



**The European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
and the Subcommittee on Human Rights**

with

The United States Congress and the United States Helsinki Commission

**Declaration on racial equity, equality and justice
with the goal of reinforcing US-EU parliamentary coordination to combat
racism and systemic discrimination.**

Brussels, Washington DC, 22 September 2020

We, in our capacity as committee and delegation Chairs within the European Parliament and the US Congress,

Reaffirm our solid commitment to the founding values of our democracies, based on the rule of law and the protection and promotion of human rights.

We are committed to fight against racism, discrimination and inequalities in all circumstances that undermine the cohesion and well-being of our societies.

Privileged to serve our fellow citizens, we, as legislators, have a duty to respond to our societies' aspirations to end racial determinism in all areas.

Whilst acknowledging our respective prerogatives, we are committed to working together towards legal frameworks that ensure respect for our common values of equality, equity, and justice, our societies remain affected by prejudice, discrimination, and unequal treatment on different grounds and important gaps remain in the legislative framework aiming at the protection of our citizens.

We recall the European Parliament resolution of 19 June 2020 on the anti-racism protests following the death of George Floyd (2020/2685(RSP) and U.S. Congress resolution Recognising people of African descent and Black Europeans (H.R. 256) introduced March 26, 2019 calling for increased interparliamentary cooperation to address racism.

We recognise past efforts between Members of the European Parliament, United States (US) Congress, and Helsinki Commission supported by civil society to address racial injustice including annual hearings, People of African Descent (PADWEEK), EU Anti-Racism and Diversity Week, the Black European Summit: Transatlantic Dialogue on Political Inclusion, Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conferences, and Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network workshops held in the US Congress and the European Parliament.

We recognise the need to expand and strengthen current efforts, and in this regard, welcome the announcement made by the EU Commission President Von der Leyen of an Action Plan to fight racism and xenophobia and the appointment of a Commission anti-racism coordinator and in this regard support the adoption of national action plans for the United States and EU Member States governments, and a EU-US Joint Action Plan on Racial and Ethnic Equality and Inclusion as outlined in H.R. 256.

Whilst recognising that policies, programs, and initiatives to address racism and xenophobia and foster equity and inclusion are most successful when they are properly financed and include a public and private sector focus on human rights, justice institutions, and measures aiming at recognition, justice and support to victims, health and well-being, education, research, and heritage institutions, employment and entrepreneurship, housing, environment, and natural resources, political participation and representative leadership, science, technology and innovation, and international affairs and national security in addition to other aspects of society.

Parliaments are the beating heart of democracies and embody the people's will. As Members of the European Parliament and Representatives of the United States Congress, we will ensure that our executives engage in ambitious public policies on racial equity, equality, and justice and ensure their full and effective implementation.

In view of the UN General Assembly midterm review of the International Decade to promote and protect the human rights of people of African Descent (2015-2024), we pledge to continue to work together advocating joint initiatives in international fora.

As credible and reliable partners, we commit to join our forces to ensure the same rights, protections, and opportunities irrespective of race¹, ethnicity, or other traits, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and other related United Nations, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and Council of Europe international commitments.

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¹ "The use of the term 'race' does not imply an acceptance of theories that attempt to determine the existence of separate human races."

European Parliament

Committee on Foreign Affairs

David McAllister

Chair



Subcommittee on Human rights

Maria Arena

Chair



Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Juan Fernando López Aguilar

Chair



Delegation for relations with the United States of America

Radek Sikorski

Chair and EU Co-Chair of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue



United States Congress

U.S. Helsinki Commission

The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings

Chair



**OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism,
and Intolerance**

Helsinki Commission

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
Ranking Member

Benjamin L. Cardin

U.S. Helsinki Commission

The Honorable Gwen Moore
Commissioner

Gwen Moore

**U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs
Subcommittee on Europe**

The Honorable William Keating
Chair

William R. Keating

**U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Subcommittee
Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties**

The Honorable Steve Cohen
Chair

Steve Cohen

Congressional Black Caucus

The Honorable Karen Bass
Chair

Karen Bass

U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee
Congressional European Union Caucus
The Honorable Gregory Meeks
Co-Chair



U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee
Transatlantic Legislators Dialogue
The Honorable Jim Costa
Chair

