



*Honorary Hosts*

*Senator Harry Reid, Rep. John Lewis, Rep. Alcee L. Hastings, Rep. Emmanuel Cleaver, Senator Bob Menendez*

**present**



**LEGISLATOR'S ROUNDTABLE:**

**"Equity and Inclusion Policies for a Changing World"**

**Wednesday, September 14, 2016**

**U.S. Capitol Visitors Center – Room SVC203**

**Transatlantic Minority Political Leaders Conference**



**TMPLC Legislators**

*The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of the U.S. Congress*

*The Honorable Hannes Swoboda  
Member of the European Parliament, S&D President*

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

*Deputy Secretary General Maciej Popowski  
European Union External Action Service*

*Secretary General Anders Johnsson  
Inter-Parliamentary Union*

*The Honorable Diane Abbott  
Member of Parliament, United Kingdom*

*The Honorable Barbara Lee  
Member of the U.S. Congress*

*The Honorable Gregory Meeks  
Member of the U.S. Congress*

*The Honorable Claude Moraes  
Member of the European Parliament*

*Minister George Pau-Langevin  
France*

*Commissioner Domenica Ghidai  
The Netherlands Equal Treatment Commission*

*Senator Vivienne Poy  
Member of the Canadian Parliament*

*Senator Hassan Boussetta  
Member of the Belgian Parliament*

*Minister Harlem Desir  
France*

*The Honorable G.K. Butterfield  
Member of the U.S. Congress*

*The Honorable Damian Dragici  
Member of the European Parliament*

*The Honorable John Abraham Godson  
Member of Parliament, Poland*

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

*The Honorable Gilda Cobb-Hunter  
Members of the South Carolina House of  
Representatives*

*The Honorable Ponka We Victors  
Members of the South Kansas House of Representatives*

*The Honorable Glyn Ford  
Member of the European Parliament*

The Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference (TMPLC) was created to support inclusive government and has been particularly focused on the political inclusion of underrepresented ethnic and racial populations in Europe and the United States. Beginning with the first meeting in 2009 entitled the Black European Summit (BES): Transatlantic Dialogue on Political Inclusion, subsequent TMPLC events since 2010 held at the headquarters of the European Parliament in Brussels, and in the U.S. Congress have focused on numerous issues and activities, including: strategies for increasing diverse representation in public life; the tenth anniversary of the European Union’s Racial Equality Directive; the experience of Afro-descent, Roma, Muslim, and migrant populations; immigration, national security, and anti-discrimination policies; and consideration of a European Union – United States Joint Action Plan on Equality and Inclusion. In particular, the conferences have identified the need for increased initiatives and opportunities for diverse youth in public life, with TMPLC participants providing assistance and serving in an advisory capacity for the next generation of leaders through the Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network (TILN) since its founding in 2011.

TMPLC 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.

TMPLC has been a catalyst for global change:

- In 2015, diverse U.S. and European legislators and other leaders met in Brussels to discuss the creation of a transatlantic caucus.
- In 2014, the European Parliament held its first hearing on “Afrophobia in the EU” in concert with the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) following a 2013 Helsinki Commission hearing in the U.S. Senate “Europeans of African ‘Black Europeans’: Race, Rights, and Politics.”
- In 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.
- In 2011, the Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network (TILN) was launched with the support of the U.S. State Department, German Marshall Fund (GMF), Open Society, 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 100 TILN alumni representing diverse communities in leadership.
- In 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.
- In 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.
- In 2009, UN Expert on Minority Issues, Gay McDougall held a forum entitled “Minorities and Effective Political Participation” at the United Nations.
- In 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.

# Transatlantic Minority Political Leaders Conference

## *Honorary Hosts*

*Rep. Alcee L. Hastings, Rep. John Lewis, Rep. Emmanuel Cleaver,  
Senator Harry Reid & Senator Bob Menendez*

## LEGISLATOR'S ROUNDTABLE:

### "Equity and Inclusion Policies for a Changing World"

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

U.S. Capitol Visitors Center – Room SVC203

## Agenda

- 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. Tour of the Capitol (Optional)
- 10:00 – 10:10 a.m. **Welcome & Overview**
- *Natalia Banulescu-Bogdan, Assistant Director, International Program, Migration Policy Institute*
- Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Mischa Thompson, Helsinki Commission, US*
- 10:10-11:00 a.m. **Roundtable Discussion: *State of the Unions ~Civil and Human Rights in the Transatlantic Space***
- Opening Remarks*
- *Prof. Mireille Fanon-Mendes, UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent*
  - *Councilman Jallow Momodou, Former Vice Chair, ENAR; Malmö City Council, Sweden*
- Discussion (40 min) facilitated by Simon Woolley, Operation Black Vote*
- 11:00-11:50 a.m. **Roundtable Discussion: *Empowering Transatlantic Communities for Change***
- Opening Remarks*
- *MP Azize Tank, Germany*
  - *MP Said Abdu, Sweden*
  - *Altiaz Vaiya, Coordinator, European Parliament Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup (ARDI)*
- Discussion (30 min) facilitated by Gabriele Gün Tank, Berlin Integration Commissioner*
- 11:50– 12:40 p.m. **Closing Discussion**
- *Dr. Gail Christopher, Vice President, W.K. Kellogg Foundation*
  - *Sanjukta Moorthy, Open Society Initiative for Europe*
  - *Deputy Assistant Secretary Conrad Tribble, U.S. State Department*
- Discussion (20 min) facilitated by Jeff Johnson, JIJ Communications*
- 12:40– 12:45 p.m. **Closing Remarks**
- *U.S. Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ)*

## EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS

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Said Abdu, Member of Parliament (Sweden)

Prof. Mireille Fanon-Mendes, UN Working Group People African Descent

Daniel Gyamerah, Citizens for Europe; Each One Teach One (Germany)

Karen Kaneza, African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe (Portugal)

Jallow Momodou, City Council Malmö; ENAR (Sweden)

Sanjukta Moorthy, Open Society Initiative for Europe

Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol (United Kingdom)

Azize Tank, Member of Parliament (Germany)

Gabriele Gün Tank, Berlin Integration Commissioner (Germany)

Christiane Taubira, Former Justice Minister (France)

Alfiaz Vaiya, European Parliament Antidiscrimination Intergroup (ARDI)

Simon Woolley, Operation Black Vote (United Kingdom)

## U.S. PARTICIPANTS

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Representative Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL)

U.S. Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ)

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Enola Aird, Founder and President, CHN

Cornell Belcher, CEO, Brilliant Corners

Lora Berg, German Marshall Fund of the United States

Natalia Banulescu-Bogdan, Migration Policy Institute

Kendra Brown, Policy Director, Congressional Black Caucus

Dr. Gail Christopher, Vice President, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Wade Henderson, President, Leadership Conference Civil and Human Rights

David Johns, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Educational

Excellence for African Americans

Alex T. Johnson, Department of Defense

Jeff Johnson, JIJ Communications

Keenan Keller, Counsel, House of Representatives Judiciary Committee

Maria Meier, Director, Senate Democratic Diversity Initiative

Dr. Marilyn Sephogle, Howard University; Women Ambassadors Foundation

Gabriel Sepulveda, Board of Hispanic Caucus Chairs

Conrad Tribble, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. State Department

Fred Turner, Chief of Staff, Senator Bob Menendez

Dr. Mischa Thompson, U.S. Helsinki Commission

Mike Wenger, Georgetown University

## Honorary Hosts



**U.S. Congressman Alcee L. Hastings** has distinguished himself as an attorney, civil rights activist, judge, and now Member of Congress. Appointed by President Jimmy Carter in 1979, he became the first African-American Federal Judge in the State of Florida, and served in that position for 10 years. Congressman Hastings was elected to Congress as the first African-American from Florida since the post-Civil War period. Among Congress' most respected voices in international affairs, Congressman Hastings is the first African-American to have led the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation Europe. In these roles he has sought to advance the human rights of minority populations in Europe and the United States, including being a founder of the Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference, Black European Summit and follow on initiatives such as the Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network.



**U.S. Congressman John Lewis** is the U.S. Representative for Georgia's 5th congressional district, serving since 1987, and is the dean of the Georgia congressional delegation. His district includes the northern three-quarters of Atlanta. As chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Congressman Lewis was one of the "Big Six" leaders of groups who organized the 1963 March on Washington, played many key roles in the Civil Rights Movement and its actions to end legalized racial segregation in the United States. A member of the Democratic Party, Lewis is a member of the Democratic leadership of the U.S. House of Representatives and has served as a Chief Deputy Whip since 1991 and Senior Chief Deputy Whip since 2003. In 2010, Rep. Lewis visited Germany during the 46th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s historic trip to Berlin in September of 1964. From August 30th to September 3rd, Congressman John Lewis (D-GA) visited Berlin, Hamburg and North Rhine-Westphalia during a Study Tour conducted by the Congressional Study Group on Germany (CSGG) and its partners to engage in a series of exchanges with German students, politicians, and community and business leaders to share his personal struggle for freedom and democracy, ideals that resonated in Germany during the year marking the 20th anniversary of German Reunification.



**U.S. Congressman Emmanuel Cleaver II**, is a United Methodist pastor who was elected to represent Missouri's 5th congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2004. Cleaver currently represents Missouri's 5th congressional district, where he's served since 2005. He is a member of the Democratic Party, and previously served as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. Cleaver previously served on the Kansas City Council from 1979 to 1991, until he was elected Mayor, serving from 1991 to 1999. During the last days of his tenure as Mayor, Reverend Cleaver agreed to an international visit to London, England. On the invitation of UK NGO Operation Black Vote he assisted in campaigning for increased electoral participation in the elections for the Mayor of London and the London Assembly. His visit culminated in a keynote speech at Westminster City Hall alongside British political figures including Ken Livingstone, Simon Hughes and Lee Jasper.



**U.S. Senator Harry Reid** is the senior United States Senator from Nevada, having served since 1987. A member of the Democratic Party, he has served as the Senate Minority Leader since January 2015, after Republicans won the majority control of the Senate in the 2014 midterm elections. He has previously served as Majority Leader, Minority Whip, and Majority Whip. Previously, Senator Reid was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, representing Nevada's 1st congressional district, and served in Nevada local and state government as city attorney of Henderson, a state legislator, the 25th Lieutenant Governor, and chairman of the Nevada Gaming Commission. He is one of only three Senators to serve at least eight years as Majority Leader. In the mid-2000s, Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid started the Senate Democratic Diversity Initiative to “develop a Senate workforce that reflects the diversity of our nation and is demographically representational of the constituents we serve” by assisting Senate offices with identifying and hiring a more diverse workforce. In addition, it helps those who want to work on the Hill with understanding and navigating the job search process.



**U.S. Senator Bob Menendez Robert "Bob" Menendez** is the senior United States Senator from the State of New Jersey. He is a member of the Democratic Party of the United States. First appointed to the U.S. Senate in January 2006, he was later elected Chair of the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations in January 2013. He previously served as a Mayor, Member of the New Jersey General Assembly, and in the House of Representatives from 1993 to 2006. In January 2006, he was appointed to fill the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Jon Corzine (who had been elected 54th Governor of New Jersey), and was elected to a full six-year term in November and re-elected following in 2012. He is one of three Latinos in the Senate, and serves as Chair of the Senate Democratic Hispanic Task Force. In addition to leading efforts to increase diversity in the U.S. diplomatic corps, he also conducts the *Annual Corporate Diversity Survey*. According to Senator Menendez, “I believe expanding diversity at all levels of our social, political, and economic sectors is essential including in Corporate America. The quest for corporate diversity is an issue of fairness, opportunity, and the fundamental realization by all Americans that our strength as a nation is tied to our inclusivity. We all deserve a seat at the table. The fair representation of women and minorities in corporate board rooms, C-suites, and in procurement practices is both the right thing to do and good for business.”

## Speaker and Participant Bios



**Said Abdu, Member of Parliament (Sweden)** MP Said Abdu is a Swedish Center-Right Liberal Party politician and Member of Parliament since 2014. He serves on the Parliament's Traffic Committee and is a Deputy Member of six other committees, including the EU-Council and Business and Industry Committee. He founded and runs his own recruiting company, West Work, with a focus on introducing immigrants to the Swedish labor market. Mr. Abdu has served as chairperson of the local chapter of the Swedish Federation of Business Owners, and of an adult education association in the city of Trollhattan. He is now the Liberal Party's spokesperson on business and entrepreneurial issues. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business from University West in Trollhattan.



**Enola Aird, Founder and President, CHN (United States)** Enola Aird is founder and president of Community Healing Network, an organization building a global grassroots movement to help black people overcome and overturn the root causes of the devaluing of black lives. She is also the founder and director of Mothers for a Human Future. A former corporate lawyer, Aird served as an associate with the firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and as legal counsel to predecessor entities of Time Warner and Viacom. She also worked at the Children's Defense Fund as Director of its Violence Prevention Campaign and Acting Director of its Black Community Crusade for Children. She is a past Chair of the Connecticut Commission on Children and has served as a Visiting Scholar at the Judge Baker Children's Center in Boston. She is a member of the Steering Committee of the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood and an advisor to the Jamestown Project at Harvard. Aird is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Barnard College and received her J.D. from Yale Law School. She was born in Panama, and she and her husband, Stephen L. Carter, are the parents of two adult children.



**Natalia Banulescu-Bogdan, Migration Policy Institute (United States)** Natalia Banulescu-Bogdan is Assistant Director of MPI's International Program, where she is primarily responsible for managing the program's flagship initiative: the Transatlantic Council on Migration. She is also a Nonresident Fellow with the Migration Policy Institute Europe. Since she joined MPI in 2008, Ms. Banulescu-Bogdan has supported MPI's President in advising governments on various aspects of migration management. This has included technical support to countries holding the rotating presidency of the European Union, support to the annual Global Forum on Migration and Development, and private briefings and memos to help European countries think through changes to migration-related legislation. Prior to joining MPI in 2008, she worked at the Brookings Institution. Ms. Banulescu-Bogdan obtained her master's with distinction in nationalism studies from Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. Her master's thesis focused on the political mobilization of Roma in Romania. She received her bachelor of the arts degree with distinction from the University of Pennsylvania in international relations, where she was a University Scholar.





**Cornell Belcher, President, Brilliant Corners Research & Strategies** Mr. Belcher is one of the premier strategists in national progressive politics as well as in the rebranding of corporate America. Founding brilliant corners in 2001, he is considered the vanguard for demographic trends among the emerging younger and browner America. Belcher is an experience hand at campaign politics and has years of expertise in quantitative and qualitative research, message development, and product and behavioral insight. He served as Pollster for the Democratic National Committee (DNC) under Chairman Howard Dean making him the first African-American to lead in that role for either national Party. He also served on the polling team for both Obama presidential campaigns. Over the years, Cornell has worked with both Senate and House Democrats as Senior Political Advisor to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC), and Special Projects Director for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC). Additionally, Belcher was recognized for his stellar contribution to the field as one of the pollsters of the year by the Association of Political and Public Affairs Professionals (APPC). He has been featured in a variety of media, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, Black Enterprise, The Root, The Atlantic, POLITICO, CNN, The Russ Parr Show, Anderson Cooper 360, BET, The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer, Melissa Harris-Perry, and BBC. He also serves on George Washington University's National Council for Media and Public Affairs.



**Lora Berg, German Marshall Fund (United States).** Ms. Berg is a Resident Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States with the goal of advancing diversity and inclusion best practices in the transatlantic space. In this capacity, she develops partnerships with other institutional actors on the international stage to inform and strengthen positive discourse around diversity and inclusion, and to develop leadership programs with a focus on rising, diverse young leaders. Prior, Ms. Berg served as a U.S. diplomat at the U.S. Embassies in Tunis, Rabat, Jeddah, Riyadh, Bratislava, Paris, and Brussels. Ms. Berg also served as senior advisor in Washington to the Special Representative to Muslim Communities. In this role she organized both the first edition of the "Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network" that took place in Copenhagen in April, 2012, and she has worked successfully to grow the TILN network each year since. Ms. Berg holds Masters Degrees in International Relations and in Poetry from Hopkins University.



**Kendra Brown, Congressional Black Caucus (United States)** Kendra Brown is the Policy Director for the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) following her time with Earthjustice, where she served as the firm's Associate Legislative Counsel and worked within its policy and legislation team to build its coalition efforts. Previously, Ms. Brown served as the Special Assistant and Counsel to Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA), and as a former National Chair of the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA). She currently serves as the President of the NBLSA Advisory Board. She graduated from Hampton University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with an emphasis in Business Management and began her seminary studies at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Ms. Brown completed her Master of Divinity at Howard University Divinity School and received her law degree from Vermont Law School. She attended the George Washington University School of Law for her Master of Laws.



**Dr. Gail C. Christopher, W. K. Kellogg Foundation (United States)** Dr. Gail Christopher is senior advisor and vice president at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. In this role, she leads the foundation's Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation (TRHT) enterprise and serves on the president's cabinet that provides overall direction and leadership for the foundation. Since joining the foundation in 2007, Gail has served as vice president for program strategy with responsibility for multiple areas of programming, including Racial Equity; Food, Health & Well-Being; Community Engagement and Leadership; as well as place-based programming in New Orleans and New Mexico. Dr. Christopher is a nationally recognized leader in health policy, with particular expertise and experience in the issues related to social determinants of health, health inequities and public policy issues of concern to our nation's future. Her distinguished career and contributions to public service have been honored, most recently in 2015 she was the recipient of the Terrance Keenan award for Grantmakers in Health. She is chair of the board of the Trust for America's Health.



**Ms. Mirielle Fanon-Mendes-France** has been a Professor at the University Paris V-Descartes in France and a visiting professor at the University of Berkeley in international law and conflict resolution. She has also worked for UNESCO and the French National Assembly. She is an author of several articles on human rights and humanitarian law, as well as on racism and discrimination. In 2009, she received the Human Rights Award by the Council for Justice, Equality and Peace.



**Daniel Gyamerah, Citizens for Europe "Vielfalt entscheidet - Diversity in leadership" (Germany)** Mr. Gyamerah manages our flagship project „Vielfalt entscheidet - Diversity in Leadership“and is responsible for its strategic setup. He is passionate about inclusive structures and ways to connect with the 'impossible'. Besides working for CFE he is the Head of Each One Teach One (EOTO) e.V. - a community based empowerment project in Wedding - and the co-founder of the Network Inclusion Leaders (NILE). Before joining CFE he has researched on racism in the German education system and worked as a Fellow for Teach First Germany at a secondary school in Berlin. Prior he gained experiences in the Social Science Research Center, the German Bundestag, the German Embassy in Ghana and Adelphi consult. Daniel holds a master's degree in Public Policy from the Hertie School of Governance. He grew up in Tübingen, Germany.



**Wade Henderson, President and CEO, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and The Leadership Conference Education Fund (United States)** Since taking the helm of The Leadership Conference in June 1996, Mr. Henderson has worked diligently to address emerging policy issues of concern to the civil and human rights community. Under his stewardship, The Leadership Conference has become the premier civil and human rights coalition of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States through advocacy and outreach to targeted constituencies. The Education Fund builds public will for civil and human rights through campaigns that empower and mobilize civil and human rights advocates around the country to push for progressive change. Mr. Henderson currently serves on the National Quality Forum Board of Directors, which seeks to improve healthcare quality; the FDIC Advisory Committee on Economic Inclusion, focused on expanding access to banking services by underserved populations; the Board of Directors of the Center for Responsible Lending, dedicated to protecting homeownership and family wealth by working to eliminate abusive financial practices; and the Board of Trustees of the

Education Testing Service, devoted to educational measurement and research. Mr. Henderson has also served in leadership roles in the NAACP, ACLU, and Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO). Mr. Henderson is a graduate of Howard University and the Rutgers University School of Law. He is a member of the Bar in the District of Columbia, and the United States Supreme Court.



**David J. Johns, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans (United States)** The Initiative works across federal agencies and with partners and communities nationwide to produce a more effective continuum of education programs for African American students. Prior to joining the Department, Johns was a senior education policy advisor to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) under the leadership of Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa and the late Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass. Mr. Johns also was a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Fellow in the office of Congressman Charles Rangel, D-N.Y. Johns has worked on issues affecting low-income and minority students, neglected youth and early childhood education and with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). His research as an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow served as a catalyst to identify, disrupt and supplant negative perceptions of black males within academia and society. Johns obtained a master's degree in sociology and education policy at Teachers College, Columbia University, where he graduated summa cum laude while simultaneously teaching elementary school in New York City. He graduated with honors from Columbia University in 2004 with a triple major in English, creative writing and African American studies. Johns was named to the Root100 in both 2014 and 2013, selected as a member of the Ebony Power 100 in 2015 and received an early career award from Columbia University, Teachers College in 2016.



**Alex T. Johnson, Department of Defense (United States)** Mr. Alex T. Johnson serves as Special Advisor for Russia/Ukraine External Affairs in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), where he coordinates public affairs, speechwriting, press and congressional engagements. Mr. Johnson previously served as Policy Advisor at the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe 2007 - 2015, where he served much of this tenure as Representative of the Helsinki Commission at the United States Mission to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (USOSCE) in Vienna, Austria. Prior, Mr. Johnson was a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Fellow in the office of U.S. Representative Alcee L. Hastings and a consultant for local government initiatives in Portland and Corvallis, Oregon. Mr. Johnson holds a B.S. in Natural Resources: Cultural Dimensions in Recreation and a Master's in Public Policy, both from Oregon State University. His research includes diversity and U.S. environmental justice policies. Mr. Johnson is the founder of CIVITISMO, a global citizenship advocacy platform and blog.



**Jeff Johnson, Principal, JIJ Communications LLC (United States)** Mr. Jeff Johnson is an award-winning journalist, communications specialist, and social architect. Currently Mr. Johnson is President of JIJ Communications, where he provides strategic insight and messaging consulting to clients in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors. He recently sat with President Barack Obama for BET News and provides regular content on the nationally syndicated Rickey Smiley Morning Show. Mr. Johnson formally served as National Director for the Youth & College Division of the NAACP and held an appointment by Russell Simmons as the Vice President of the Hip Hop Summit Action Network (HSAN). In 2014 Jeff worked with Steve Harvey on his New York Times Best Seller, Act Like A Success, Think Like A Success and every Monday through Friday he leads Manhood Legacy Prayer, a daily prayer call

attended by nearly 500 men. He also serves on several boards including Vote Run Lead, The Cleveland Foundation's African-American Philanthropy Committee, and the historic Lincoln Theatre in Columbus, Ohio. Jeff is the honored husband of Jacqueline and the proud father of Madison, Myles, and Malcolm.



**Karen Kaneza, ADYNE (Portugal)** Board member of ENAR and former Board Member of (the African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe) ADYNE, I have studied Political Sciences with a specialization in International Relations. I worked as a Political advisor at the Brussels Parliament, and recently, I was given the opportunity to work as a Responsible for Equal opportunity affairs in Brussels. As a new Board of ENAR I want to bring my expertise in terms of advocacy for the implementation of policies and structural measures that could benefit to people from African descent. I strongly believe that Black-Europeans can be fully included in the development of the European continent if we work on structural changes and bring awareness on issues that are faced as minorities on a daily basis. I am also involved in different initiatives aiming in building, promoting and supporting integration of African youth Diaspora. Giving the tools to integrate the Labor Market, appropriate trainings and promoting entrepreneurship. I support every initiatives aiming to highlight the vision of the African Diaspora in Europe and its values.



**Keenan R. Keller, Judiciary Committee of the US House of Representatives (United States)** Mr. Keenan R. Keller is senior Democratic counsel for the Judiciary Committee of the US House of Representatives and ranking member John Conyers Jr. Mr. Keller obtained his undergraduate degree from Brown University and law degree from Yale Law School. He worked as a Securities and Exchange lawyer for Proscow Rose, LLC in NY. Mr. Keller has been active in the Washington, DC, community for years, also serving as advisory neighborhood commissioner for Mount Pleasant; chairing the Constitution and By-laws Committee and serving on the Executive Committee for the District of Columbia Democratic State Committee; and serving on the boards of the DC Urban Forest Council and the Healthy DC Foundation.



**Maria Robles Meier, Senate Democratic Diversity Initiative (United States)** Maria Robles Meier oversees efforts to increase staff diversity and promote the concept of inclusion in Senate Democratic offices. Her work in this arena has expanded beyond the beltway of Washington where she meets with and shares best practices with civic and government leaders from countries throughout Europe who are addressing many of the same issues of how to build a more inclusive society. In the past she served as Executive Director of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus; Director of Outreach for the House Democratic Caucus, and Associate Director of the Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee. She has extensive campaign experience at the presidential, senatorial and congressional level in a range of capacities including serving as a spokesperson on a presidential campaign, and working to build strategic alliances, mobilize voters, and promote diversity in hiring of campaign staff. Ms. Meier is also an Advisory Circle member of the CoachDiversity Institute, a training program that empowers diverse communities through coaching and a member of the Women's Information Network's Advisory Council. Maria Meier studied international relations at Stanford University and resides in Washington, DC.



**Jallow Momodou (Sweden)** is a Member of the City Council of Malmo, Sweden and former Vice chair of the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) and the founder and chair of the Pan African Movement for Justice (PMJ) in Sweden. He is a general expert on race relations and a regular commentator in national and international media on issues affecting people of African descent and black Europeans. He

continues to serve on the ENAR ad-hoc committee for people of African descent in Europe and has led European-wide effort to improve the situation of black Europeans. He is also responsible for PMJ's overall advocacy efforts nationally and internationally, including leading a landmark campaign against afrophobia and hate crimes against people of African descent resulting in the first guilty verdict for hate crimes against people of African descent in Sweden.



**Sanjukta Moorthy, Open Society Initiative Europe** Ms. Moorthy is a program specialist for the Open Society Initiative for Europe Equality and Participation Unit on antidiscrimination portfolios, including a focus on Afro-descent and Roma populations. Prior to joining the Open Society Foundations, she worked as a journalist and socioeconomic activist, with her most recent position as a financial and economics reporter for a London news agency. Moorthy also has expertise in development and economics in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Moorthy graduated summa cum laude from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, with a BSc Econ in International Politics and the Third World. She also has a postgraduate degree in news reporting and journalism, and is currently reading an MSc in Poverty Reduction: Policy and Practice at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London.



**Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol (United Kingdom)** Born and brought up in Bristol, living in St Paul's, Lawrence Weston and Easton, I graduated from Swansea and Eastern University (USA) before returning home to work for Tear Fund, the BBC and, more recently, in public health. Growing up as the mixed race child of a single mother formed the foundations of my political beliefs in driving aspiration and tackling inequality, racism and social exclusion and immobility. I'm married to Kirsten, a Pilates instructor, and spend my free time with my baby daughter Eden and my two boys, Caleb (seven) and Levi (five). I enjoy boxing, cycling, running, rugby, watching TV dramas and listening to reggae.



**Dr. Marilyn Sephogle (United States).** Dr. Sephogle is a Professor at Howard University, and President of the Women Ambassador's Foundation.



**Gabriel Sepulveda, Director of Policy and Public Affairs, Board of Hispanic Caucus Chairs (United States).** Gabriel Sepulveda is the director of policy and public affairs for the Board of Hispanic Caucus Chairs (BHCC), a national 501(c) 3 non-profit organization comprised of Hispanic state legislative leaders from across the country. Sepulveda has served the organization in this capacity since 2010. In this role he facilitates all policy activities for the BHCC, including coordinating the policy agenda for the BHCC's annual legislative conference, composing policy papers, and providing policy expertise on leading national and state legislation of interest. Sepulveda also heads the organization's public affairs and developmental endeavors, including all executive level duties for the group. Additionally, Sepulveda serves as an independent public affairs and policy consultant with a specialization in public-health and energy policy, politics and third-party advocacy communications. Before his time with the BHCC and as a consultant, Sepulveda served as the communication

and policy consultant for the Texas Energy Association for Marketers (TEAM) and the Texas Legislature as the legislative director for State Representative Byron Cook. Sepulveda earned a B.A from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master's of Public Administration (MPA) from Texas State University at San Marcos with a specialization in International Relations. Sepulveda also serves as the current president of the American Society of Public Administrators –Central Texas Chapter (CenTex ASPA).



**Azize Tank, Member of Parliament (Germany)** MP Tank is a member of the Left Party in Germany's Parliament. She began her career as a civil servant in Istanbul, focusing on social work and social council in secondary education. In 1990 she was appointed as the first Migrantenbeauftragten of Charlottenburg/Wilmersdorf; but retired early in 2009. She and her husband created a foundation to strengthen social and human rights, on the basis of the UN social pact of 1966: the Eberhard Schultz Foundation for social human rights and participation based in Berlin.



**Gabriele Gun-Tank, Board member - Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Integration Commissioner, Tempelhof-Schöneberg, Berlin(Germany)** As Commissioner for Integration for Berlin (Tempelhof-Schöneberg), Gabriele Gün Tank advises the city government in all matters regarding migration policies within the district. She graduated in 2001 from Marmara University in Istanbul with a Master Degree in journalism. From 2000 – 2001 she served as an editor and freelancer at "apparat multimedia GmbH" in Berlin. In 2002, she entered a traineeship in Public Relations with the DGB (Confederation of German Trade Unions), followed by a traineeship in the office of Member of Parliament Eckhardt Barthel from 2002-2003. She advanced to become Eckhardt Barthel's advisor from 2003-2004. In 2005, she served the Social Democratic Party (SPD) of Germany group in the German Parliament as Junior Counselor at the chairman's planning group for domestic policy issues, integration and culture. From 2006 – 2007, she served as policy advisor to Parliament Member Mechthild Rawert. In 2007, she became Commissioner for Integration, the position she holds today. In 2016 she graduates and holds a Master of Public Administration from the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin (Germany). Gün Tank serves as a board member to the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, the organization BQN Berlin and the IG Metall Migration Committee Berlin, Brandenburg, Saxony.



**Christiane Taubira, Former Equality Minister (France)** Born in 1952 in Cayenne in French Guiana, Minister Christiane Taubira has held many political functions at the national and European level. She joined the Guyanese independence movement in 1978 to fight oppression of her compatriots. She was elected into regional government in 1993. In 2002, she unsuccessfully ran for president of France. She was appointed Minister of Justice of France in June 2012. Throughout her career she has been the target of racist defamation and slander from far right political parties and media. January 27, 2016, she gave her resignation to François Hollande.



**Conrad Robert Tribble, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, State Department (United States)** DAS Tribble grew up in Los Angeles, California, joined the Foreign Service in 1987, and has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Europe and the European Union since August 2015 following three years as Deputy Chief of Mission in Havana, where he helped manage the historic reestablishment of diplomatic relations and the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Cuba. DAS Tribble has worked for over a decade on U.S.-European relations, including a focus on Germany, Cyprus, the OSCE, and as

Coordinator for Baltic Sea regional cooperation programs. DAS Tribble has also worked extensively in the western hemisphere. He holds a B.A. in history from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, an M.A. in international relations from the University of Southern California, and an M.A. in national security studies from the U.S. National War College. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Mr. Tribble studied and worked for extended periods in Germany and Honduras. He speaks German, French, Spanish, and Haitian Creole.



**Fred Turner, Chief of Staff, U.S. Senator Bob Menendez (United States)** As Chief of Staff, Fred serves as the Senator's top policy and political advisor and has oversight of the Senator's offices in Washington, DC and New Jersey. A Garden State native, Fred joined Senator Menendez after serving as Chief of Staff at the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Jointly appointed to that position by Senator Ben Cardin and Congressman Alcee Hastings, Turner served at the Commission for seven years. Prior to his leadership of the Helsinki Commission, Mr. Turner served for more than twelve years on the staff of Congressman Hastings, the last seven as Chief of Staff. He also served as an Associate Staff Member of the U.S. House of Representatives Rules Committee, Democratic Staff Director of the Rules Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process, and Democratic Staff Director of the U.S. House of Representatives International Relations Subcommittee on Europe. Previously, he served as Legislative Director for Congresswoman Karen McCarthy and as a graduate fellow with the Anti-Defamation League. Mr. Turner received his Masters at the American University, has also served as an Adjunct Professor of Government at American University's School of Public Affairs, and is the author of "The Participation of Members of the U.S. Congress in NATO and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Assemblies" (co-authored with Zlatko Sabic).



**Alfiaz Vaiya, European Parliament Antidiscrimination Intergroup (ARDI), Policy Advisor (Europe)** Mr. Alfiaz Vaiya has been the coordinator of ARDI since September 2015. Before he joined ARDI, Alfiaz worked on non-discrimination issues for civil society organisations in London and Brussels as well as in the European Parliament. Alfiaz has an LLB in Law from Leeds Metropolitan University and Masters in International Relations: Global Economic Governance.



**Michael Wenger Adjunct Faculty Member, George Washington University (United States)** Michael R. Wenger, of Mitchellville, Maryland, is an adjunct professor in the Department of Sociology, specializing in race relations, at The George Washington University, co-founder of the Within Our Lifetime network-dedicated to ending racism in our lifetime, a consultant on race relations, and the author of *My Black Family, My White Privilege: A White Man's Journey Through the Nation's Racial Minefield*, which is a personal memoir. From 1998 to 2014, Mr. Wenger worked in leadership in the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, the pre-eminent think tank focused on issues of race, where he was the founder and Director of NABRE (Network of Alliances Bridging Race and Ethnicity). He came to the Joint Center after serving as Deputy Director for Outreach and Program Development for President Clinton's Initiative on Race, having served as the States Washington Representative for the Appalachian Regional Commission, where he represented the Governors of the 13 Appalachian states on policy and legislative matters, and serving in the administration of West Virginia Governor John D. Rockefeller IV. Mr. Wenger was born in New York City and educated at Queens

College of the City University of New York, where he was a leader in the civil rights struggles of the early 1960s.



**Simon Woolley Co-founder and Director, Operation Black Vote (United Kingdom)** Simon Woolley is co-founder and Director for Operation Black Vote, the first comprehensive campaign to focus exclusively on the Black and minority democratic deficit in the United Kingdom. Mr. Woolley is a Board Member of the Equality and Human Rights Commission and sits on the Children's Commission panel, looking at school expulsions. He has initiated two successful Government task forces - REACH that looks at why some Black youth are alienated, and Harriet Harman's BME Gender Committee that looks at ways to improve political representation for BME women (Black and minority ethnic women). In 2002, Mr. Woolley was voted onto the Grass Roots Power List, published by the Big Issue. He has also been awarded the Men of Merit Award in 2003 and the Bernie Grant community award in 2005. Mr. Woolley is a regular contributor to the Guardian's "Comment is Free" website and also writes for the Guardian and the Independent newspapers. Furthermore, he is a regular contributor to African, Caribbean and Asian press and hosts his own political radio program.

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## Organizer



**Dr. Mischa Thompson, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, 'Helsinki Commission' (United States)** Dr. Mischa Thompson is a distinguished National Science Foundation Fellow, German Marshall Fund Fellow, and Fulbright Scholar, whose doctoral research focused on both solos/tokenism and international racism. Upon being selected to serve as a prestigious AAAS/APA Congressional Fellow, Dr. Thompson led appropriations, foreign policy, defense, trade, and global rights efforts in the U.S. Congress that fostered an esteemed career as a Professional Staff Member in the U.S. House and Senate. Dr. Thompson currently advises the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Intolerance and Helsinki Commissioners on anti-discrimination and inclusion issues for Europe and North America. Some of Dr. Thompson's seminal work includes the Transatlantic Conferences on Minority Political Leadership, and Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network that have resulted in a pipeline of over 100 diverse leaders committed to inclusive governance in Europe and the United States. Dr. Thompson is currently working to secure passage of legislation on Diversity in International Affairs, and a U.S.-European Union Joint Action Anti-Discrimination Plan. She also led efforts to establish the State Department's Race, Ethnicity, and Social Inclusion Unit. Dr. Thompson is a proud Detroitier and Howard graduate, who received her PhD from the University of Michigan.