



**September 11-16, 2018
Washington, DC
FINAL REPORT**

Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference



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:

- 2018, European Parliamentarians held the first ever People of African Descent Week (PADWEEK) in Brussels. U.S. Members of Congress served as Honorary Hosts and introduced legislation in the U.S. Congress in support of PADWEEK.
- 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. With over 200 alumni, TILN empowers diverse young leaders committed to inclusive governance.
- 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 Killian 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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



(Special Advisor Nero Ughwujabo, Ali Khan, MP Killion Munyama, Jeff Klein, MP Aminata Toure, MP Clive Lewis, MP Olivio Kocsis-Cake)

2018 TMPLC EUROPEAN DELEGATES

MP Olivio Kocsis-Cake (Hungary)

MP Clive Lewis (United Kingdom)

MP Killion Munyama (Poland)

MP Aminata Toure

(Schleswig-Holstein, Germany)

Nero Ughwujabo, Prime Minister Theresa May,

Special Adviser, Social Justice, Young People & Opportunities (United Kingdom)

Jeff Klein, Each One Teach One (EOTO)

(Germany)

Ali Khan, Open Society Foundations (Belgium)

From September 11-16, 2018 a delegation of seven European legislators and experts participated in the annual Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference (TMPLC) Washington DC week to participate in public Congressional events and 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 history and textbooks. Educational curricula, historical sites, and media should accurately relay the European presence, contributions, and experiences of People of African Descent.

Equality, Empowerment, and Leadership initiatives are needed in the public and private sector with a focus on: political participation (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. Efforts in these areas would also address racial and ethnic discrimination and foster inclusion in Europe. Public and private sector funding to support African descent led initiatives is particularly needed to implement such strategies.

Transatlantic/Cross-Border and Coalition Initiatives are needed to address continuing issues of hate crimes, racial profiling, and discrimination in education, housing, justice, and other sectors impacting African descent and other racial and ethnic populations in Europe and the United States. Disparities in wealth, opportunity, and access are growing. Statistical data in Europe is needed to accurately assess problems and design solutions. People of African descent should be included in the design and implementation of 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:

- EU institutions should support legislative, policy, and other initiatives to improve the situation of People of African Descent outlined during the People of African Descent Week (PADWEEK) held in March in Brussels, including funding government programs and African-descent led civil society initiatives.
- The European Parliament should adopt a resolution on the situation of People of African Descent/Black Europeans in Europe.
- 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.
- 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.

United States:

- The U.S. Congress should pass the following legislation supporting People of African Descent/Black Europeans and addressing prejudice and discrimination Europe (H. Res.925 Recognizing People of African Descent and Black Europeans; H.R. 1570 African Descent Affairs Act; H.R. 4649 Decade for the People of African Descent Act; 2016 State Department Authorization Bill – U.S. - EU Joint Action Plan to combat prejudice and discrimination, see pages 15-18).
- Members of Congress should participate in a Transatlantic Caucus/Inter group 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 annual country reports and existing diversity efforts on youth, gender, orientation, religion, and disability.



U.S. CONGRESS

Race, Rights, and Politics: Black and Minority Populations in Europe

“The Prime Minister [...] called on society as a whole, more specifically government, to ‘explain or change.’ [This] is [the] call to action to [...] look at these disparities and [...] what we can do to improve the experiences of people from different backgrounds in public services.” – Special Advisor Nero Ughwujabo, UK Prime Minister Theresa May

The Congressional Briefing entitled, “Race, Rights, and Politics: Black and Minority Populations in Europe” took place in the U. S. House of Representatives and focused on the state of European democracies and recent efforts to address the inclusion of Europe’s diverse populations, including parallel issues faced by black and minority populations on both sides of the Atlantic in 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.

Helsinki Commissioner Representative Gwen Moore opened the event, stressing the importance of transatlantic cooperation to address increasing challenges to democracy and rising prejudice and discrimination in Europe and the United States. Panelists emphasized the need for greater protection of human rights of minorities of all backgrounds—racial and otherwise—including Polish, Romanian, Jewish, and Muslim populations, particularly in a modern Europe of sharp demographic change, BREXIT, and stagnating birth rates. They also discussed the need for migrant labor to revitalize and sustain European economies and social welfare systems.

Hungarian Parliamentarian Olivio Kocsis-Cake called for European policymakers to do more to address the situation of Roma and expressed hope that the European Parliament’s invoking Article 7 sanction procedures against Hungary—censuring it for violating “fundamental values” of the EU—would lead Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán to reconsider the “nationalist” and xenophobic policies he was advancing. As the only African descent member of the Polish Parliament and a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), MP Killion Munyama discussed his efforts leading a Europe-wide report on promoting diversity and equality in politics as the rapporteur of the PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and stressed implementation of Council of Europe Resolution 2222, promoting minority political participation.

UK Parliamentarian Clive Lewis argued that BREXIT would negatively impact Black populations—exacerbating existing housing, job, and education disparities—and that xenophobic rhetoric associated with the BREXIT campaign had led to a 20-30 percent spike in “race-hate” attacks. Against the backdrop of the Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) party and the recent neo-Nazi protests in Chemnitz, Germany, Parliamentarian Aminata Touré of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany reflected on her role countering the protests <https://twitter.com/aminajxx>. She called for more to be done to empower the 23 percent of Germans with migrant backgrounds who find themselves massively underrepresented in governing structures and are increasingly becoming targets of violence.

UK Special Advisor Nero Ughwujabo discussed efforts to implement the United Kingdom’s March 2018 Race Disparity Audit Report, stating, “UK Ministers must ‘explain or change’ racial disparities across sectors,” with 90 million pounds dedicated towards the effort by the government. Citing the audit as a model, Advisory Chair of the Race Audit Simon Woolley, contended that it is in every government’s self-interest to “unlock the potential on their doorstep” in minority populations. <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/race-disparity-unit>

Civil society representatives Ali Khan of Open Society Initiative for Europe and Each One Teach One’s Jeffrey Klein argued that empowering Black and minority populations was key, including by directing funding towards minority-led, grassroots organizations. Groups do not need to be saved from without but empowered from within. The panel concluded with speakers calling for solidarity and lasting cooperation in implementing democratic principles, and seeking recognition, representation, and access to equal opportunities for diverse communities. Following the briefing, several delegates met with embassy officials from their countries and discussed next steps. For more: <https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/race-rights-and-politics>





“I am only one of six Black parliamentarians in Germany. It’s my first time in the United States and it is so empowering to see what you are doing here.”– MP Aminata Touré

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

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 2018 - “The Dream Still Demands,” focused on the influence and legacy of civil and social movement.

As part of ALC, MP and Shadow Minister Clive Lewis and Special Advisor Nero Ughwujabo of the UK joined CBCF Chair Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, the interim head of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Dr. Elsie Scott and leading researcher Phillip Atiba Goff on panels exploring opportunities for criminal justice reform and policing in minority communities. Special Advisor Ughwujabo relayed that the U.K. government in addition to the justice sector had identified school exclusions, unemployment, and mental health as areas of focus to address race disparities. MP Lewis in discussing justice reforms, raised the economy and green jobs as another area in need of increased focus to improve the situation of Black Britains.

MP Aminata Touré participated in events focused on youth and European efforts to protect girls and women of color. In addition to sharing her experiences as the first Black woman elected to parliament in her region, she discussed gender barriers in justice and political systems as one of only six Black parliamentarians in all of Germany. MP Toure received a standing ovation following an extemporaneous speech at the Black Millennial Elected officials event ‘Breaking Barriers and Blazing Trails,’ where she lauded the work of millennial leaders such as Dr. Wes Bellamy of Charlottesville and David Johns. (see <http://Blackmillennialconvention.com/home/#about>).

Mr. Simon Woolley delivered remarks on a panel with Congressman Bobby Rush and luminary Reverend Jesse Jackson Jr. on voting rights and the power of the Black vote. Highlighting ‘the colour of power’ initiative in the U.K., he discussed the lack of diversity in U.K. leadership across the public and private sector, despite growth in racial and ethnic populations. He also discussed the potential power of the Black and Asian vote and the need for strengthened education and advocacy measures (see <http://www.thecolourofpower.com/>).

An ALC panel led by Representative Gwen Moore featuring pollster Cornell Belcher and strategist Aisha Moodie-Mills provided delegates with an overview of U.S. voter education and advocacy initiatives for diverse populations. While an ALC event led by Representative Barbara Lee featured Danny Glover and focused on implementation of the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024).

Members of the delegation also enjoyed remarks from Reverend Jesse Jackson, who received the CBCF ALC Phoenix Award in honor of his legacy and dedication to improving the lives of African-Americans.



<http://blackmillennialconvention.com>

- Social media- #BMCatCBC

Facebook:
@BlackMillennialPoliticalConvention

Twitter: @BMCMovement





HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Political Participation, Immigration, Empowerment, Strengthening Democracies

As part of the week, delegates also enjoyed meetings with U.S. leaders on key civil rights issues in the United States and Europe. Delegates joined Representative Hastings for an event focused on immigration policies impacting Haitian American and others whom will no longer be able to remain in the United States under Temporary Protected Status (TPS) that was extended to members of the community following the 2010 earthquake. Delegates noted that more restrictive immigration and citizenship laws were also an issue in Europe and discussed how U.S. immigrant communities were working with Members of Congress to address recent changes in law.

Representative Gwen Moore and Judiciary Counsel, Keenan Keller provided delegates with an overview of the U.S. government, including the role and powers of Congress. Key civil rights and legislative issues discussed included the recent impact of changes to U.S. immigration laws on African and Caribbean populations. The importance of the Supreme Court and appointments process was also a particular point of interest, including possible implications for court challenges to the historic 1965 Voting Rights Act that protects African-American and other's legal right to vote. Recent challenges to affirmative action and the way forward were also discussed.

A meeting with Reverend Al Sharpton focused on his recent speaking engagement in the U.K. Parliament on addressing increases in black youth deaths from knife attacks, and the need for continued international exchanges to focus on empowerment and other solutions to address violence in Black communities.

(see <https://www.facebook.com/realsharpton/videos/speaking-at-the-house-of-parliament-to-black-members-of-parliament-and-civic-lea/10160353837080231/>)

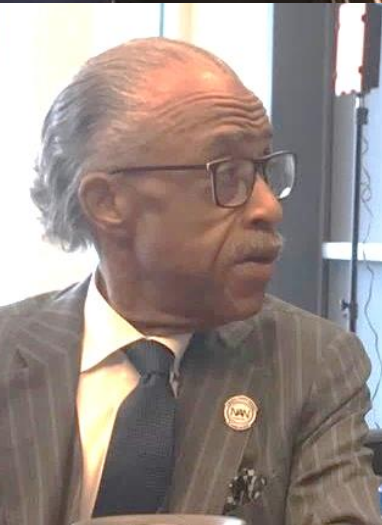
MP Kocsis-Cake led a discussion on the future of Hungary with Washington experts. Citing the need for an increased focus on youth, the economy, and his countries' future, he outlined his policy prescriptions on education and employment, including for disenfranchised Roma and migrant populations. He also questioned government policies towards migrant, refugee, and impoverished populations which he argued were counter to the wishes of the Hungarian people and democratic norms.

(see <https://budapestpulse.com/2018/07/17/hungarys-first-black-mp-olivio-kocsis-%E2%80%90-cake/>)

A conversation with Reverend Jesse Jackson centered on upcoming U.S. midterm elections and the urgency of civil rights work given recent challenges to voting rights and immigration laws in the U.S. His work increasing the visibility of issues impacting Black populations on both sides of the Atlantic, including for example raising race disparity issues in the U.K. and anti-Black hate crimes in Sweden, was also a topic of conversation, as well as the need to empower and fortify future generations of leaders.

(see <https://www.thelocal.se/20111013/36718> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZPJNjnH5QE>)

Delegates were also featured at the Truman Center for National Policy reception celebrating diversity in national security and foreign policy. <http://trumanproject.org/home/trudiversity/>





“My favorite success story in my work at EOTO is how we were able to assemble a group of Black European politicians and civil society leaders to attend this year’s Congressional Black Congress Annual Conference. This trip not only elevated Each One Teach One’s profile, but it helped us in forging deep and meaningful relationships with American and European policymakers alike. I’m grateful to have been a part of the trip.” -Jeff Klein, EOTO-Germany

SOCIAL JUSTICE, PHILANTHROPY, & LEADERSHIP

Conversations with private sector and foundation representatives focused on the role organizations can play as changemakers and supporting inclusive societies. Crispus Gordon of Destination DC welcomed delegates and discussed business and leisure opportunities with the city. (see <https://washington.org/>)

Andy Shallal, owner of Washington DC’s renowned restaurants and bookstores discussed with delegates the history and purpose of Busboys and Poets named for American poet Langston Hughes, who worked as a busboy before becoming known as an acclaimed poet. Established in 2005, the restaurants house social justice libraries and provide meeting and performances space for diverse activists and artists as a means of bringing people together to advance social change. (see <https://www.busboysandpoets.com/>)

Cordell Carter of the Aspen Institute provided an overview of how convening diverse global leaders from across the political spectrum around critical issues could have a positive impact on our societies, and highlighted future opportunities for leaders from their countries through the Socrates Program. (see <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/programs/socrates-program/>)

Reta Jo Lewis and Lora Berg of the German Marshall Fund stressed the continuing importance of the transatlantic relationship and the need for the delegates as diverse leaders to play a role in global policy from trade to security, and strengthen pipelines of diverse leaders. They also highlighted international leadership opportunities including the Marshall Memorial Fellowship to the Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network. (see <http://www.gmfus.org/leadership-programs>)

Tara Hogan Charles of Procter & Gamble spoke with delegates about the role global firms can play in societal change and the company’s decision to develop an ad campaign entitled, “the talk” as part of it’s “My Black Is Beautiful campaign.” (see <https://www.cnn.com/2018/09/18/pg-wins-an-emmy-for-its-anti-racism-commercial-the-talk.html> and <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20180116006004/en/PG-Leads-%E2%80%9CThe-Talk%E2%80%9D-Bias-Tonight%E2%80%99s-Episode>)

Bernadette Meehan of the Obama Foundation provided an overview of President Barack Obama’s initiatives post-presidency, including the Obama Presidential Center slated to open in Chicago in his honor, Brother’s Keeper initiative to empower youth, and fellowships supporting future leaders, in addition to other initiatives. Just a few weeks after their visit to Washington D.C., delegates Special Advisor Nero Ughwujabo and Jeff Klein were honored to participate in a Europe roundtable in Amsterdam with President Obama, where they discussed their participation in TMPLC, visit to Washington D.C., and importance of transatlantic exchanges was highlighted. (see <https://www.obama.org/updates/president-obama-roundtable-amsterdam/>)





PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

National Museum of African American History and Culture & Howard University

Delegates visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Established by an Act of Congress in 2003, the museum is the only national U.S. museum documenting African American life, history, and culture. Exhibits include the transatlantic slave trade routes between Africa, Europe, the Americas, and the Caribbean, an overview of the history and laws that have prevented African-Americans from voting and holding office, and transatlantic relationships developed between U.S. luminaries such as W.E.B. Dubois and James Baldwin to address issues from segregation in American to the decolonization of Africa. (see <https://nmaahc.si.edu/>)

Delegates visit to Howard University included a tour of the campus and conversations with students. Howard University is a private, historically Black university (HBCU) in Washington, D.C. with more than 120 areas leading to undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees, and produces the most Black doctorate recipients in the U.S. Delegates were received by Howard University faculty: Dr. Marilyn Sephogle-Howard University Department of World Languages and Cultures; Tonija Navas- Howard University Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center; Dr. Clarence Lusane-Howard University Political Science Department Chair; Dr. William Spriggs-Howard University former Economics Chair.

Delegates began their tour with a visit to the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (MSRC), one of the world's largest and most comprehensive repositories for the documentation of the history and culture of people of African descent in Africa, the Americas, and other parts of the world. The visit held special significance for delegate Jeff Klein of Each One Teach One, an organization that currently houses the largest collection of African descent literature in Germany.

Conversations with students and faculty at the International Ralph Bunche Center, named for Ralph Bunche, an African-American involved in the formation of the United Nations. Delegates discussed the history of African descent populations in their countries and recent efforts in Europe to recognize and protect Black Europeans such as the People of African Descent Week in May in Brussels. They also discussed the importance of global scholarship, including international exchanges initiated by Simon Woolley, Dr. Sephogle, and Dr. Lusane bringing African-Americans and Black Europeans together over the past decade. (see <https://twitter.com/HowardU/status/1040358653625294849>)

A closing session with the delegates focused on next steps. Future exchanges with political and private sector leaders, advancing legislative initiatives that empower Black populations, strengthening leadership opportunities, and increasing funding streams for Black-led civil society initiatives were some of the point discussed.

THE GREAT FORCE OF HISTORY
COMES FROM THE FACT THAT WE CARRY
IT WITHIN US, ARE UNCONSCIOUSLY
CONTROLLED BY IT... HISTORY IS LITERALLY
PRESENT IN ALL THAT WE DO.

JAMES BALDWIN







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.

EACH ONE TEACH ONE (EOTO), Germany

EOTO is a community-based education and empowerment project in Berlin. In March 2014, the EOTO opened its doors as a neighborhood library and since then has been a place of learning and engagement. EOTO presents literature of people of African descent and conveys knowledge in intergenerational dialogue. The reference library includes works by authors of Germany, the African continent and diaspora and includes over 2500 German-language books on Black History and the Black presence within and outside Germany.

PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN EUROPE EU POLICY DEVELOPMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS by ENAR (contact Sarah Chander: sarah@enar-eu.org)

The first EU People of African Descent Week is taking place in Brussels from 14 to 17 May 2018. This is a key initiative to increase awareness of the 15 million people of African descent living in Europe and discuss solutions to address the racism and violence they face. The Week will consist of a series of events featuring experts, activists, and policymakers.

This document summarises key developments relating to People of African Descent at the EU level as context for the PAD week. It highlights recommendations for EU policymakers to promote inclusion of PAD and combat Afrophobia/anti-black racism.

Developments at EU level:

- The European Parliament held an agenda point on Afrophobia in the European Parliament LIBE Committee (1st time in official EP meeting). ENAR Board member Karen Taylor addressed the Committee and called for a resolution on Afrophobia in Europe - **7th September 2017**.
- EU encouraged via a European Commission Recommendation to Member States to offer 50,000 resettlement opportunities to persons in need of international protection from third countries by October 2019 - **September 2017**.
- The EU Fundamental Rights Agency published the second iteration of the EU MIDIS survey with data on minorities' experiences of discrimination – **December 2017**.
- Fourth Meeting of the EU High Level Group on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, European Commission – first time the group specifically discussed hate crimes specifically against PAD - **December 2017**.
- The EU Fundamental Rights Agency will publish a 'Guide on Preventing Unlawful Profiling' by **November 2018**.
- The EU Fundamental Rights Agency is working to produce a specific report on racism against people of African descent using the data from the EU MIDIS II survey by the **end of 2018**.
- The European Commission is working with EU member states to produce guidelines on equality data collection, to be published **by end of year 2018**.
- The European Commission is working to publish a guidance for Member States on the implementation of the EU Framework Decision on hate crimes and speech – **end of 2018**.
- MEP Cecile Kyenge and others have committed to tabling a European Resolution on the Fundamental Rights situation of People of African Descent and Black Europeans – **foreseen**.

Recommendations for EU:

Despite EU and national legislation providing legal remedies for discrimination, evidence from the FRA, the UN's working group on people of African descent and ENAR demonstrate that Afrophobia (anti-Black racism) in the EU is still a severe reality. Strong and specific policies are needed to address Afrophobia, including its structural dimensions and impact on economic and social outcomes for people of African descent and Black Europeans.

1. The European Parliament should adopt a **Resolution detailing the fundamental rights situation of People of African Descent in Europe**, with recommendations to the European Commission and Member States for how best to tackle Afrophobia/ anti-black racism.
2. **Adopt an EU framework for national strategies to combat Afrophobia** or EU standards for **National Action Plans Against Racism** that would take into account specific forms of racism. Member States should develop specific national objectives and targets in national strategies to combat forms of racism, including Afrophobia.
3. Raise awareness of a) the history of Afrophobia in Europe and its roots in colonialism, and the transatlantic slave trade and b) of the long-standing presence of people of African descent and Black
4. Participate in the **UN Decade on People of African Descent conferences** and mark the Decade, possibly by proclaiming a European Year for People of African Descent to promote awareness of the history of Afrophobia and the positive contributions of people of African descent.
5. **Create funding opportunities for grassroots and People of African Descent-led organisations**, in particular with a specific earmarked fund for PAD civil society organisations.
6. Appoint a **European Commission coordinator on Afrophobia**, with sufficient leverage and resources to conduct an ambitious working plan.
7. Develop **guidelines on good practices to promote fair and efficient policing**.
8. Ensure that employment and social inclusion benchmarks - such as the European semester country analysis - specifically aim for equal access and outcomes for people of African descent in Europe.
9. Set up a special initiative to **raise the employment rates of African descent and Black youth to ensure equality of outcomes**. The initiative should include access and treatment within employment, entrepreneurial and vocational traineeships, volunteer opportunities and further education such as summer school programmes.
10. Provide Member States with support and resources for schools and educational institutions to combat racism and discrimination, and support the study of diverse cultures.
11. Revise its own **diversity strategy** to include targeted measures for racial and religious minorities including people of African descent. Launch an internship program for people of African Descent in the European Institutions.

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H. RES. 925 RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT AND BLACK EUROPEANS
JUNE 6, 2018

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 May 19, 2018, royal wedding of Meghan Markle and Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex, raised awareness of the long history and situation of African descent populations in Europe;

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 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 Black Europeans 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) and both the 2009 and 2018 European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey (EU-MIDIS I and II), the first European Union-wide surveys 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 hate crimes and other forms of discrimination to law enforcement and human rights agencies, and that the situation has not improved over the last 10 years;

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 antimigrant 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 the OSCE's most recent 2016 hate crimes report found more than 1,400 racist and xenophobic incidents, including a number targeting Black Europeans;

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 African descendants, when deciding whom to target for stops, searches, raids, and surveillance, leading to some of the first European-wide grassroots and legal efforts to end racial profiling in France, Germany, and elsewhere in Europe, and over a decade of pan-European anti-racism and empowerment initiatives supported by Open Society Foundations;

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 and 2015–2024 the International Decade 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 the 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 other diverse legislators held annually at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium, and at Congress in Washington, D.C., including the April 17–19, 2009, Black European Summit: Transatlantic Dialogue on Political Participation and adoption of the Brussels Declaration on political participation; and Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conferences;

Whereas, as part of the March 24, 2011, Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference (TMPLC) 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 2012, Members of the Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference worked in partnership with the German Marshall Fund, Department of State, and other stakeholders to found the Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network to increase diverse representation in policymaking;

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" and in 2014 released, the first pan-European policy guide reviewing the current situation entitled, "ENAR Anti-Racism in Focus 2 – Invisible Visible Minority: Confronting Afrophobia and Advancing Equality for People of African Descent and Black Europeans in Europe";

Whereas, in January 2017, the European Network Against Racism published, "Towards an EU Framework for National Strategies to Combat Afrophobia and Promote Inclusion of People of African Descent and Black Europeans" to urge EU Member States to adopt "strong and specific policies to address Afrophobia, including its structural dimensions and impact on economic and social outcomes for people of African descent and Black Europeans, including in employment, housing, education, health, political participation, criminal justice and other sectors";

Whereas, on July 25, 2017, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights stated, “The position of Black people in Europe needs to be strengthened, irrespective of whether it concerns recent migrants from Africa or already established Black communities [...] European states must first come to terms with their own past [including] publicly acknowledge that slavery, the slave trade and colonialism are among the major sources of current discrimination against Black people,” and recommended European states implement strategies across health, education, justice, employment, and other sectors;

Whereas, in October 2017, the UK Prime Minister released the Race Disparity Audit “examin[ing] how people of different backgrounds are treated across areas including health, education, employment and the criminal justice system” which found inequalities in education, housing, income and employment, justice, and health between Black persons of African and Caribbean background, and has since published the findings online, appointed a Special Advisor and Race Disparity Advisory Group to implement strategies to address the disparities, and announced 90 million British pounds to address inequalities in youth unemployment highlighted by the Disparity Audit;

Whereas, on May 13 through 17, 2018, the European Parliament and European Economic and Social Committee, under the leadership of European Parliamentarian Cecile Kyenge of Italy, hosted the inaugural People of African Descent Week (PAD Week) in Brussels, Belgium in partnership with the European Parliament Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup (ARDI), Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference (TMPLC), Each One Teach One - Germany (EOTO), and the European Network Against Racism (ENAR);

Whereas PAD Week featured over a hundred experts, activists, and policymakers to increase awareness of people of African descent living in Europe and to discuss solutions to address the racial discrimination and violence they face;

Whereas MEP Cecile Kyenge stated, “In addition to honouring the history and contribution of Europe’s Black population, the People of African Descent Week reaffirms European values by developing strategic and coherent responses to make our society more inclusive in the face of rising racial prejudice and violence across Europe”;

Whereas PAD Week final recommendations call on European Union institutions and national governments to specifically adopt the following set of initiatives for Black Europeans: recognize past injustices and contributions; adopt a European Black History Month and Remembrance Day for Victims of Colonialism and Enslavement; fund Black European led initiatives to address continuing disparities and discrimination, and support empowerment initiatives through the creation of caucuses, civil society funds, and fellowships; adopt a Parliamentary Resolution and EU Framework for National Strategies for Inclusion of People of African Descent in Europe; and support transatlantic exchanges to support common solutions to common issues of racial prejudice and discrimination; and

Whereas in addition to EU institutions affiliated with PAD Week, international entities, such as the OSCE Personal Representative on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination and OSCE/ODIHR Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Unit, EUFRA, the COE Human Rights Commissioner and ECRI, 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 foster inclusion: 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 European Parliament (EP), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly, and US Congress, 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 diverse populations through initiatives such as the Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference and Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network, and working with Black European and other diverse 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 and inclusion in Europe, by—

(A) drafting and implementing an EU Framework for National Strategies to Promote Inclusion of and Combat Discrimination towards People of African Descent and Black Europeans;

(B) drafting and implementing antidiscrimination, special measures, hate crimes, migration and integration, inclusion, 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 Union Fundamental Rights Agency (EUFRA), the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism and Independent Expert on Minority Issues, Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner and European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), and the OSCE Personal Representative on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination and OSCE/ODIHR Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Unit;

(C) promoting and funding research, including the collection of national census data on Black Europeans and its inclusion in the annual reports of the EUFRA and other official reporting at the EU and national levels;

(D) providing technical support, training, and funding to Black European civil society and private sector groups and experts working to combat racism, discrimination, and inequality, uphold basic human rights in Europe, and to increase economic opportunity and empowerment;

(E) 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, enslavement, and other atrocities;

(F) 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;

(G) developing specific initiatives that address the special concerns of Black European men, women and youth, including increasing initiatives related to migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers;

(H) actively promoting racial and ethnic representation and 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 communities, development of targeted professional advancement and hiring strategies, increased youth and community outreach, and self-organization and other empowerment initiatives; and

(I) recruiting, training, hiring, and retaining 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 fulfill the initiatives outlined above;

(B) increase support for the WGPAD and International Decade for People of African Descent; and

(C) implement recommendations included in the Global African Descent Affairs Act, H.R. 1570, by establishing a Global Office of African Descent Affairs within the Department of State headed by senior officials to develop and implement global foreign policy and assistance strategies to improve the situation of people of African descent around the world, create a Department of State “Fund” to support antidiscrimination and empowerment efforts by African descent led civil society organizations around the world, include a section on discrimination faced by people of African descent in Annual State Department Human Rights Country Reports; and

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



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Pic2: Special Advisor Nero Ughwujabo

Pic3: Jeff Klein, MP Olivio Kocsis-Cake, Ali Khan, U.S. Representative Gwen Moore, MP Killion Munyama, Special Advisor Nero Ughwujabo, MP Clive Lewis, MP Aminata Touré

Pic4: MP Olivio Kocsis-Cake

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Pic2: Special Advisor Nero Ughwujabo

Pic3: Simon Woolley

Pic4: Danny Glover & U.S. Representative Barbara Lee

Pic5: MP Clive Lewis, Phillip Atiba Goff, Center for Police Equity, Chief Vera Bumpers, President, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, Ganesha Martin, Cleveland Police Department's Consent Decree monitoring team, Nicole M. Austin-Hillery, Human Rights Watch Daryl Washington, National Bar Association, Dr. Elsie Scott, Howard University, Walters Center for Public Policy

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Pic2: U.S. Senator Cory Booker, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee

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Pic3: Special Advisor Nero Ughwujabo & U.S. Representative Maxine Waters

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Pic1: Delegation with Bernadette Meehan & Raneem Shamseldin

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Pic1: Delegation at Howard University w/ Ralph Bunche International Affairs Center Deputy Director Tonija Hope-Navas, & Dr. Marilyn Sephacle

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