambassador to the European Union

Representative Gregory Meeks, U.S. Congress

MEP Claude Moraes, European Parliament

Deputy Secretary General Maciej Popowski, European Union External Action Service

Minister Christiane Taubira, France

Secretary General Anders Johnsson, Inter-Parliamentary Union

MEP Cecile Kyenge, European Parliament

MP Diane Abbott, United Kingdom Parliament

MP Said Abdu, Swedish Parliament

Minister George Pau-Langevin, France

MP Helen Grant, United Kingdom Parliament

Representative Barbara Lee, U.S. Congress

MP David Lammy, United Kingdom Parliament

Representative Gwen Moore, U.S. Congress

Commissioner Domenica Ghidai, The Netherlands Equal Treatment Commission

MP Killion Munyama, Polish Parliament

Senator Vivienne Poy, Canadian Parliament

Senator Hassan Boussetta, Belgian Parliament

Minister Harlem Desir, France

Representative G.K. Butterfield, U.S. Congress

MEP Damian Dragici, European Parliament

MP John Abraham Godson, Polish Parliament

MP Momodou Jallow, Swedish Parliament

Dr. Hande Bozatlı, President of the Assembly of European Regions

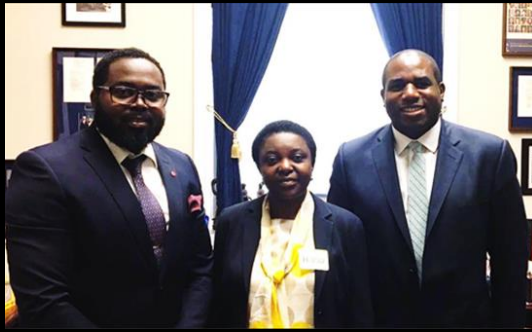
Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter, South Carolina House of Representatives

Representative Ponka We Victors, South Kansas House of Representatives

MEP Emine Bozkurt, European Parliament

MEP Glyn Ford, European Parliament

MP Joe Frans, Sweden



(MP Momodou Jallow, MEP Cecile Kyenge, MP David Lammy visiting the office of U.S. Representative Gwen Moore)

2017 TMPLC EUROPEAN DELEGATES

MP Momodou Malcom Jallow
Member of Parliament (Sweden)

MEP Cécile Kashetu Kyenge
Member of the European Parliament (Italy)

MP David Lammy
Member of Parliament (United Kingdom)

MP Dr. Killion Munyama
Member of Parliament; Parliamentary
Assembly Council of Europe (Poland)

EXPERTS

**Alfiaz Vaiya, European Parliament Anti-
Racism Diversity Intergroup (ARDI)**

Sarah Chander,
European Network Against Racism, People
of African Descent

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From September 19-25, a delegation of six European Legislators and experts participated in the annual Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference (TMPLC) Washington DC week to participate in Congressional events and a series of consultations with Members of the U.S. Congress, U.S. government officials, private sector organizations and foundations, and civil society to facilitate a transatlantic exchange on inclusive and equitable policies and governance.

KEY FINDINGS

Black Europeans/People of African Descent have had a presence in Europe for centuries, with current estimates around 15 million and growing. Many have long held citizenship, while others are more recent arrivals. Yet, the contributions and histories of African descendants, including the transatlantic slave trade and colonialism, are often not included and/or are misrepresented in European history and textbooks. Educational curricula, historical sites, and media should be updated and utilized to accurately relay the European presence, contributions, and experiences of People of African Descent.

Equality and Empowerment. Equality and Empowerment initiatives across sectors that include a focus on: political participation and leadership (e.g., increased representation, voter education, advocacy, community organizing); law enforcement and justice reform (e.g., policing, litigation, victim's legal assistance); employment, entrepreneurship, and education, including special initiatives for women, youth, and migrants, were identified by delegates as tools that would greatly assist efforts to address racial and ethnic discrimination and foster inclusion in Europe.

Transatlantic/Cross-Border and Coalition Initiatives. High rates of hate crimes, racial profiling, and discrimination in education, housing, justice, and other sectors were found for African descent and many other racial and ethnic populations in both Europe and the United States. Additionally disparities in wealth, opportunity, and access were found. Statistical data to accurately assess the problems and design solutions in Europe is needed. People of African descent should be included in the design and implementation of European anti-discrimination and inclusion efforts. Resources to facilitate sustainable transatlantic exchanges of information and implement successful public and private sector policies and initiatives are key.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Europe:

- The European Parliament should adopt a resolution on the situation of People of African Descent/Black Europeans in the European Union (EU).
- The European Parliament should create an EU-wide Parliamentary Caucus to promote diverse political leadership and inclusion of diverse populations across the EU that also includes members of National Parliaments committed to an inclusive EU.
- European Union Institutions, including the European Parliament should launch a People of African Descent internship program to encourage young people of African descent to work towards a career in European Union Institutions.
- EU institutions should host an event on legislative, policy, programs, and initiatives to improve the situation of People of African Descent.

United States:

- The U.S. Congress should pass legislation supporting People of African Descent/Black Europeans and addressing prejudice and discrimination (H.R. 1570 African Descent Affairs Act; H.R. 4649 Decade for the People of African Descent Act; H. Res. 421 Recognizing People of African Descent and Black Europeans; 2016 State Department Authorization Bill – U.S. - EU Joint Action Plan to combat prejudice and discrimination; e.g., see pages 15-18)
- Members of Congress should participate in a Transatlantic Caucus/Intergroup in support of political leadership and inclusion of diverse populations on both sides of the Atlantic.
- The U.S. State Department should include People of African Descent in Europe in its human rights and empowerment initiatives, including existing efforts focused on youth and gender.







Photo: U.S. Representative Gwen Moore with MEP Cecile Kyenge (Brussels/Italy), MP David Lammy (UK), Alfiaz Vaiya (ARDI), Sarah Chander (ENAR), MP Momodou Jallow (Sweden); (Bottom Left Page – Representative Sheila Jackson Lee)

“Brexit accompanied a drastic rise in racist and xenophobic violence which shook the European project to its core. The way forward is to be uncompromising in upholding the commitment to rights, equality and diversity.”- MEP Cecile Kyenge, (Brussels/Italy)

“The British put politics before the economy [to] end the free movement of people across Europe [but] BREXIT will lead to economic decline in the short to medium term [and] will not lead to an end to immigration....”-MP David Lammy (UK)

U.S. CONGRESS

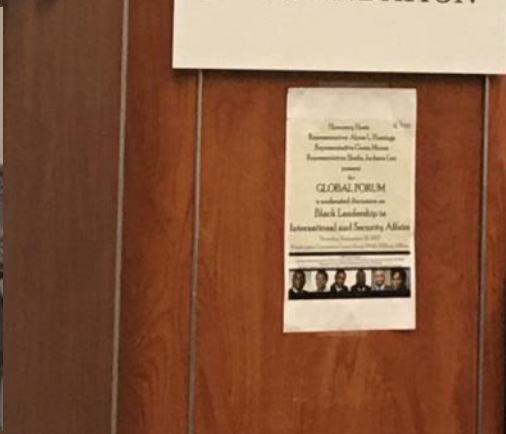
Beyond Brexit: European Perspectives on Race, Rights and Politics

The Congressional Briefing entitled, “Beyond Brexit: European Perspectives on Race, Rights and Politics” took place in the U. S. House of Representatives and focused on the potentially far-reaching impact of Brexit for the 57 North American and European countries that make up the region of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Helsinki Commissioners, Representatives Gwen Moore, Sheila Jackson Lee, and Alcee L. Hastings hosted the event. Remarks from the European Delegates explored the political and economic implications of the United Kingdom’s June 23, 2016 decision to leave the European Union (EU) (often described as Brexit). Brexit was described as a test for EU values and human rights in particular. Delegates asserted that Brexit had the potential to change EU and UK policies ranging from free movement and free trade to NATO, labor, and anti-discrimination laws. Delegates also noted increasing divisions within European societies in the lead up to and following the Brexit vote, including a rise in hate crimes and hate speech. Numerous parallels between the European and U.S. human and civil rights situations were made. Speakers stressed the importance of diverse political representation to address political platforms seeking to further divide UK and EU societies along racial and ethnic lines. U.S. Representatives Gwen Moore and Sheila Jackson Lee pledged to support transatlantic efforts to address human and civil rights challenges.

For more on the event:

Helsinki Commission article and video of the briefing: <https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/parliamentarians-and-commissioners-discuss-europe-s-changing-landscape-and>

Members of Congress and Congressional Staff of the Helsinki Commission and Congressional Black Caucus also engaged with Members of the delegation throughout the visit, including: Helsinki Commissioners - Representative Alcee L. Hastings, Representative Sheila Jackson Lee, Representative Gwen Moore, and Civil Rights icons: Representative John Conyers and U.S. Representative John Lewis. Judiciary Committee Counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives Keenan Keller also provided delegates with a historical overview of U.S. civil rights and recent legislative developments on profiling, voting rights, immigration, and Charlottesville, Virginia following a gathering of self-proclaimed white nationalists in the city that sparked nationwide protests.



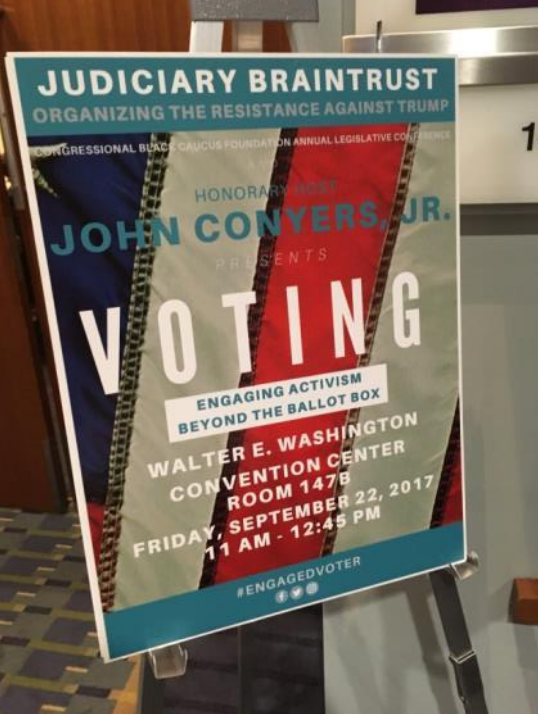




Photo: MP David Lammy, MEP Cecile Kyenge, Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley, U.S. State Department, and Ricardo Michel, Executive Vice President, AMEX International at the CBCF ALC Global Forum: “Black leadership in International and Security Affairs.

“Black people in the UK are facing similar challenges to those in the US: rising populism, overrepresentation in the criminal justice system. We need to look for similar solutions and take note of the various successful initiatives for the economic advancement of Black people.” – MP David Lammy (UK)

CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE, POLITICAL PARTICIPATION, EQUALITY AND ACCESS

Delegates participated in the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference (ALC), attended by more than 9,000 African-American and other leaders. Delegates attended the Opening Town Hall of the ALC, which focused on the conference theme for 2017 - “Combatting the systematic destruction of civil rights,” and featured notable speakers from U.S. Representative Maxine Waters to political strategist and former BET Commentator Jeff Johnson.

An ALC event hosted by the TMPLC entitled the “Global Forum: Black Leadership in International and Security Affairs,” featured delegates MP David Lammy and MEP Cecile Kyenge; and U.S. speakers U.S. Representative Gwen Moore; Alfonzo L. Fulgham, Former USAID Administrator; Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley of the U.S. State Department; Ricardo Michel, Executive Vice President, AMEX International Inc.; and Alex Johnson of the Open Society Policy Center. The event featured a moderated discussion with top African-American and Diaspora public and private sector leaders on national security and foreign policy issues. Speakers noted that there had not been an increase in African-American Ambassadors in more than a decade and discussed recent U.S. policy and legislative initiatives to advance diversity in international careers and business (e.g., the 2017 National Security Diversity and Inclusion Workforce Act introduced by Helsinki Commissioner U.S. Senator Ben Cardin in April). The need for increased financial capital for African-Americans working in the global business arena from trade to development work was highlighted by speakers. Using technology to inform and empower African-American populations on issues ranging from North Korea, China, and Russia, to the global economic crisis was also raised. Other topics included the United Nation’s International Decade for People of African Descent and other global empowerment initiatives for African Descent populations in Europe and elsewhere in the world (e.g., H.R. 1570 African Descent Affairs Act; H.R. 4649 Decade for the People of African Descent Act; H. Res. 421 Recognizing People of African Descent and Black Europeans; 2016 State Department Authorization Bill – U.S.-EU Joint Action Plan to combat prejudice and discrimination). The closing discussion stressed greater diversity in senior government and corporate positions to influence global decision-making. Participants also drew comparisons between diversity and inclusion programs in the US and the EU, and explored how learning could be transferred.



Photo: MP Killion Munyama with CBCF ALC "Voting Rights: Engaging Activism Beyond the Ballot Box" panelists: Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Jr., Hip Hop Caucus, Symone Sanders, CNN Strategist, and Derrick Johnson, NAACP National President

***"Voters of all backgrounds need to see the benefits of diverse political participation. Having a representative political system is a necessary step towards a more fair and equal society."
- MP Killion Munyama (Poland)***

Delegate MP David Lammy was also featured at the CBCF ALC Judiciary Braintrust entitled, "Criminal Justice Reform: Making America Accountable for Black Lives," where he presented his groundbreaking report on racial disparities in the UK criminal justice system. The "Lammy Review," is an independent review into the treatment of, and outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals in the Criminal Justice System commissioned by the UK Prime Minister. The report found that despite people from minority ethnic backgrounds in England and Wales breaking educational, economic, and leadership barriers, they still disproportionately make up 25% of the prison population despite only being 14% of the UK population. The findings drew parallels between the over-incarceration of African-Americans and racial profiling. Protecting Black communities in light of structural racism and ensuring justice and accountability for law enforcement related deaths was a central focus of speakers. Speakers also considered what should be done against the backdrop of the current U.S. political climate which many viewed as reversing justice system reforms and recent efforts to improve relationships between law enforcement and the Black community. Speakers called for transatlantic solutions.

For more on the Lammy Review:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf

Delegate MP Killion Munyama was a featured speaker at the Braintrust, "Voting Rights: Engaging Activism Beyond the Ballot Box," which also included African-American experts across the political spectrum - Desiree Tims, League of Conservation Voters, Derrick Johnson, NAACP National President, Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Jr., Hip Hop Caucus, Nicole Austin-Hillery, Brennan Center for Justice, Michelle Jawando, Center for American Progress, Symone Sanders, CNN Strategist, Tanya Clay House, National Bar Association, and Ashley Bryant, Political Consultant. As the only African descent member of the Polish Parliament and a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) MP Munyama discussed his efforts leading a Europe-wide report to be released in 2018 on promoting diversity and equality in politics as the rapporteur of the PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination. He cited democratic practices that increased voter participation in Europe, such as Sunday voting and the right for Polish prisoners to vote. MP Munyama's insights facilitated a discussion on the need to reframe the narrative around incarcerated people in the U.S. by focusing on democratic participation to address the inability of an estimated six thousand incarcerated African-Americans to vote. U.S. speakers also focused on recent challenges to voting rights for African-Americans including voter identification and registration laws. Solutions for addressing issues of voter apathy through diverse and intergenerational and broad coalitions on voter empowerment were viewed as critical to ensuring diverse and inclusive political representation that would support equitable policies.

For more on U.S. and European Elections, and international observations on the 2016 US Election:

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/>

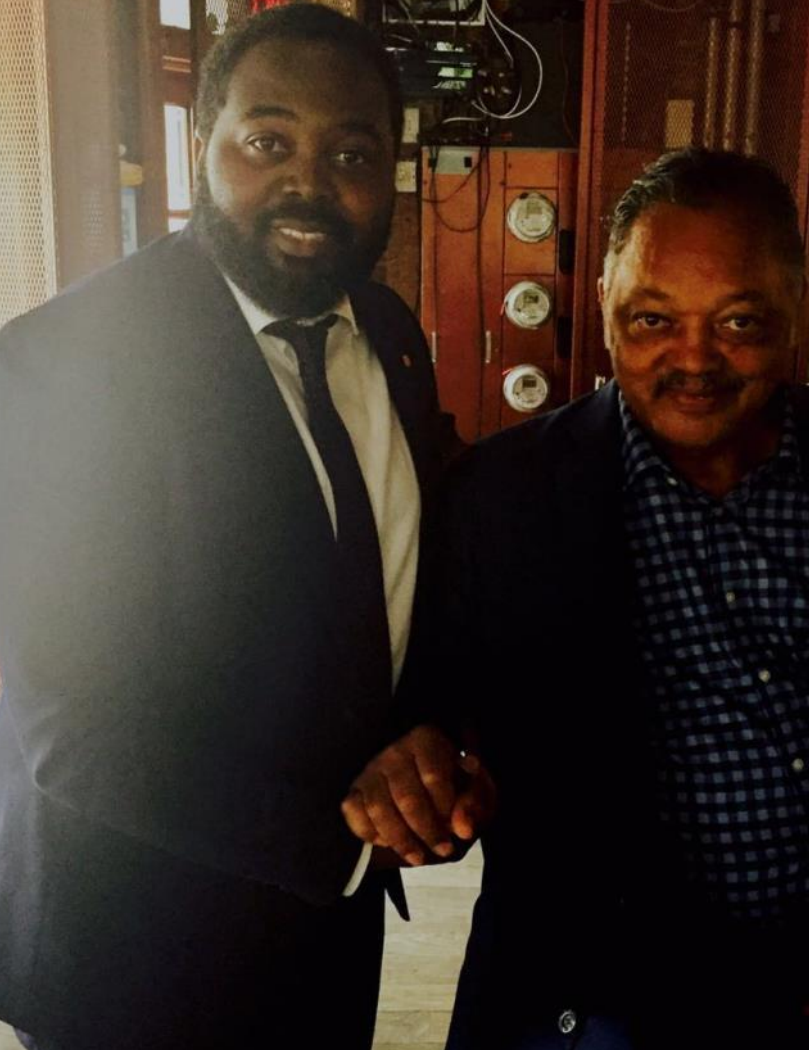




Photo: Paxton Baker-Washington Nationals Founding Partners Groups; MP Momodou Jallow; Will Stute-McDermott, Will, & Emery; Alfiaz Vaiya, ARDI; MP Killion Munyama; Sarah Chander, ENAR; Eliot Williamson-The Market Rep, Inc.

“The rise in populism in Europe is complemented by xenophobic discourse from mainstream politicians. As a result, the political response to the refugee crisis can be characterized as a reactionary response to those in need. The solutions we need are economic and social investments so all can work, pay taxes, [and] have a better society.”
- MP Momodou Jallow (Sweden)

ECONOMICS, EDUCATION, & HERITAGE

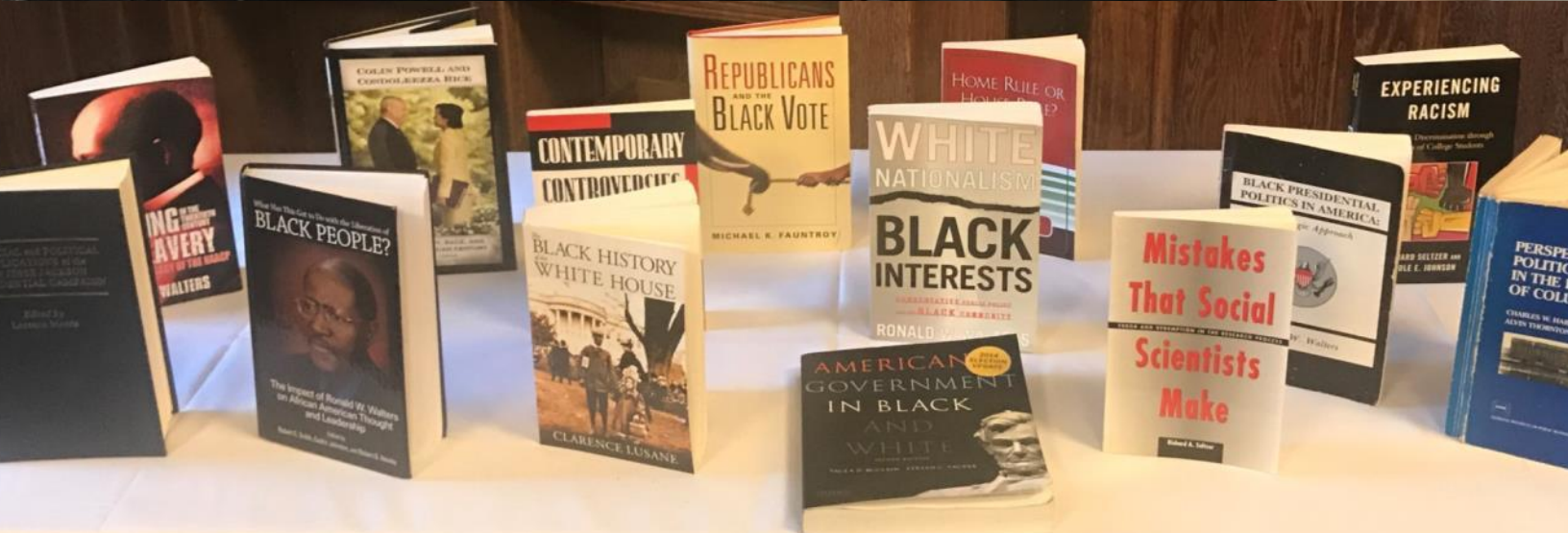
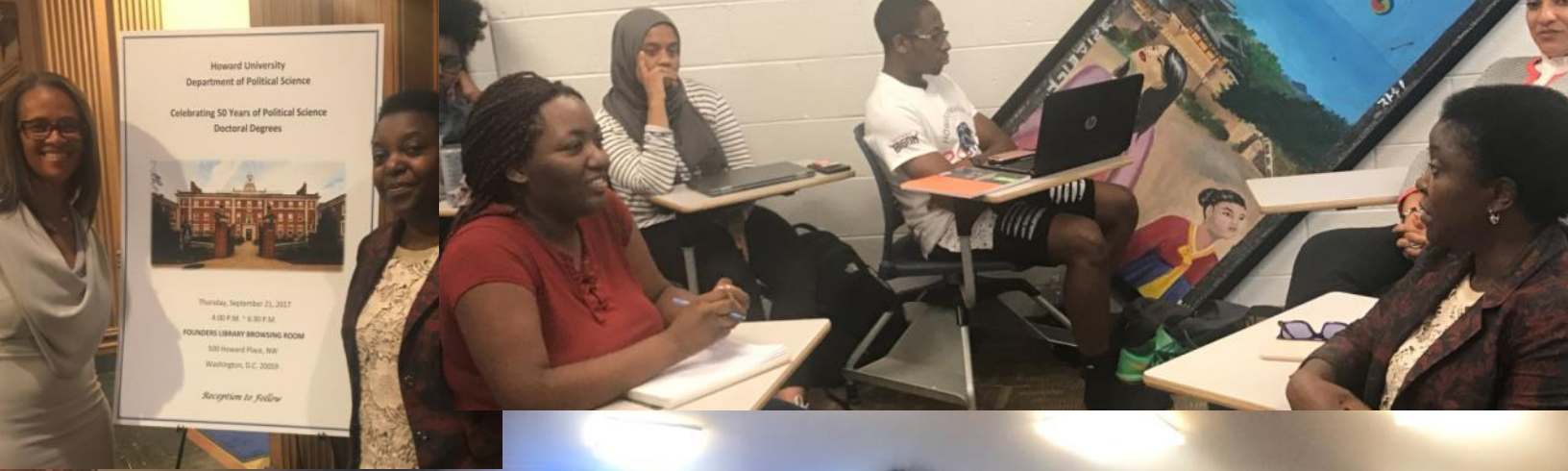
Delegates participated in meetings with private sector, philanthropic, and government entities on a range of issues including economic development, entrepreneurship, and private equity and other financial tools to support business and other opportunities for racial and ethnic communities in the U.S. and Europe. Business models ranging from incentives for companies to locate in diverse and underserved communities to diversity hiring, recruitment, and retention strategies were discussed. Opportunities for African-American businesses abroad were also raised, including in technology sectors. Philanthropic organizations cited microfinance, entrepreneurship, academic fellowships and grants, and other programs as key to supporting economic opportunities and access for diverse populations. A level playing field for employment, entrepreneurship, raising capital, and financial literacy and education were identified as crucial variables to addressing racial disparity gaps. Economic and business education were critical to addressing wealth gaps in wealth as well as initiatives that focused on addressing barriers for women and youth.

Throughout the week heritage (museums, historically accurate textbooks and curricula, historical and present day role models, etc.) was cited as key to educating and empowering a new generation of leaders across sectors. Delegates visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) a Smithsonian Institution museum established in December 2003 following initiatives begun more than a hundred years ago. The museum houses close to 37,000 objects and features history on American, European, and African transatlantic slave and trade routes among other global histories. Delegates also visited Howard University - the top U.S. institution for graduating Black PhDs and one of the United States' first universities to provide higher education for African-Americans following the American Civil War. Delegates attended events with the heads of the Howard University Ralph J. Bunche Center responsible for student educational exchanges, and Political Science and World Languages and Cultures, where they spoke with students and faculty about the situation of people of African descent in Europe, including the experiences of Black leaders in European politics, and the work of the European Network Against Racism to advance legislative efforts on People of African Descent in the European Parliament. Exchange opportunities between U.S. and European students were also discussed. Delegates also visited the Howard University Moorland-Springarn Center (MSRC) at Founders Library, one of the world's largest repositories dedicated to the culture and history of people of African descent. The library includes the collections of Lewis Tappan, a noted abolitionist who organized the American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.



CELEBRATING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY
of the National Museum of African American History and Culture





**THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT ANTI-
RACISM AND DIVERSITY
INTERGROUP (ARDI)**

ARDI is a cross-party coalition of members of the European Parliament working together to promote racial equality, counter racism, and educate about non-discrimination in the work of the European Parliament. ARDI is at the center of parliamentary work for racial equality, and against all discrimination based on racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, and nationality. The Intergroup also looks at discrimination based on these grounds together with gender and age.

**THE EUROPEAN
NETWORK AGAINST
RACISM (ENAR)**

ENAR is the only pan-European network of anti-racist organizations working to combat racism in the European Union. ENAR advocates for improved legislation, policy and practice against racism in EU member states. With over 150 civil society member organizations across the European states, ENAR seeks to build a broad and powerful coalition of actors committed to an anti-racist vision of European society.



(Delegate Sarah Chander at Howard University with photo of 2016 TMPLC delegate MP Helen Grant)

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ANTI-RACISM AND DIVERSITY
INTERGROUP (ARDI) AND EUROPEAN NETWORK AGAINST
RACISM (ENAR) EFFORTS ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF PEOPLE OF
AFRICAN DESCENT (PAD) IN EUROPE AND BLACK EUROPEANS
2016-2017**

ENAR launches Shadow report on People of African Descent - European Parliament, Brussels - March 2016

ENAR launched the first pan-European report on the situation of people of African descent and Black Europeans in Europe. This report outlined available data on racial violence, discrimination and structural inequalities experienced by People of African Descent in 20 European countries. The report called for a European Resolution on the rights of People of African Descent and Black Europeans.

ARDI/ENAR/Open Society Justice Initiative Event - December 2016

The multi-stakeholder discussion exchanged good practices on EU guidelines for fair and efficient policing and explored how the EU can build on the European Code of Police Ethics and the Rotterdam Charter and other initiatives.

ENAR People of African Descent Delegation to Brussels - June 2017

ENAR members with expertise on People of African Descent and anti-Black Discrimination/Afrophobia met over two days with high-level European Union stakeholders to advocate for the recognition of rights of People of African Descent. The delegation met with Members of the European Parliament, the European Commission, ARDI and the US Helsinki Commission. The delegation raised awareness of racism against Black people in Europe and made connections for future work.

European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Hearing on People of African Descent in the EU - September 2017

The first official discussion on People of African Descent and anti-Black racism/Afrophobia in the LIBE Committee of the European Parliament. ENAR Board Member Karen Taylor from the Initiative Schwarze Menschen in Deutschland (Initiative for Black People in Germany) gave a presentation on issues facing People of African Descent in Europe, and presented solutions.

Upcoming:

UN PAD Decade Regional Conference, Geneva - November 23-24, 2017

ENAR members will attend the Regional Conference of the UN International Decade for People of African Descent for Europe, North America, and Central Asia. The discussions will focus on recognition, justice and development for people of African descent.

ENAR Equal@work seminar on Women of Colour in the workplace, Brussels - December 1, 2017

The seminar will explore discrimination in the workplace at the intersection of race and gender. It will consider the position of women of colour in our workplaces and in the wider European labour market and develop ways to address their experiences of discrimination, exclusion and inequality.

BLACK EUROPEAN SUMMIT
Transatlantic Dialogue on Political Inclusion
2009
Brussels Declaration

Preamble

We, as members of the public, private, and voluntary sectors from Europe and the United States of America convening in Brussels, Belgium from the 15 to 16 of April 2009 for the Black European Summit: Transatlantic Dialogue on Political Inclusion, draw attention to the need for coordinated strategies to address racism and discrimination;

We recognize the democratic, multi-ethnic and multi-racial nature of our countries' diverse societies;

We reaffirm the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and recalling that all individuals are born equal in dignity and rights;

We remain concerned that the political and legal systems in some of our societies do not reflect the racial and ethnic diversity within our societies, which then contributes to the continuation of racism and discrimination;

We recognize that the full access of racial and ethnic minorities to participate in the political sphere and relevant areas of decision making at the levels of national, regional, and locally elected government appropriate to each nation is critical to combating racism and inequality and ensuring our democratic societies;

We therefore note the need for concrete strategies to: increase the representation and influence of racial and ethnic minority policymakers; jointly seek solutions to racial and ethnic minorities' increased participation in decision-making in the development and implementation of policy initiatives to address discrimination and inequality; and support opportunities to exchange and share perspectives in these areas through the continuance of a transatlantic dialogue to realize these goals.

We today resolve that we will endeavor to enact initiatives to eradicate racial and ethnic discrimination through:

Continuing a transatlantic dialogue that: includes cultural exchanges between American and European racial and ethnic minority groups, including youth; focuses on the development of opportunities for racial and ethnic minority political leadership and participation in the policymaking process; and fosters the exchange of information on best practices to implement and enforce antidiscrimination measures and achieve racial equality;

Joining forces over the coming months to develop common goals and objectives in each of our decision-making bodies to recognize Europe's Black and racial and ethnic minority populations for their historical and present-day contributions and acknowledge past injustices;

Promoting racial and ethnic minority participation at all levels of national, regional, and local government through the education of civil and political rights, including the legislative process and advocacy of legislative issues relevant to racial and ethnic minority communities, development of targeted professional development and hiring strategies, increased youth and community outreach, and self-organization and other empowerment initiatives;

Reaffirming our continued cooperation and commitment to work with our governments, international institutions, civil society, private sector, and other partners to improve institutions so that they are fully participatory and reflect the democratic principles of equality, justice, and celebration of the strengths of our countries' diversity.

H. RES. 421 - RECOGNIZING PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT AND BLACK EUROPEANS.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 19, 2013

Mr. Hastings of Florida submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Recognizing people of African Descent and Black Europeans.

Whereas the 109th Congress passed H. Con. Res. 60 and S. Con. Res. 90, recognizing African descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean, raising awareness of the racism and discrimination faced by those communities, and leading to numerous public and private sector initiatives between the United States and Latin American and Caribbean countries to improve the situation of African descendants;

Whereas the persistence of racism and discrimination in Europe similarly necessitates congressional action to raise awareness and promote public and private sector initiatives to stem this trend;

Whereas the terms “Afro-European”, “African European”, or “Black European” refer to people of African ancestry or descent born in, citizens of, or living in Europe;

Whereas an estimated 7,000,000 to 10,000,000 individuals of African descent currently live in and have long had a presence in Europe, forming an influential part of the African diaspora;

Whereas the story of Black Europeans remains widely untold, rendering many of their past and present contributions to the political and social life of Europe invisible or forgotten;

Whereas unlike more contemporary figures, largely unknown Blacks have made significant contributions to European history and culture, including Spanish poet Juan Latino, Italian Duke Alessandro Medici, French novelist Alexandre Dumas, German scholar Anthony William Amo, French Composer Le Chevalier de St. George, British abolitionist Oladuah Equiano, and Russian General and Governor Abram Hannibal, great-grandfather of Russian poet Aleksandr Pushkin;

Whereas the largest estimated populations of Black Europeans can be found in France (approximately 2,500,000), the United Kingdom (approximately 1,500,000), and the Netherlands (approximately 500,000), in addition to sizeable populations in Germany, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, Norway, Ireland, Russia, Switzerland, Spain, Belgium, Denmark, and Austria;

Whereas the presence of Blacks in Europe can be traced to voluntary and forced migration resulting from the geographical proximity of Europe to Africa and the Middle East, including the transatlantic slave trade, the colonization of Africa and the Caribbean, African and African-American military deployments, the movement of refugees and asylum seekers, and educational and other professional exchanges;

Whereas although Black Europeans have made significant achievements in and contributions to European society, large numbers have and continue to be more likely than the general population to experience discrimination and be underrepresented in leadership roles in the public and private sector as a result of the color of their skin and ancestry;

Whereas racism has long been, and continues to be, a problem in Europe;

Whereas, on April 29, 2008, before the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, at a hearing entitled “The State of (In)visible Black Europe: Race, Rights, and Politics”, Dr. Philomena Essed stated, “Probably the only common European experience among many, if not all, Afro-descendants is their exposure to [...] racism and systemic discrimination, regardless of country, socio-economic conditions, gender, age, or level of education”;

Whereas as early as 1997, the European Commission opinion poll entitled “Racism and Xenophobia in Europe” reported a “worrying level of racism and xenophobia in [European Union] Member States, with nearly 33% of those interviewed openly describing themselves as ‘quite racist’ or ‘very racist’.”;

Whereas annual reports of the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (EUFRA), including the 2009 European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey (EU-MIDIS), the first European Union-wide survey of ethnic minority and immigrant groups’ experiences of discrimination and victimization in everyday life in the 27 member states of the European Union, have found that persons of African descent experience high incidents of discriminatory treatment, racist

crime, and victimization, and lacked an awareness of their rights, often underreporting cases of discrimination to law enforcement and human rights agencies;

Whereas the 2013 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) Annual Hate Crimes report included findings that there were more than 16 deaths and violent assaults against people of African origin, and that persons of African descent are often targets of racist and anti-migrant violence, especially in eastern Europe, yet in many countries legal assistance and financial support for victims while recovering from violent attacks does not exist;

Whereas prejudice and discrimination towards Black Europeans has also been linked to changes in immigration and asylum laws as a result of antiterrorism initiatives and the growth and mainstreaming of nationalist and anti-immigrant political parties and groups, including neo-Nazis and skinheads;

Whereas the Open Society Justice Initiative in an initial 2009 report, entitled “Ethnic Profiling in the European Union”, and subsequent reports has found that police officers in the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Germany, and the Netherlands routinely use racial profiling, including targeting Blacks, when deciding whom to target for stops, searches, raids, and surveillance, leading to some of the first nationwide grassroots and legal efforts to end racial profiling in France, Germany, and elsewhere in Europe;

Whereas there have been numerous efforts by the public and private sector to address racial discrimination and inequality in Europe, including the introduction of antidiscrimination and equality laws that include the legal support for special measures or positive (affirmative) action, creation of equality bodies, media campaigns, and efforts to increase minority political participation, and campaigns to end the use of stereotypes and derogatory terms to refer to Blacks in everyday language, the media, and textbooks;

Whereas these efforts include the United Nations designation of 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent in an effort to strengthen national actions to ensure that people of African descent enjoy economic, cultural, social, civil, and political rights, as well as promote a greater knowledge of and respect for their diverse heritage and culture;

Whereas these efforts also include the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s (PA) adoption of a Resolution on “Strengthening Efforts to Combat Racism and Xenophobia and Foster Inclusion” at the 2011 Annual Session recognizing the international year for people of African descent and calling for OSCE to implement several strategic initiatives to address racial and ethnic discrimination in the OSCE region;

Whereas in 2011, OSCE/ODIHR held its first “Roundtable on the contemporary forms of racism and xenophobia affecting Peoples of African Descent in the OSCE region”, and in 2012 a hate crimes training for the people of African descent, and in 2013 an exchange with European and United States civil rights leaders of African descent and other public and private sector entities combating discrimination and inequality;

Whereas these efforts also include transatlantic meetings of Black and minority legislators held at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium, including the March 24, 2011, and June 1, 2010, through June 2, 2010, Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conferences and April 15, 2009, through April 16, 2009, “Black European Summit: Transatlantic Dialogue on Political Participation” and the adoption of the Brussels Declaration calling for increased minority political inclusion;

Whereas as part of the March 24, 2011, Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference legislators and minority leaders from North America and Europe held a Parliamentary Forum at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium, to discuss a “Joint Action Plan on Racial and Ethnic Equality and Inclusion” between the European Union and United States;

Whereas in October 2013, European Parliamentarians in partnership with the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) held “(In)visible Diversity a series of debates in the European Parliament”, including, a debate entitled, “People of African descent and Black Europeans: Realities of Afrophobia”;

Whereas despite these efforts, international entities, such as the OSCE Personal Representative on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, EUFRA, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, and the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Independent Expert on minority issues, and Experts Working Group on People of African Descent, have documented ongoing racism and xenophobia, and racial and ethnic discrimination, and called for an increase in initiatives to combat racism and inequality; and

Whereas throughout the history of the United States, members of both the public and private sectors have exchanged information on best practices for antidiscrimination measures and racial equality with committed parties in other countries, including initiatives such as the ongoing implementation of the 2008 “Joint Action Plan Between the

Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of the United States of America to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Discrimination and Promote Equality”, also known as the United States-Brazil Joint Action Plan Against Racial Discrimination, and the more recent United States-Colombia Action Plan on Racial and Ethnic Equality: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) encourages the recognition and celebration of the collective history and achievements made by people of African descent;

(2) reaffirms the importance of inclusion and the full and equal participation of people of African descent around the world in all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural life;

(3) recognizes that, as a result of their skin color and ancestry, many Black Europeans have wrongfully experienced injustices in the public and private sector;

(4) welcomes parliamentary activities, including those of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly, to engage in efforts to promote racial equality and combat racial discrimination through efforts such as introducing legislation, speaking out against racism, increasing the political participation of racial minorities, and working with Black European and other minority communities to develop relevant policies;

(5) urges European governments and members of civil society and the private sector, in consultation with Black European communities, to develop and implement initiatives to combat racial discrimination and promote racial equality in Europe, by—

(A) drafting and implementing antidiscrimination, special measures, hate crimes, migration and integration, and other laws and policies to address discrimination and disparities and promote equality, noting the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Experts Working Group on People of African Descent (WGPAD), the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (EUFRA), the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism and Independent Expert on minority issues, and the OSCE Personal Representative on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination;

(B) promoting and funding research, including the collection of national census data on Black Europeans and its inclusion in the annual reports of the EUFRA;

(C) providing technical support, training, and funding to Black European civil society groups working to combat racism, discrimination, and inequality, and uphold basic human rights in Europe;

(D) introducing national measures to counter stereotypical images of persons of African descent, by revising textbooks, increasing efforts to include Black Europeans in history and heritage institutions, and remembering victims of colonialism, slavery, and other atrocities;

(E) developing or increasing financial support for funds to assist victims of hate crimes with legal assistance and compensation when incapacitated due to physical or emotional injuries;

(F) developing specific initiatives that address the special concerns of Black European women and youth;

(G) actively promoting racial and ethnic minority participation at all levels of national, regional, and local government through the education of civil and political rights, including the legislative process and advocacy of legislative issues relevant to racial and ethnic minority communities, development of targeted professional development and hiring strategies, increased youth and community outreach, and self-organization and other empowerment initiatives; and

(H) recruiting, training, and hiring Black Europeans for professional positions in support of these initiatives;

(6) urges the Secretary of State to—

(A) provide technical assistance and other support for European governments and members of the civil society and private sector to fulfil the initiatives outlined above;

(B) increase support for the WGPAD; and

(C) appoint a Senior Advisor on Afro-descent peoples at the Department of State and create a Fund for the Inclusion of Racial and Ethnic minorities modelled after the Department’s International Fund for Women and Girls and LGBT Global Equality Funds; and

(7) supports the adoption of a “Joint Action Plan on Racial and Ethnic Equality and Inclusion” between the European Union and United States and implementation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly 2011 Resolution on Strengthening Efforts to Combat Racism and Xenophobia and Foster Inclusion to assist in fulfilling the initiatives above.



Photo Left: Paxton Baker-Washington Nationals Founding Partners Groups, MEP Cecile Kyenge, Crisous Gordon-Destination DC; Photo Right: U.S. Representative Steny Hoyer, U.S. Representative Alcee L. Hastings, MP Momodou Jallow

“I have never been to a place where this number of people of African Descent meet and share ideas of the great future for our people, not just in the US but worldwide.” – MP Killion Munyama (Poland)

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