



U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION LEADERSHIP ON RACIAL JUSTICE

2008 – 2020

The Helsinki Commission holds its first hearings exploring the situation of **Black Europeans** and **racism in Europe in the 21st century**; the resulting call for a transatlantic partnership to address racism launches more than a decade of Helsinki Commission activities.

At the second **Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference (TMPLC)** supporting representative democracies, U.S. and European legislators including Chairman Hastings call for governments to adopt a U.S.-E.U. Joint Strategy on Racial and Ethnic Equality.

TMPLC support for diverse youth political participation leads to the creation of the successful **Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network**, launched by the Helsinki Commission in partnership with the State Department, the German Marshall Fund of the United States, and other organizations.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly adopts a **resolution** by Chairman Hastings and Netherlands MP Kathleen Ferrier commemorating the International Year for People of African Descent and calling for an OSCE Action plan to counter racism and xenophobia.

Helsinki Commissioners join Black parliamentarians from Europe and racial justice advocates in launching Europe's first People of African Descent week (**PADWEEK**).

The Helsinki Commission launches "Human Rights at Home" **hearing** series focusing on racial injustice in the United States and the global impact of protests following the death of **George Floyd**.

Chairman Hastings introduces legislation—including **H.R.6239** and **H.R.6240**—strengthening transatlantic democracies through diversity, inclusion, and racial justice policies, and promoting diversity and inclusion in the federal workforce.

Chairman Hastings, Rep. John Lewis, and Rep. Gregory W. Meeks **secure federal funding** language to help foster diversity and inclusion in international affairs and provide protections for minority and indigenous populations abroad.

Chairman Hastings and other Helsinki Commissioners **call for comprehensive action** by the European Union to address anti-Black racism abroad.

2008

Chairman Hastings and European parliamentarians convene the inaugural Black European Summit launching the **Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference (TMPLC)** and more than a decade of transatlantic initiatives to address racism.

2009

2011

2013

The Helsinki Commission organizes a **ten-nation delegation** of Black Europeans from OSCE participating States to learn effective ways to combat racism and discrimination.

2014

The Helsinki Commission supports the first EU-wide **publication** on Black European policy recommendations, *Invisible Visible Minority*.

2017

The Helsinki Commission hosts an **event** featuring MEP Soraya Post, one of only two Roma members of the European Parliament, who led historic efforts to address the structural, far-reaching aspects, practices, and manifestations of anti-Roma discrimination.

2018

Chairman Hastings introduces legislation to protect and promote the rights of people of African descent worldwide (**H.R.1877**) and to recognize Black Europeans' fight for inclusion (**H.R.256**).

2019

The Helsinki Commission works with the U.S. State Department to launch a **new program** empowering young people in the OSCE region to collaborate across diverse social, cultural, religious, and generational differences to promote positive change through democratic practices.

The Helsinki Commission hosts a **hearing** where European legislators call for transatlantic action to address racism and foster inclusion.

MEP Samira Rafaela, the first woman of Afro-Caribbean descent to win a seat in the European Parliament, joins a Helsinki Commission **podcast** to discuss opportunities for the United States and Europe to achieve a long-term vision of stable, and sustainable, and inclusive democracies.

2020

A Helsinki Commission **event** explores apologies, reparations, reconciliation, and healing in response to historic injustices, including the Holocaust, the transatlantic slave trade, and genocides.