

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5837

To provide for the establishment of a global affairs strategy and assistance for people of African descent, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 10, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a global affairs strategy and assistance for people of African descent, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “African Descent Act
5 of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The struggle to end discrimination against
9 people of African descent is a global challenge, and

1 one that is central to the United States commitment
2 to human rights.

3 (2) Targeted exclusion, violence, and discrimi-
4 nation against people of African descent continues
5 around the world.

6 (3) Issues range from the fight for ancestral
7 lands in Latin America, hate crimes resulting in in-
8 jury and death in Europe, profiling and excessive
9 use of force by law enforcement in the United
10 States, and continuing global disparities in health,
11 education, employment, housing, and other sectors.

12 (4) It is imperative that the world actively ad-
13 dress the vestiges of slavery and colonialism that
14 have long hindered racial equality and justice and
15 prevented the recognition of the important contribu-
16 tions of people of African descent to the world.

17 (5) The International Decade for People of Af-
18 rican Descent, from January 1, 2015, to December
19 31, 2025, offers an opportunity to address these
20 issues domestically and globally through coordinated
21 government and civil society strategies, including the
22 private sector.

23 **SEC. 3. ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.**

24 (a) OFFICE OF GLOBAL AFRICAN DESCENT AF-
25 FAIRS.—Title I of the State Department Basic Authorities

1 Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a et seq.) is amended by add-
2 ing at the end the following new section:

3 **“SEC. 63. OFFICE OF GLOBAL AFRICAN DESCENT AFFAIRS.**

4 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—Not later than
5 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the
6 Secretary of State shall establish within the Department
7 of State an Office of Global African Descent Affairs (in
8 this section referred to as the ‘Office’) in the Front Office
9 of the Office of the Undersecretary for Public Diplomacy
10 and Public Affairs.

11 “(b) HEAD OF OFFICE.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of the Office
13 shall be the Director and Special Advisor to the Sec-
14 retary on Global African Descent Affairs (in this
15 section referred to as the ‘Special Advisor’).

16 “(2) APPOINTMENT.—The Director shall be ap-
17 pointed by the Secretary.

18 “(c) OTHER PERSONNEL.—The Office shall be sup-
19 ported by two senior Foreign Service officers.

20 “(d) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Office shall
21 include the following:

22 “(1) Advise the Secretary and direct activities,
23 policies, programs, and funding relating to the
24 human rights and the advancement of people of Af-
25 rican descent internationally, for all bureaus and of-

1 fices of the Department of State and shall lead the
2 coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of relevant
3 international programs for all other Federal agen-
4 cies.

5 “(2) Represent the United States in diplomatic
6 matters relevant to the human rights of people of
7 African descent in contacts with foreign govern-
8 ments, intergovernmental organizations, and special-
9 ized agencies of the United Nations, the Organiza-
10 tion of Security and Cooperation in Europe, other
11 international organizations of which the United
12 States is a member, relevant multilateral conferences
13 and meetings.

14 “(3) Lead efforts to promote an international
15 focus on racial equality more broadly, including
16 through diplomatic initiatives with other countries
17 and partnerships and regular and enhanced coordi-
18 nation with international and nongovernmental orga-
19 nizations and the private sector.

20 “(4) Manage a \$3,000,000 fund for people of
21 African descent to invest in efficient and innovative
22 solutions to combat racial discrimination and create
23 economic and political opportunities for people of Af-
24 rican descent internationally.

1 “(5) Develop a uniform set of indicators and
2 standards for monitoring and evaluating foreign pol-
3 icy assistance for people of African descent in Fed-
4 eral agencies.

5 “(6) Direct, as appropriate, United States Gov-
6 ernment resources to respond to needs for protec-
7 tion, integration, resettlement, and empowerment of
8 people of African descent in United States Govern-
9 ment policies and international programs, including
10 to prevent and respond to discrimination and vio-
11 lence against people of African descent internation-
12 ally.

13 “(7) Work in collaboration with the Race, Eth-
14 nicity, and Social Inclusion Unit in the Western
15 Hemisphere Bureau Office.

16 “(8) Compile an annual report on activities of
17 the United States Government relating to people of
18 African descent to fulfill the requirements of this
19 section and the African Descent Act of 2014.

20 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 “(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
22 TEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional com-
23 mittees’ means—

1 “(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations
2 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
3 Senate; and

4 “(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs
5 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
6 House of Representatives.

7 “(2) PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT.—The
8 term ‘people of African descent’ has the meaning
9 given the term in section 5 of the African Descent
10 Act of 2014.”.

11 (b) ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Foreign Assistance Act
13 of 1961 is amended—

14 (A) in section 116 (22 U.S.C. 2151n), by
15 adding at the end the following new subsection:

16 “(h) STATUS OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The report required under
18 subsection (d) shall include, for countries in the
19 Americas, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, a de-
20 scription of the status of people of African descent
21 in each such country.

22 “(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
23 ‘people of African descent’ has the meaning given
24 the term in section 5 of the African Descent Act of
25 2014.”; and

1 (B) in section 502B (22 U.S.C. 2304)—

2 (i) by redesignating the second sub-
3 section (i) (as added by section 1207(b)(2)
4 of Public Law 113–4) as subsection (j);
5 and

6 (ii) by adding at the end the following
7 new subsection:

8 “(k) STATUS OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The report required under
10 subsection (b) shall include, for countries in the
11 Americas, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, a de-
12 scription of people of African descent in each such
13 country.

14 “(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
15 ‘people of African descent’ has the meaning given
16 the term in section 5 of the African Descent Act of
17 2014.”.

18 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
19 this subsection take effect on the date of the enact-
20 ment of this Act and apply with respect to reports
21 required to be submitted under sections 116 and
22 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as
23 amended by this subsection, on or after such date of
24 enactment.

25 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
2 appropriated to the Secretary of State \$5,000,000
3 for each of the fiscal years 2015 through 2026 to
4 carry out this section and the amendments made by
5 this section.

6 (2) PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS.—Notwith-
7 standing any other provision of law, the Secretary of
8 State is authorized to accept private contributions to
9 carry out this section and the amendments made by
10 this section.

11 (3) DESIGNATION.—Amounts appropriated pur-
12 suant to the authorization of appropriations under
13 paragraph (1) and private contributions accepted
14 under paragraph (2) may be referred to as the
15 “President Obama Fund for African Descent Af-
16 fairs”.

17 **SEC. 4. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR**
18 **INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**

19 (a) SENIOR ADVISOR.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
21 United States Agency for International Development
22 shall appoint within the immediate office of the Ad-
23 ministrator a Senior Advisor to the Administrator on
24 Global African Descent Affairs (in this section re-
25 ferred to as the “Special Advisor”).

1 (2) APPOINTMENT.—The Senior Advisor shall
2 be appointed by the Administrator.

3 (b) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Special Advi-
4 sor shall include the following:

5 (1) Advise the Administrator and direct activi-
6 ties, policies, programs, and funding relating to the
7 human rights and advancement of people of African
8 descent internationally for all bureaus and offices of
9 the Agency.

10 (2) Develop a racial and ethnic equality and
11 empowerment policy, strategy, and action plan for
12 the Agency, in consultation with civil society, that
13 includes a focus on people of African descent.

14 (3) Serve as the Agency liaison to the Depart-
15 ment of State’s Office on Global African Descent Af-
16 fairs.

17 (4) Develop a uniform set of indicators and
18 standards for monitoring and evaluating foreign as-
19 sistance for people of African descent in Federal
20 agencies.

21 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
22 authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator
23 \$3,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2015 through 2026
24 to carry out this section.

1 **SEC. 5. FUNDING.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in
3 this Act, of the amounts made available for “Diplomatic
4 and Consular Programs” for each of the fiscal years 2015
5 through 2026, \$8,000,000 is authorized to be appro-
6 priated for each such fiscal year to carry out this Act.

7 (b) FUNDING OFFSET.—To offset the costs to be in-
8 curred by the Department of State to carry out the provi-
9 sions of this Act for fiscal years 2015 through 2026, the
10 Secretary of State shall eliminate such positions within the
11 Department of State, unless otherwise authorized or re-
12 quired by law, as the Secretary determines to be necessary
13 to fully offset such costs.

14 (c) LIMITATION.—No additional funds are authorized
15 to be appropriated for “Diplomatic and Consular Pro-
16 grams” to carry out the provisions of this Act.

17 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this Act:

19 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
20 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
21 mittees” means—

22 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations
23 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
24 Senate; and

1 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
2 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
3 of Representatives.

4 (2) PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT.—The term
5 “people of African descent” means persons of Afri-
6 can origin who are residents of countries of the
7 Americas, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

8 **SEC. 7. BRIEFINGS AND ASSESSMENTS.**

9 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director
11 and Special Advisor to the Secretary on Global African
12 Descent Affairs (appointed under section 63 of the State
13 Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (as added by
14 section 3 of this Act))—

15 (1) shall brief the appropriate congressional
16 committees on the status of the human rights, social
17 inclusion, equality, and empowerment of people of
18 African descent internationally, as well as the status
19 of programs and response strategies to address dis-
20 crimination and violence against people of African
21 descent internationally; and

22 (2) shall submit to the appropriate congres-
23 sional committees an assessment of human and fi-
24 nancial resources necessary to fulfill the purposes

1 and duties of this Act and the amendments made by
2 this Act.

3 **SEC. 8. UNITED STATES POLICY TO PREVENT AND RE-**
4 **SPOND TO DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE**
5 **AGAINST PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT.**

6 (a) GLOBAL STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.—Not later
7 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
8 and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Director and Spe-
9 cial Advisor to the Secretary on Global African Descent
10 Affairs shall develop or update a United States global
11 strategy to empower, prevent, and respond to discrimina-
12 tion and violence against people of African descent. The
13 strategy shall be transmitted to the appropriate congres-
14 sional committees and, if practicable, made available to
15 the public.

16 (b) COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION.—In devel-
17 oping the strategy under subsection (a), the Director and
18 Special Advisor to the Secretary on Global African De-
19 scent Affairs shall consult with—

- 20 (1) the heads of relevant Federal agencies; and
21 (2) representatives of civil society, multilateral,
22 and private sector organizations.

1 **SEC. 9. SUNSET.**

2 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
3 terminate on October 1, 2026.

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