

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1570

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

MARCH 16, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. LEE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. BASS, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. RUSH) 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 Af-
5 fairs Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The struggle to end discrimination against
2 people of African descent is a global challenge, and
3 one that is central to the United States commitment
4 to human rights.

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

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

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

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

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

2 (a) OFFICE OF GLOBAL AFRICAN DESCENT AF-
3 FAIRS.—Title I of the State Department Basic Authorities
4 Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a et seq.) is amended by add-
5 ing at the end the following new section:

6 **“SEC. 64. OFFICE OF GLOBAL AFRICAN DESCENT AFFAIRS.**

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

13 “(b) HEAD OF OFFICE.—

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

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

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

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

24 “(1) Advise the Secretary and direct activities,
25 policies, programs, and funding relating to the
26 human rights and the advancement of people of Af-

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

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

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

21 “(4) Develop and manage the Fund for African
22 Descent Affairs, established under section 3(c) of
23 the African Descent Affairs Act of 2017, for the
24 purpose of investing in efficient and innovative solu-
25 tions to combat racial discrimination and create eco-

1 nomic and other opportunities for people of African
2 descent internationally.

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

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

15 “(7) Develop and coordinate United States Gov-
16 ernment international efforts related to the imple-
17 mentation of the International Decade for People of
18 African Descent and submit annual reports to Con-
19 gress on these efforts.

20 “(8) Work in collaboration with the Race, Eth-
21 nicity, and Social Inclusion Unit in the Western
22 Hemisphere Bureau and consult with the Bureau of
23 African Affairs.

24 “(9) Compile an annual report on activities of
25 the United States Government relating to people of

African descent to fulfill the requirements of this section and the African Descent Affairs Act of 2017.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

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

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

“(2) PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT.—The term ‘people of African descent’ has the meaning given the term in section 5 of the African Descent Affairs Act of 2017.”.

(b) ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT.—

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

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

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

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The report required under subsection (d) shall include, for countries in the Americas, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, a de-

1 scription of the status of people of African descent
2 in each such country.

3 “(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
4 ‘people of African descent’ has the meaning given
5 the term in section 5 of the African Descent Affairs
6 Act of 2017.”; and

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

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

12 (ii) by adding at the end the following
13 new subsection:

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

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

20 “(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
21 ‘people of African descent’ has the meaning given
22 the term in section 5 of the African Descent Affairs
23 Act of 2017.”.

24 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
25 by this subsection take effect on the date of the en-

1 actment of this Act and apply with respect to re-
2 ports required to be submitted under sections 116
3 and 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as
4 amended by this subsection, on or after such date of
5 enactment.

6 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
8 appropriated to the Secretary of State \$5,000,000
9 for each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2028 to
10 carry out this section and the amendments made by
11 this section.

12 (2) PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS.—Notwith-
13 standing any other provision of law, the Secretary of
14 State is authorized to accept private contributions to
15 carry out this section and the amendments made by
16 this section.

17 (3) DESIGNATION.—Amounts appropriated pur-
18 suant to the authorization of appropriations under
19 paragraph (1) and private contributions accepted
20 under paragraph (2) may be referred to as the
21 “Fund for African Descent Affairs”.

22 **SEC. 4. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR**
23 **INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**

24 (a) SENIOR ADVISOR.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
2 United States Agency for International Development
3 shall appoint within the immediate office of the Ad-
4 ministrator a Senior Advisor to the Administrator on
5 Global African Descent Affairs (in this section re-
6 ferred to as the “Senior Advisor”).

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

9 (b) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Senior Advi-
10 sor shall include the following:

11 (1) Advise the Administrator and direct activi-
12 ties, policies, programs, and funding relating to the
13 human rights and advancement of people of African
14 descent internationally for all bureaus and offices of
15 the Agency.

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

20 (3) Serve as the Agency liaison to the Depart-
21 ment of State’s Office of Global African Descent Af-
22 fairs.

23 (4) Develop a uniform set of indicators and
24 standards for monitoring and evaluating foreign as-

1 sistance for people of African descent in Federal
2 agencies.

3 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator
5 \$3,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2028
6 to carry out this section.

7 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
10 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
11 mittees” means—

12 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations
13 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
14 Senate; and

15 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
16 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
17 of Representatives.

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

22 **SEC. 6. BRIEFINGS AND ASSESSMENTS.**

23 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
24 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director
25 and Special Advisor to the Secretary on Global African

1 Descent Affairs (appointed under section 64 of the State
2 Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (as added by
3 section 3 of this Act))—

4 (1) shall brief the appropriate congressional
5 committees on the status of the human rights, social
6 inclusion, equality, and empowerment of people of
7 African descent internationally, as well as the status
8 of programs and response strategies to address dis-
9 crimination and violence against people of African
10 descent internationally; and

11 (2) shall submit to the appropriate congres-
12 sional committees an assessment of human and fi-
13 nancial resources necessary to fulfill the purposes
14 and duties of this Act and the amendments made by
15 this Act.

16 **SEC. 7. UNITED STATES POLICY TO PREVENT AND RE-**
17 **SPOND TO DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE**
18 **AGAINST PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT.**

19 (a) GLOBAL STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.—Not later
20 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
21 and annually thereafter for 10 years, the Director and
22 Special Advisor to the Secretary on Global African De-
23 scent Affairs shall develop or update a United States glob-
24 al strategy to empower, prevent, and respond to discrimi-
25 nation and violence against people of African descent. The

1 strategy shall be transmitted to the appropriate congres-
2 sional committees and, if practicable, made available to
3 the public.

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

8 (1) the heads of relevant Federal agencies; and
9 (2) representatives of civil society, multilateral,
10 and private sector organizations.

11 **SEC. 8. SUNSET.**

12 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
13 terminate on October 1, 2028.

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