

Extraterritorial Rape: A Legislative Strategy for a New Statute

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Congressional Representatives Pitch

A.) There are human rights abusers present in the United States.

According to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Unit (HRVWCU) “is currently pursuing more than 1,900 leads and removal cases that involve suspected human rights violators from nearly 96 different countries.”¹ There are a significant number of people present in the United States today who are responsible for human rights atrocities.

B.) The existing legislation is not sufficient to try human rights perpetrators who are present in the United States.

In many cases, the United States does not have the authority necessary to prosecute human rights abusers. As Senator Durbin said at the Senate committee hearing *From Nuremberg to Darfur: Accountability for Crimes Against Humanity*, “. . . if a foreign warlord who engaged in mass rape came to the United States of America today, he would probably be beyond the reach of our laws.”²

There are several problems with existing U.S. legislation.

i) The legislation implementing the Genocide Convention, while important, is not sufficient because the elements of genocide are difficult to prove.

One option prosecutors have is to try alleged perpetrators under the penal statute implementing the Genocide Convention. However, prosecutors have to establish i.) that the victim was a member of a national, ethnical, racial or religious group; ii.) that the perpetrator intended to destroy, in whole or in part, the group as such; iii.) by (a) Killing members of the group; (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; or (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group. All of these elements are difficult and onerous to prove, particularly specific intent, and the DOJ has indicated to us that prosecutors may not go forward if they do not think they can win on proving genocide.

ii.) The War Crimes Act is not sufficient because any crime has to take place in an armed conflict and be committed by or against a U.S. citizen.

Another option the DOJ has is to prosecute the perpetrators under Title 18 § 2441 for war crimes. However, like genocide, there are many elements that have to be established in order to

¹ Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Unit. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcements. <<https://www.ice.gov/human-rights-violators-war-crimes-unit>>.

² “From Nuremberg to Darfur: Accountability for Crimes Against Humanity”. Hearing before the Subcommittee Human Rights and the Law of the Committee of the Judiciary, Senate, 110th Cong. 2008.

prosecute as a war crime. First, prosecutors have to prove that the events took place in an armed conflict, either an international armed conflict, between two states, or non-international armed conflict, between government and armed non-government groups.³ Prosecutors may be hesitant going forward if they feel that they cannot prove the existence of an armed conflict, as, for example, with the ongoing human rights abuses in Zimbabwe.

Additionally, and more importantly, the United States can only prosecute war crimes where the perpetrator or the victim is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or a national of the United States. Therefore, this nationality requirement in particular places severe limitations on who can be prosecuted for war crimes in the United States.

iii.) Torture is not sufficient because the statute applies only to state actors and prosecutors must prove specific intent.

The DOJ can prosecute alleged human rights abusers under the U.S. implementing legislation of the Convention against Torture. Torture, in CAT, is defined as “any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity.”⁴

There are several elements within this definition that make it difficult for the DOJ to prosecute acts of rape. Firstly, the torture must be inflicted by a state or a state official; this obviously would be a problem when it comes to non-state militias, like the Mai Mai in Democratic Republic of the Congo or the Lord’s Resistance Army in central Africa, committing torture and rape. Additionally, torture requires the prosecution to prove that the perpetrator “specifically intended to inflict severe physical or mental pain or suffering and that mental pain or suffering refers to prolonged mental harm.”⁵ These added elements may be difficult for the DOJ to prove when it comes to sexual violence and therefore they may be hesitant to go forward with prosecutions.

iv.) Crimes Against Humanity legislation failed to pass Congress.

Although Senator Richard Durbin introduced a comprehensive Crimes Against Humanity bill to the Senate in 2009, it ultimately failed. Therefore, prosecuting suspected human rights

³ “How is the term “Armed Conflict” defined in International Humanitarian Law?” International Committee of the Red Cross. 17 March 2008.

<https://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/article/other/armed-conflict-article-170308.htm>

⁴ UN General Assembly, *Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*, 10 December 1984, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1465, p. 85.

⁵ U.S. reservations, declarations, and understandings, *Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*, Cong. Rec. S17486-01 (daily ed., Oct. 27, 1990).

abusers who have committed acts sexual violence present in the United States as a crime against humanity is not an option.

C.) The only other avenue for addressing human rights abusers is to prosecute and/or deport them for visa fraud and other immigration violations. This is not sufficient to provide accountability or justice to victims. Furthermore, we do not want the United States to become a safe haven for human rights perpetrators or to send them back to their home country if they will not be prosecuted there or may actually continue committing crimes.

As Professor of International Law Diane Orentlicher said, “when we find people who’ve committed the most staggering crimes our imaginations can conjure—and those we can’t even begin to imagine—we prosecute them for visa fraud.”⁶ The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Unit (HRVWCU) has published numerous cases of human rights abusers all over the world who were found in the United States and simply deported. Just a few examples:

Gen. Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova and Gen. José Guillermo García, two former Salvadoran generals who were found liable for torture in a civil suit, were found to be living in Florida. Senator Russ Feingold, Richard Durbin and Tom Corburn personally wrote to the Secretary of Homeland Security in 2007 and 2008 to ask if these men were to be deported; the Secretary responded both times that he was “reviewing the facts of the case to determine whether deportation is appropriate.”⁷ The two generals were finally deported in April 2015, after 25 years of living in Florida and a 16 year legal battle.⁸

Milenko Krstic, part of the Zvornik Brigade Command Staff which committed atrocities against Bosnian Muslims in the former Yugoslavia, pled guilty to providing false statements (18 U.S.C. § 1001) in August 2010 and is still contesting his removal from the United States.⁹ His brother, Ostoja Krstic, followed him to the U.S. in 2003 and also lied about his time in the the Zvornik Brigade, specifically in the Fourth Infantry Battalion at times when members of that Battalion were executing Bosnian Muslims. Ostoja pled

⁶ “From Nuremberg to Darfur: Accountability for Crimes Against Humanity”. Hearing before the Subcommittee Human Rights and the Law of the Committee of the Judiciary, Senate, 110th Cong. 2008.

⁷ “From Nuremberg to Darfur: Accountability for Crimes Against Humanity”. Hearing before the Subcommittee Human Rights and the Law of the Committee of the Judiciary, Senate, 110th Cong. 2008.

⁸ Preston, Julia. “U.S. Deports Salvadoran General Accused in 80s Killing.” The New York Times. 8 April 2015.

⁹ Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Unit. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcements. <<https://www.ice.gov/human-rights-violators-war-crimes-unit>>.

guilty to providing false statements (18 U.S.C. § 1001) in November 2010, and received a sentence of 12 months' probation.¹⁰

In February 2012, a U.S. judge found that former Liberian warlord George Boley was involved in killings and used child soldiers as head of the rebel group Liberian Peace Council. He was deported to Liberia where he has not been prosecuted and is reportedly living as a free man.¹¹

According to ICE: "M-A-, an Ethiopian national, applied for admission to the United States on November 23, 2008. Information was received indicating that as a police chief in the Ogaden region of Ethiopia, M-A- personally abused or tortured individuals in his custody. M-A- was charged as an immigrant not in possession of a valid entry document and was removed to Ethiopia in May 2011."¹²

As seen from the examples above, even deportation can be a poor solution. Many of these individuals can stay in the United States due to bureaucratic delays. For example, Vides-Casanova was able to stay in the United States for 16 years after the first lawsuit was filed against him (the first in 1999, for the murders of U.S. churchwomen in El Salvador (found not liable); in 2002, a civil lawsuit for torturing 3 Salvadoran civilians (found liable); and in 2009, the DHS deportation case). Obviously, there needs to be more serious ramifications for individuals present in the United States who are guilty of committing atrocities, such as mass rape.

D.) The proposed statute is limited in scope and would give prosecutors an additional tool in bringing accountability to human rights abusers present in the United States.

The proposed statute criminalizing extraterritorial rape would be limited in scope, but would offer prosecutors another tool for holding human rights abusers present in the United States accountable and preventing the U.S. from becoming a safe haven for people who have committed atrocities. The DOJ would have a better chance of winning cases under a statute with a narrower scope, without having to prove the additional elements necessary to prosecute genocide, war crimes, or torture.

The proposed statute is limited in scope. First, the elements of rape largely draws from United States law 18 USC §2242. Potential prosecutions would require a nexus to the United States, that the accused is (a) a national of the United States, (b) an alien lawfully admitted for

¹⁰ Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Unit. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcements. <<https://www.ice.gov/human-rights-violators-war-crimes-unit>>.

¹¹ Lovelace, Ryan. "The Liberian Warlord Next Door." *The National Review*. 16 February 2015. <<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/398669/liberian-warlord-next-door-ryan-lovelace>>

¹² Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Unit. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcements. <<https://www.ice.gov/human-rights-violators-war-crimes-unit>>.

permanent residence in the United States, (c) a stateless person whose habitual residence is in the United States, or (d) is present in the United States. There are also potential nexuses to national security enumerated in section F.

This legislation would not allow the United States to prosecute any instance of rape abroad; rather, it would require that certain thresholds are met with the existence of (1) An armed conflict; (2) A widespread or systematic attack against a civilian population; (3) The commission of war crimes; (4) The commission of crimes against humanity; or (5) The commission of genocide. Prosecutions would require the written approval of the Attorney General.

E.) Unlike crimes against humanity or war crimes, sexual violence has a discrete definition and encompasses conduct that is unambiguously criminal. It is unlikely that the statute will have reciprocity ramifications vis-a-vis U.S. personnel.

Rape and other acts of sexual violence have a more discrete definition than war crimes, crimes against humanity, or torture. No U.S. government agency or military service tolerates sexual assault and all already prosecute any individual U.S. servicemen accused of committing rape. Additionally, the United States Department of Defense negotiates Status of Forces Agreements with countries in which the U.S. military is present; these SOFAs establish in which legal systems service members accused of crimes will be tried.

F.) This legislation would increase the national security of the United States.

This legislation would provide an easy avenue to prosecute those involved in violence abroad. Individuals who are on the State Department's Foreign Terrorist Organizations, the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctions list, or who "threatens the security or government functions of the United States"¹³ may meet the nexus test to be prosecuted in the United States and satisfy any due process concerns. However, the DOJ may have issues prosecuting these individuals with the existing legislation. For example, members of ISIL who are present in the United States may be difficult to prosecute because of the problems with existing legislation enumerated in point B. Particularly, it is unclear if ISIL members are state actors. However, it is certain that ISIL has engaged in widespread sexual abuse, particularly of Yazidi women and girls. Having an extraterritorial rape statute could give U.S. prosecutors another tool for bringing these perpetrators to justice.

G.) The legislation would help the United States meet its international obligations.

The United States is subject to several treaties and UNSC resolutions which require it to address the effects of sexual violence. For instance, UN Security Council Resolution 1325 "[e]mphasizes the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes *including those relating to sexual and other violence against women and girls . . .*"¹⁴ UNSC Resolution 1820 again "calls

¹³ § 33

¹⁴ UNSCR 1325 Paragraph 11 (emphasis added).

upon Member States to comply with their obligations for prosecuting persons responsible for [acts of sexual violence and] ensure that all victims of sexual violence, particularly women and girls, have equal protection under the law and equal access to justice”¹⁵ Therefore, the proposed legislation would bring the U.S. closer to meeting its international obligations when the offender is found in the United States.

¹⁵ UNSCR 1820 Paragraph 4.

Background on Members of Congress to Lobby for Legislation

It is unlikely that any legislation will pass through Congress in the next year, until the 2016 election cycle is over. There may be new members of Congress, relevant subcommittee members, and White House administration. However, the following are three Senators (Markey, Boxer, Durbin) who may support the draft statute this year and could help introduce the bill and begin to search for supporters.

This section includes information on these members of Congress who may be supportive of the proposed legislation. It includes background, relevant past legislation they sponsored and co-sponsored and committee assignments. In the future, we will need to target the new members of the relevant subcommittees and find the support from at least one Republican.

Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]

Synopsis:

Member of Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues
Supporter of human rights legislation, particularly LGBT rights.

Background

Irish Catholic family, educated at Immaculate Conception School and Malden Catholic High School. BA, Boston College in 1968

JD, Boston College Law School in 1972

Served in the United States Army Reserve from 1968 to 1973, attaining the rank of Specialist Fourth Class, in Vietnam.¹⁶

Accompanied President Obama on Air Force One for his weeklong trip to Africa in July 2015 . . . In a written statement, Market said “Though issues of democracy, governance, and human rights remain areas on which we will continue to engage our African partners, this trip is an important moment to highlight for the world the gains that Africa is making.”¹⁷

Married to Dr. Susan J. Blumenthal since 1988, who served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Women's Health and held the rank of rear admiral as Assistant U.S. Surgeon General. She is:

“Internationally recognized medical expert on women’s health, global health, disease, obesity, and violence prevention, and mental illness”

Senior Policy and Medical Advisor to amfAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research
Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Georgetown and Tufts School of Medicine

Served as the Director of the Health and Medicine Program at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress (CSPC)¹⁸

Committees

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Committee on Foreign Relations

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy

Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation

¹⁶ “Markey, Edward John.” Biographical Directory of the United States Congress.

¹⁷ Jan, Tracey. “Senator Ed Markey to visit Africa with Obama.” The Boston Globe. 23 July 2015.

¹⁸ “Rear Admiral Susan J. Blumenthal, M.D., M.P.A.” Personal Website. Available at <<http://susan-blumenthal.org/>>.

Subcommittee on Multilateral International Development, Multilateral Institutions, and International Economic, Energy, and Environmental Policy
Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues

Relevant Co/Sponsored Legislation

International Human Rights Defense Act of 2015
International Violence Against Women Act of 2015
Global Human Rights Accountability Act

Relevant Quotes

“Senator Markey has made it a priority to ensure that the United States acts as a leader in human rights. As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Markey has made it a priority to ensure that the United States acts as a leader in human rights and impose enforceable sanctions on violators.”¹⁹

Positions

strongly opposes torture and arbitrary detention
first member of Congress to introduce legislation banning the outsourcing of terror, known as extraordinary rendition
supports the closure of Guantanamo
voted in support of removing restrictions on the ability to transfer cleared detainees
advocates on behalf of constituents wrongfully-detained overseas
ensure that trade agreements require strong safeguards for human rights and labor rights²⁰

LGBT Position

“Throughout his career, Senator Markey has been proud to stand up for equality for all Americans regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. He has consistently stood with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community through some of the biggest fights for global equality. As a Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Markey has stood up for international efforts to promote equality for LGBT people around the world.”²¹

¹⁹ “Ed Markey for United States Senate.” Official Website. Available at <<http://www.markey.senate.gov/>>

²⁰ “Ed Markey for United States Senate.” Official Website. Available at <<http://www.markey.senate.gov/>>

²¹ “Ed Markey for United States Senate.” Official Website. Available at <<http://www.markey.senate.gov/>>

Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]

Background

Born in Brooklyn, New York

Graduated from Brooklyn College

Worked as a stockbroker before moving to California

Worked as a journalist for the *Pacific Sun* and as an aide to U.S. Representative John L. Burton in the 19870s

Parents were first generation Jewish immigrants

Member of Delta Phi Epsilon sorority

Boxer's husband, Stewart, a prominent attorney in Oakland, represents injured workers in worker's compensation cases²²

Led a group of female members of the House to the Anita Hill Senate hearings, where Hill accused U.S. Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment. Boxer and the other women demanded that the committee take Hill's charges seriously.²³

Became a United States Senator in January 1993 after 10 years of service in the House of Representatives

Six years on the Marin County Board of Supervisors

She sat on the House Armed Services Committee

Democratic Chief Deputy Whip²⁴

Retiring in 2016

Committees

Vice Chairman, Senate Select Committee on Ethics

Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Ex Officio, Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety

Ex Officio, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife

Ex Officio, Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory

Oversight

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

²² "Barbara Boxer makes it official, files papers to run for reelection" The LA Times. 18 February 2010.

²³ Neal, Terry. "Clinton Woes a Snag for 3 Female Incumbents." The Washington Post. 28 March 1998.

²⁴ "Barbara Boxer, United States Senator." Official Website. Available at <<https://www.boxer.senate.gov/><

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues
Member, Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy
Member, Subcommittee on Multilateral International Development, Multilateral Institutions, and International Economic, Energy, and Environmental Policy
Member, Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development²⁵

Co-Sponsored/Sponsored Legislation

S.Res.345 - A resolution deploring the rape and assault of women in Guinea and the killing of political protesters on September 28, 2009.
A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the Syrian refugee crisis.
A resolution to support the empowerment of women and urge countries to #FreeThe20.
International Human Rights Defense Act of 2015
Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2009
A resolution urging the criminal prosecution of persons committing crimes against humanity, including participation in mass rapes, in Bosnia-Herzegovina.
A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate concerning systematic rape in the conflict in the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.
International Violence Against Women Act of 2015
International Violence Against Women Act of 2014
Violence Against Women Law (VAWA)
S. 495, or the Darfur Accountability Act of 2005
author of the Syria Accountability Act, which strengthened sanctions against Syria over the country's support for terrorism

²⁵ "Barbara Boxer." GovTrack.us. Available at https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/barbara_boxer/300011.

Sen. Durbin, Richard [D-IL]

Background

B.S. from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in 1966.
Intern in the office of Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois during his senior year in college
Earned his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in 1969
Admitted to the Illinois bar in 1969
Active in opposing/stopping the genocide in Darfur
Rivalry with Chuck Schumer

Committees

Senate Committee on Appropriations

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Department of Defense
Member, Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education, and Related Agencies
Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Member, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
Member, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
Member, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies

Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on the Constitution
Member, Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest
Member, Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and
Federal Courts

Senate Committee on Rules and Administration²⁶

Sponsored/Co-Sponsored Legislation

H.R.4594 - International Violence Against Women Act of 2010
Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning systematic rape in the
conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina.
International Violence Against Women Act of 2015
Genocide Accountability Act,

²⁶ “Richard Durbin.” GovTrack.us. Available at
<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/richard_durbin/300038>

Global Human Rights Accountability Act,
the Child Soldiers Prevention Act
the Child Soldiers Accountability Act
Human Rights Enforcement Act of 2009
S.1346 - Crimes Against Humanity Act of 2010
Darfur Peace and Responsibility Act
Sudan Disclosure Enforcement Act
Civilian Protection No-Fly Zone Act
the Hybrid Force Resolution
the Sudan Divestment Authorization Act

Relevant Quotes

“I am deeply committed to addressing ongoing civil and human rights concerns in the United States. As, I held a number of hearings that gave a platform to voices that are not often heard in the halls of Congress, including the first-ever congressional hearings on the use of solitary confinement, Muslim civil rights, the school-to-prison pipeline, and so-called ‘stand your ground’ laws.

I will continue my efforts to conduct oversight of laws that impact the civil and human rights of Americans. And I will keep fighting to address a number of ongoing concerns, including: policies that permit the government to profile people based on their race, national origin, or religion; unfair racial disparities in the criminal justice system; onerous state voting laws that often make it more difficult for low-income and minority citizens to exercise their fundamental right to vote; and the continuing threat and underreporting of hate crimes.”²⁷

“Durbin went on to cite multiple incidences where the United States and the international community have failed to prevent human rights violations in recent decades: slavery in Mauritania, potential Russian war crimes in the Ukraine, genocide in Rwanda. Quoting Abraham Lincoln, for whom the hall he spoke in was named, Durbin said, ‘We, even we here, hold the power and bear the responsibility.’ He believes through his goal of ‘legislation, not lamentation,’ the U.S. can be a leader in the fight against human rights violations worldwide.”²⁸

²⁷ “Richard Durbin, United States Senator.” Official Website. Available at <http://www.durbin.senate.gov/>

²⁸ Corrigan, Jack. “Sen. Dick Durbin speaks on human rights at Northwestern Law”. North by Northwestern. 8 April 2015.

Relevant Subcommittees

Senate Judiciary Committee, [Subcommittee on the Constitution](#)

Senator John Cornyn, Chairman (R-TX)

Senator Thom Tillis (R-FL)

Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)

Senator David Vitter (R-LA)

Senator Richard Durbin, Ranking Member (D-IL)

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)

Senator Chris Coons (D-DE)

Jurisdiction: (1) Constitutional amendments; (2) Enforcement and protection of constitutional rights; (3) Statutory guarantees of civil rights and civil liberties; (4) Separation of powers; (5) Federal-State relations; (6) Interstate compacts; (7) Human rights laws and practices; (8) Enforcement and implementation of human rights laws.

Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues

Rubio, Marco (FL-R), Chairman
Flake, Jeff (AZ-R)
Gardner, Cory (CO-R)
Perdue, David (GA-R)
Isakson, Johnny (GA-R)
Corker, Bob (TN-R), Ex Officio
Boxer, Barbara (CA-D), Ranking Member
Udall, Tom (NM-D)
Kaine, Tim (VA-D)
Markey, Edward J. (MA-D)
Cardin, Benjamin L. (MD-D), Ex Officio

This subcommittee deals with all matters concerning U.S. relations with the countries of the Western Hemisphere, including Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, Cuba, and the other countries in the Caribbean, as well as the Organization of American States. This subcommittee's regional responsibilities include all matters within the geographic region, including matters relating to: (1) terrorism and non-proliferation; (2) crime and illicit narcotics; (3) U.S. foreign assistance programs; and (4) the promotion of U.S. trade and exports. In addition, this subcommittee has global responsibility for transnational crime, trafficking in persons (also known as modern slavery or human trafficking), global narcotics flows, civilian security, democracy, human rights, and global women's issues.

Annex V — Background on Other Congressmembers

Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]

Rep. Israel, Steve [D-NY-3] (

Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]

Sen. Feingold, Russell D. [D-WI]

Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]

Rep. Sanchez, Linda T. [D-CA-39]

Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]

Rep. McDermott, Jim [D-WA-7]

Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]

Rep. Speier, Jackie [D-CA-12]

Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-15]

Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]

Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]

*Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]

Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]

Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-14]

Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]

Committees:

House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Sub-Committee Asia and Pacific and Western Hemisphere
House Committee on Natural Resources, Sub-Committee Energy and Mineral Resources, Water, Power, and Oceans, and Federal Lands

Relevant Memberships:

Humpty Dumpty Institute -- Congressional Advisory Board
Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

Relevant Caucuses:

Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus
House Impact Aid Coalition
Congressional Caucus on Vietnam
Religious Minorities in the Middle East Caucus

Sponsored/Co-Sponsored Legislation

H.Res.436 — 114th Congress (2015-2016) -- Honoring the victims of the Cambodian genocide that took place from April 1975 to January 1979.

H.Con.Res.75 - Expressing the sense of Congress that those who commit or support atrocities against Christians and other ethnic and religious minorities, including Yezidis, Turkmen, Sabea-Mandean, Kaka'e, and Kurds, and who target them specifically for ethnic or religious reasons, are committing, and are hereby declared to be committing, "war crimes", "crimes against humanity", and "genocide".

H.Res.310 — 114th Congress (2015-2016) -- Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding Srebrenica.

H.Con.Res.65 — 114th Congress (2015-2016) -- Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the upgrading of Malaysia on the 2015 Trafficking In Persons report (...hundreds more...)

Biography

raised in the Queens Borough of New York City
Bachelor's Degree from Hobart and William Smith Colleges and his Ph.D. from Ohio State University, he moved to Long Beach, California in 1969 where he taught Community Psychology at California State University, Long Beach until 1998.
became city council member in Long Beach City Council in 1992, where he served for six years
elected California legislator with three terms as a State Assembly member, then two terms as a State Senator.
Congressman Lowenthal is currently the U.S. House Representative of California's newly-created 47th Congressional District, which includes portions of Long Beach,

Signal Hill, Lakewood, Cypress, Los Alamitos, Rossmoor, Garden Grove, Westminster, Stanton, and Buena Park.

Website Quotes

“Human rights violations that are committed around the world must not go unnoticed and unreported. I believe that the United States must be a leader in the promotion of global human rights, especially with our trade partners and international allies. Increased trade and relations with countries around the world should go hand in hand with the advancement of human rights. As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, I am proud to advocate for strong human rights protections in every avenue of America’s foreign relations.

“Our children must be reminded of the struggles and the cost of seeking and maintaining true freedom. We must continue to stand in solidarity with people around the world who still fight for freedom, justice, and human dignity.

“I have introduced resolutions each year honoring the anniversary of Human Rights Day and supporting the ideals of universal human rights, reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and encouraging all nations to continue working towards freedom, peace, and security, which can be achieved only through democracy, respect for human rights, and the rule of law.

“Congress, and the world, must recognize that those who are denied basic human rights, such as the freedoms of speech and religious or political expression, are therefore denied an opportunity to be treated with respect and dignity.

Human Rights in Vietnam (Section of Website)

“America must show global leadership that reflects the ideals we cherish—freedom, democracy, human rights, and respect for people as individuals. The annual commemoration of the Fall of Saigon reminds us that there is still much work to be done to ensure that the basic rights we enjoy here in America are upheld and respected in Vietnam. Our commitment cannot waiver until the ongoing human rights violations in Vietnam and around the world end.

“As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam, I am committed to making sure the United States does more to call for freedom, justice, and basic human rights in Vietnam. I cosponsored the Vietnam Human Rights Act to withhold any increases in United States non-humanitarian assistance to the government of Vietnam until it has made substantial progress toward respecting political, media, and religious freedoms; minority rights; access to U.S. refugee programs for Vietnamese nationals; and actions to end trafficking in persons; and the release of political prisoners.

“When I visited Vietnam in 2015 as part of a Congressional delegation, I made clear to the Vietnamese government that they must respect and safeguard the basic human rights of all Vietnamese. If Vietnam wishes to build stronger economic and diplomatic ties with the United

States, it cannot continue to suppress freedom of religion and the press, ban independent labor unions, and jail prisoners of conscience.

“Until the Vietnamese government has regained trust from its people and the rest of the world, I will remain vigilant in shining a light on its repeated human rights violations.”²⁹

²⁹ Alan Lowenthal Official Website. <http://lowenthal.house.gov/issues/issue/?IssueID=106659>

Rep. Israel, Steve [D-NY-3]
note: very pro-Israel (the state) in his positions

Committees:

Appropriations, Defense Sub-Committee, Interior Sub-Committee

Co-Sponsored/Sponsored Legislation

S.Res.219 - A resolution calling for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and others to be tried before the International Criminal Court for committing war crimes and crimes against humanity.

1. H.R.11 : Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013

Website

“In January 2009, Rep. Israel wrote a letter to U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice urging her to resist any U.N. attempts to delay action on the International Criminal Court warrant for the arrest of Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir. The bipartisan letter, which was led by Rep. Israel and signed by 22 Members of Congress, also called for a Presidential Envoy to respond to the ongoing crisis in Sudan.”

Website claims he is the leader of a Congressional Effort Regarding U.N. Action on the ICC Arrest Warrant for Sudanese Pres. Omar al-Bashir.³⁰ (However, he is against ICC investigation into Israel)

Darfur

“Rep. Israel has been a leading voice in Congress raising awareness about the genocide in Darfur and working to provide assistance through his position on the House Appropriations State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee”

“In the 110th Congress (2007-2008), Rep. Israel wrote a provision that was passed in the House of Representatives that takes aim at expanding genocide relief missions in Darfur through an upgrade of the nearby Abeche airfield in Chad. The Abeche airfield, located near the Darfur region of Sudan, is currently used for some limited military transportation and humanitarian operations but may need upgrades to the air strip and hangars to allow for the increased air traffic that would arise through a UN or NATO deployment or expanded relief missions to Darfur. The Department of Defense (DOD) conducted a study on the feasibility of such an expansion, which sent a message to Sudan's President Omar Hassan Ahmed al-Bashir that the United States is interested in expanding the Abeche airfield for genocide relief missions, NATO operations or a possible U.N. deployment to the region.”

³⁰<https://israel.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-israel-leads-congressional-effort-regarding-un-action-on-the-icc>

Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]

Committees: Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, Aging Committee, Armed Services, Environment and Public Works

Website

Women In The Military

“Women are already serving shoulder to shoulder with male servicemembers, and in fact are dying in combat. Our servicewomen work hard to protect our nation, and Senator Gillibrand is working hard to ensure that they are given every opportunity to advance in their military careers. Senator Gillibrand introduced the *Gender Equality in Combat Act*, which would require the Department of Defense to report on implementation of the termination of the ground combat exclusion policy, which bars women from serving in combat units. Senator Gillibrand included a similar provision in the *NDAA*. Senator Gillibrand is proud that Secretary Panetta lifted the ban on women serving in combat roles and our elite branches of service are preparing to implement this new policy.”

Rape in the military

“Senator Gillibrand is also working to ensure that our service women have the same rights as civilian women when facing an unwanted pregnancy as a result of rape or incest. Senator Gillibrand introduced the *MARCH for Military Women Act*, which would provide women in the military access to abortion services in military hospitals in cases of rape or incest. No servicemember should face the risk to personal safety, particularly after having suffered sexual abuse, when she is in need of health services. Thanks to Senator Gillibrand’s leadership, a provision based on this bill was added to the *NDAA*.”

Human Trafficking

“U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand spotlighted the problem of human tracking today as she testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee at a hearing on protecting victims. This hearing was a result of a letter by Senator Gillibrand and all 19 of her women colleagues to the Committee’s Chair and Ranking members, demanding a hearing to address this issue. Earlier this month, Senator Gillibrand introduced **a human trafficking resolution which acknowledges that children can’t consent to sex and are therefore victims of rape or sex trafficking**. The resolution passed the Senate unanimously on February 12th. Senator Gillibrand is also a co-sponsor of several pieces of human trafficking legislation. Schumer, Gillibrand Announce Over \$2 Million in Federal Funds to Combat Human Trafficking & Support Survivors in New York City.”³¹

Sen. Feingold, Russell D. [D-WI]

³¹ <https://reason.com/blog/2015/03/10/senate-victims-of-human-trafficking-act>

Currently running for re-election

Co-Sponsor/Sponsor:

[Crimes Against Humanity Act of 2010](#)
[...Hundreds more here...](#)

Biography

born in Janesville, Rock County, Wis., March 2, 1953;
graduated, University of Wisconsin, Madison 1975;
attended Magdalen College, Oxford, England, as a Rhodes Scholar and received a
graduate degree in 1977;
graduated, Harvard University Law School 1979
lost re-election for Senate in 2010

On the Issues Record³²

As special envoy to Congo, cajoled both sides of civil war. (Mar 2014)
Voted NO on capping foreign aid at only \$12.7 billion. (Oct 1999)
Voted NO on Strengthening of the trade embargo against Cuba. (Mar 1996)
Voted NO on ending Vietnam embargo. (Jan 1994)
Multi-year commitment to Africa for food & medicine. (Apr 2001)
Monitor human rights in Uganda-Sudan crisis. (Aug 2004)
Remove African National Congress from terrorist list. (May 2008)
Implement Darfur Peace Agreement with UN peacekeeping force. (Feb 2008)
Acknowledge the Armenian Genocide of the early 1900s. (Mar 2007)
Develop a strategy to protect civilians in Darfur. (Feb 2007)
Condemn violence by Chinese government in Tibet. (Apr 2008)
Sanction Mugabe until Zimbabwe transitions to democracy. (Apr 2008)
Allow travel between the United States and Cuba. (Feb 2009)
Voted YES on expanding hate crimes to include sexual orientation. (Jun 2000)
Voted NO on ending special funding for minority & women-owned business. (Oct 1997)
Voted YES on prohibiting job discrimination by sexual orientation. (Sep 1996)
Rated 89% by the HRC, indicating a pro-gay-rights stance. (Dec 2006)
Rated 96% by the NAACP, indicating a pro-affirmative-action stance. (Dec 2006)
Recognize Juneteenth as historical end of slavery. (Jun 2008)
Re-introduce the Equal Rights Amendment. (Mar 2007)
Reinforce anti-discrimination and equal-pay requirements. (Jan 2008)
Investigate deportation of Japanese during WWII. (Jan 2009)

Testified at Senate Hearings

[FROM NUREMBERG TO DARFUR: ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY HEARING](#) before the [SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE LAW](#)

³² http://www.ontheissues.org/senate/Russell_Feingold.htm

RAPE AS A WEAPON OF WAR: ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CHRG-110shrg45210/html/CHRG-110shrg45210.htm>

Relevant Quotes

"I have long believed that the protection of basic human rights and accountability for human rights abuses must be a cornerstone of American foreign policy. The failure to prosecute those guilty of crimes against humanity makes it more likely that such crimes will be repeated. Accountability must be established in order to overcome long-entrenched cultures of impunity, stem the potential for violent retribution, create conditions for meaningful reconciliation, and ultimately prevent new rounds of atrocities from occurring.

"While we have made some progress in encouraging accountability for abuses of human rights, there are loopholes within our own legal framework here at home that allow individuals to find shelter from prosecution for their unspeakable actions.

"Let me note one particular example in which the perpetrators of human rights abuses have found shelter on American soil. In 1980, four American churchwomen who had been working with refugees in El Salvador were brutally murdered by members of the Salvadoran National Guard. In command of these men were two Salvadoran generals who, although they bear direct responsibility for this atrocity, are currently living in the United States. In 2002, the generals were found liable in civil lawsuits for acts of torture carried out under their command. Yet, despite having been found liable for these terrible crimes, they continue to reside freely in Florida

"Criminal prosecution of these men is hindered by the fact that the statute criminalizing acts of torture was not passed until 1994 - long after the acts were committed. Our immigration laws, however, do allow the United States to deport these men. Inexplicably, the Department of Homeland Security has not initiated deportation, despite repeated appeals from members of Congress. "It is unacceptable that individuals who are known to be responsible for human rights abuses are allowed to find safe haven in the United States. I hope that this hearing will help us to find ways to hold these men, and others like them, accountable for their actions."³³

In-Depth Article: Did Russ Feingold Just End a War?

<http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2014/03/russ-feingold-congo-104535>

³³http://www.aaainc.org/fileadmin/aaainc/images/PR_-_2008/June-July/Senator_Feingold_Statement_-_Darfur_hearings.pdf

Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]

Committees: The Committee on the Judiciary

Ranking Member: The Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations

Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security

The Committee on Homeland Security

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies

Subcommittee on Border, Maritime Security

Congresswoman Jackson Lee serves in a number of additional leadership roles:

SENIOR WHIP: Democratic Caucus

VICE CHAIR: Congressional Progressive Caucus

FORMER WHIP: Congressional Black Caucus

CHAIR: Texas Democratic Delegation

CO-CHAIR: Congressional Afghanistan Caucus

CO-CHAIR: Congressional Children's Caucus

CO-CHAIR: Congressional Pakistan Caucus

CO-CHAIR: Congressional Nigerian Caucus

Congresswoman Jackson Lee is a member of over 45 Congressional Member organizations, including:

Congressional Afghanistan Caucus, Co-Chair

Congressional African Partnership for Economic Growth Caucus

Congressional Algerian Caucus, Co-Chair

Congressional Black Caucus

Congressional Black Caucus, Judicial and Civil Rights Task Force, Co-Chair

Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues

Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, Task Force on Women of Color, Co-Chair

Congressional Caucus on Ethiopia and Ethiopian-Americans

Congressional Caucus on Global Road Safety

Congressional Caucus on Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children

Congressional Caucus on Nigeria

Congressional Caucus on the Judicial Branch

Congressional Caucus on Turkey

Congressional China Caucus

Congressional Correctional Officers Caucus

Congressional Czech Caucus

Congressional French Caucus

Congressional Friends of Canada

Congressional Iraqi Women's Caucus

Congressional Native American Caucus

Congressional Nigerian Caucus, Co-Chair

Congressional Pakistan Caucus, Co-Chair
Congressional Port Security Caucus
Congressional Portuguese Caucus
Congressional Qatari-American Caucus
Congressional Refugee Caucus
Congressional Singapore Caucus
Congressional Taiwan Caucus
Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus
Friends of Finland Caucus
Friends of Norway Caucus
Iran Human Rights and Democracy Caucus
Kenya Caucus
Latino-Jewish Congress
Law Enforcement Caucus
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality Caucus
Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases Caucus
Out of Afghanistan Caucus
Out of Iraq Caucus
Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission
U.S.-China Working Group

Positions

Jackson Lee traveled to the 2001 World Conference against Racism in South Africa, and has backed sanctions against Sudan.^[22]

On April 28, 2006, Jackson Lee, along with four other members of Congress and six other activists, was arrested for disorderly conduct in front of Sudan's embassy in Washington. They were protesting the role of Sudan's government in ethnic cleansing in Darfur.^[23]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheila_Jackson_Lee_-_cite_note-23

Website

“Considered by many as the “Voice of Reason”, she is dedicated to upholding the Constitutional rights of all people.

“Congresswoman Jackson Lee strongly believes in the value of multilateralism and constructive engagement with other members of the international community. Congresswoman Jackson Lee works to encourage a balanced and thoughtful approach to foreign policy, emphasizing the importance of dialogue and diplomacy as tools of the first, rather than the last, resort.

“Darfur: Congresswoman Jackson Lee has been a leading voice against genocide in the western Sudanese region of Darfur. Along with her colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), she was among the first to apply the term "genocide" to the conflict in Darfur, followed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate in July 2004. Congresswoman Jackson Lee traveled to Darfur in August 2007, where she visited internally displaced persons camps and met with government and civil society leaders as well as representatives from humanitarian organizations. Congresswoman Jackson Lee is particularly concerned about the 2.5 million

people who have been displaced by this conflict. She is working to improve the overall security situation in Darfur so that they may soon be able to go home in safety. As Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, Congresswoman Jackson Lee has also drawn attention to the plight of Darfur's children, hosting a briefing on the issue and welcoming to Congress a young, resettled Darfurian refugee.

“Afghanistan: Congresswoman Jackson Lee believes that Afghanistan is the first front in the war on global terrorism, and she is concerned about the ongoing instability in Afghanistan. She co-chairs the U.S.-Afghanistan caucus, and she has visited the country, where she was particularly moved by the conditions faced by women and children. Congresswoman Jackson Lee recently successfully amended the Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act of 2007, which passed the House, to encourage funding for efforts to protect Afghanistan's female legislators. Congresswoman Jackson Lee supports the ongoing UN presence in the region after the mass draw down of U.S. troops after the 13 year engagement. She stands firm in supporting actions that strengthen the Afghanistan government and the continued fight for a stable region.

“Nigeria: Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee has led a Congressional Delegation to Nigeria where she spoke to those affected by the terrorist group, Boko Haram. Congresswoman Jackson Lee, along with her colleagues on the Committee of Homeland Security, have proposed a relief fund that would offer support for those who have been personally affected by the actions of the extremist group Boko Haram, including the families of the 200 kidnapped schoolgirls from Chibok. Congresswoman Jackson Lee is also calling for the creation of an elite police force that is capable of preventing and combating violence within Nigerian villages. Congresswoman Jackson Lee continues to support panels and briefings that bring Nigerian leaders together with our current legislative expert in order to strengthen the advancement of a strong democratic government in Nigeria.

Opposed to the Leahy amendment (which banned intelligence sharing with human rights abusers) because it is impeding the fight against Boko Haram in Nigeria.³⁴

“What I would say to my colleagues, the very eager aspect of the Africa Command, that is not the civilian part, but the Africa Command wants to utilize its intelligence capacity,” she said Wednesday at a House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing. “Many of you know the Leahy provisions, which have been appreciated for what they stood for, by human rights,” she added. “But that is a bar for the extended utilization of intelligence.”

Speech on Promoting Human Rights and Democracy in Vietnam through the Vietnam Human Rights Act (H.R. 2140, S. ___) and Trans-Pacific Partnership Negotiations with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

“As the United States and Vietnam mark 20 years of diplomatic relations, it is imperative that we achieve significant improvements in human rights practices.

After all, as the saying goes, an injury to one is an injury to all.

As you know, fighting for human rights across the globe is one of my passions.

³⁴<https://www.districtsentinel.com/sheila-jackson-lee-human-rights-law-weighting-down-nigeria-assistance-in-boko-haram-fight/>

In fact, I have authored and supported numerous legislation and resolutions that seek to protect constitutional rights.

Freedom and democracy are the very bedrock of the United States Constitution.

The First Amendment of the U.S Constitution protects the religious and free speech rights of all persons.

This is why the enactment of a Vietnam Human Rights law that protects religious freedom, political thought, association and peaceable assembly is imperative.

In 2014, through my membership in the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, I adopted Blogger Ta Phong Tan.

I continue to have grave concerns that she is currently on hunger strike in prison and that she is denied visitation by her family.

A Vietnam Human Rights Act that includes the protection of religious and political dissidents, civil society organizations, respect of labor rights and combats human trafficking is instrumental to the facilitation of the rule of law for Vietnamese people.

All these freedoms aspired for in the Human Rights Act are important to help uphold the notions of equity and fairness that will help promote a just and healthy society in Vietnam and across the globe.

I commend everyone present today for all the work you have done and that you continue to do to preserve human rights and thus making our world a better place.”³⁵

³⁵<https://jacksonlee.house.gov/media-center/speeches/congresswoman-sheila-jackson-lee-talking-points-on>

Rep. Sanchez, Linda T. [D-CA-39]

Committees

Ranking member on the House Ethics Committee
House Committee on Ways and Means
Select Committee on Benghazi

Website

“Previously, Sánchez served on the House Judiciary Committee where her work to bring oversight and transparency back to Congress received national recognition. In her previous service as Chair of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law (CAL), Sánchez helped lead the Congressional investigation into the Bush Administration’s firing of nine United States Attorneys in 2006.

Sánchez’ role as a leader in the investigation of the politicization of the Department of Justice was highlighted in 2008 when she recommended that Karl Rove be held in contempt of Congress after failing to abide by a congressional subpoena and appear in front of the CAL subcommittee. Sánchez has also brought greater scrutiny to the misuse of arbitration and has worked to address the mortgage crisis through existing bankruptcy law that would help keep families in their homes.”³⁶

Positions from On The Issue³⁷

\$500M and 3,000 troops to Africa to fight Ebola. (Aug 2014)
Acknowledge the Armenian Genocide of the early 1900s. (Mar 2007)
Sanction Mugabe until Zimbabwe transitions to democracy. (Apr 2008)
Allow travel between the United States and Cuba. (Feb 2009)
Commitment to unbreakable U.S.-Israel bond. (Mar 2010)

³⁶ <https://lindasanchez.house.gov/about>

³⁷ http://www.ontheissues.org/CA/Linda_Sanchez.htm

Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]

Committees

House Committee on Appropriations

- Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

-Subcommittee on Military Construction-Veterans Affairs

- Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

House Committee on The Budget

House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee

Senior Democratic Whip

Chair, Democratic Whip Task Force on Poverty, Income Inequality, and Opportunity

Chair, Social Work Caucus

Vice-Chair, LGBT Equality Caucus

Whip and Chair of the Peace and Security Task Force, Congressional Progressive Caucus

Co-Chair, Out-of-Poverty Caucus

Co-Chair, Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus

Co-Chair, Congressional Black Caucus Poverty and Economy Task Force

Co-Chair, Congressional Caucus on Sudan and South Sudan

Co-Chair, Health Care Task Force, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus

Human Rights Caucus

Website

“Congresswoman Barbara Lee is a forceful and progressive voice in Congress, dedicated to social and economic justice, international peace, and civil and human rights.

“Congresswoman Lee has been a leader in the bipartisan effort in Congress to end the ongoing genocide in Darfur, Sudan, including the passage of legislation she authored to allow divestment from companies doing business in the region.

Establishing the Department of Peacebuilding: Congresswoman Lee has introduced legislation in the 113th Congress, H.R. 808, to create a Department of Peacebuilding. Nationally and internationally, this bill would target the culture of violence pervading our society and invest in programs promoting violence reduction and conflict management, as well as create a cabinet-level secretary of peace building.

Addressing Humanitarian Crises Around the World: Congresswoman Lee has spearheaded Congressional responses to humanitarian disasters such as the 2010 earthquake in Haiti and the famine in the Horn of Africa, as well as the conflicts in Sudan and South Sudan. She has also supported measures to provide much needed humanitarian aid to victims of the ongoing Syrian Civil War.

Divesting from Darfur: Congresswoman Lee travelled to Darfur three times to help bring the world’s attention to the horrific genocide taking place. She sponsored legislation recognizing acts of genocide in the region, calling for divestment from Sudan, and urging China and the Arab League to help stop the violence. Divestment is a form of economic boycott which encourages institutions to adopt socially responsible practices. In 2008,

Congresswoman Lee's Darfur divestment legislation was signed into law by President Bush.

Standing Up for a Strong Violence Against Women Act (VAWA): Congresswoman Lee has long been an advocate for survivors of sexual assault and domestic abuse. During her tenure in the California Legislature, Congresswoman Lee authored the Violence Against Women Act for the state of California. She understands the importance of having strong protections for all, including undocumented immigrants, Native Americans, and LGBT individuals. When extremists attempted to gut protections in the 2013 reauthorization of VAWA, Congresswoman Lee refused to accept their watered-down bill and worked for passage of a stronger, more inclusive Violence Against Women Act.”³⁸

³⁸ <https://lee.house.gov/issues/global-peace-security>

Rep. McDermott, Jim [D-WA-7]

Committees

House Ways and Means Committee, Senior Member
Subcommittee on Health, Ranking Member
House Budget Committee, Senior Member

Central Africa Caucus

Website

“After more than a decade in the State Senate, Jim decided to leave politics to serve as a U.S. Foreign Service Medical Officer in 1987. Stationed in Zaire, Jim was charged with providing psychiatric services to State Department employees, USAID staff, and Peace Corps personnel throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

“Throughout his time in elected office, Jim has been and continues to be an ardent advocate of internationally recognized human rights and civil liberty. Jim is an active member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission (TLHRC). He actively engages in human rights matters with fellow Members of Congress, the Executive Branch, and foreign governments, experts and non-governmental organizations, using both public and private tools of diplomacy to bring about change.

Women's Rights

“Jim has been a consistent advocate of women’s rights to health services. Jim was one of the most vocal critics of legislation introduced earlier this year that would disproportionately limit low-income and minority women’s access to basic health care, as well as place unprecedented restrictions on the health insurance benefits offered middle-class women, civil servants, and small business owners. Jim’s op-ed on this subject can be found byclicking here.

“Jim is an active member of the House Democracy Partnership which works with legislators in emerging democracies throughout the world. Jim has raised human rights concerns at the highest level, ranging from maternal and child health, to detention of democracy activists, crackdowns against religious freedom, and protection of refugees and internally displaced people in war-torn countries.

Jim’s medical background and international experience provide him particular insights into global affairs.

“Jim recently introduced the "Medical Neutrality Protection Act of 2011" (H.R. 2643), which seeks to protect doctors and health workers caring for the wounded in times of war or civil unrest. Jim became aware of this issue in the 1980s during the civil war in El Salvador, where medical workers were killed, caught in combat, or attacked while working in refugee camps. Since then, Jim has sought to elevate in U.S. foreign policy the issue of medical workers’ protection in military conflict.”³⁹

³⁹ <https://www.mocoopnation.org/legislatorsdetail.aspx?LegisID=McDeXJim12281936>

Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]

Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (Vice Chairman)

Senate Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittees:

Energy and Water (Vice Chairman)

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Defense

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Interior, Environment and Related Agencies

Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittees:

Crime and Terrorism

Immigration, Refugees, and Border Security

Senate Committee on Rules and Administration

Main sponsor of the *Combat Human Trafficking Act (S.2941)*,

Quote

“The sexual exploitation of children and other trafficking victims is a scourge on our society that we must do more to prevent,” said Senator Feinstein. “Too often, buyers of sex acts from trafficking victims escape with a slap on the wrist or aren’t prosecuted at all. To reduce the demand for trafficking, we need to strengthen laws and enforcement efforts against buyers.”⁴⁰

⁴⁰<http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=fa1f2465-d9c8-48fa-8a0c-e0d294a6f542>

Rep. Speier, Jackie [D-CA-12]

Committees

Armed Services Committee,
Oversight & Investigations subcommittee
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Main Sponsor of Resolution Condemning Sexual Violence Against Women and Children by ISIL as Crimes Against Humanity

Relevant Quotes

Foreign Assistance

“Foreign aid makes up less than 1% of our budget, but it is one of our most effective policy tools. The United States is continuing to restore its image after years of bad decisions that have damaged our standing throughout the world and placed our national and economic security at grave risk. Congresswoman Speier believes in modernizing our foreign assistance programs to better address the global challenges of the 21st century, including terrorism, poverty, pandemic disease, climate change, energy security, failing states, food insecurity, slowed economic growth, and population and migration issues.

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

“Human trafficking has become our modern-day slavery and is considered one of the fastest growing criminal industry in the world. In fact, it recently became the second most profitable criminal enterprise alongside illegal arms trafficking. What many do not know is that this epidemic is thriving in our country and not only affects foreign victims but also American children. In fact, national experts estimate that as many as 300,000 American children are trafficked each year in the United States and the average age of the victims is 12-14. Evidence shows that the Internet has become the tool of choice for these predators.

“In 2010, Speier called on the House Judiciary committee to hold a hearing into this troubling epidemic. The hearing took place in September 2010 and led to a deeper understanding of the issue and a renewed commitment by Congress to improve the lives of the innocent victims affected. But the problem is truly local and must also be tackled at home. That is why Speier launched the San Mateo County Zero Tolerance initiative—a collaborative partnership between law enforcement officials, community members and our non-profit partners. The goals of the initiative are to raise community awareness and ensure that victims have the resources they need and that their perpetrators are brought to justice.”⁴¹

[Congresswoman Jackie Speier’s Statement on the Human Rights Watch Report Detailing Retaliation Against Military Sexual Assault Survivors](#)

⁴¹ http://speier.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=389&Itemid=72

Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-15]

Committee on Appropriations
Commerce, Justice and Science Subcommittee

This Subcommittee decides funding levels for the following parts of the U.S. Government:

Department of Commerce (U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, National Institute of Standards and Technology, U.S. Census Bureau, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Minority Business Development Agency - read all here)
Department of Justice (FBI, DEA, U.S. Attorneys, Civil Rights Division, Environmental and Natural Resources Division -- read all here)
NASA
National Science Foundation
Related Agencies (Commission on Civil Rights, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Office of the United States Trade Representative, International Trade Commission, Legal Services Corporation, Marine Mammal Commission, State Justice Institute)

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

This Subcommittee decides funding levels for the following parts of the U.S. Government:

Department of Energy, including: National Nuclear Security Administration, Bonneville Power Administration, Southeastern Power Administration, Western Area Power Administration, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission - read all here
Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program
Department of the Interior (Bureau of Reclamation, Central Utah Project)
Related Agencies (Appalachian Regional Commission, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Delta Regional Authority, Denali Commission, Northern Border Regional Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, Office of the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects, Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, Tennessee Valley Authority)

Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission (formerly Caucus)

Biography

Born in Walnut Grove, CA
spent his early years with his **family in a Japanese American internment camp** during World War II
earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from San Jose State University
serving in the U.S. Peace Corps in El Salvador, where he became fluent in Spanish
became a teacher, principal, and member of the San Jose Planning Commission, San Jose Unified School Board, and Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

elected to the California State Assembly in 1996, where he served until he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2001

Website Quotes

Restoring Justice

“Always a protector of the minority voice, I have played a prominent role in the successful struggle to secure benefits for Filipinos World War II veterans who fought alongside U.S. forces but were denied equal treatment for decades. I worked to make sure the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation ended racial profiling programs and culturally insensitive training materials on Muslim-Americans and other targeted communities. I authored a congressional resolution condemning crimes against Sikh Americans after 9/11, which was included in the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001. And working with the Department of Homeland Security, I brought about written policy at the department that recognizes LGBT partnerships as “family relationships” within the immigration process.

“As a Japanese American formerly interned in a Colorado camp, I found federal funding for the preservation and restoration of historic confinement sites where Japanese Americans were interned during World War II. I authored laws calling on government of Japan to apologize to World War II sex slaves known and honoring soldiers of Asian and Pacific Islander descent who served in the Civil War.

“Each year, millions of women, men and children are victimized and exploited by labor and sexual trafficking. I am leading the worldwide fight to end violence against women and children.

Passing the Voices of Human Trafficking Act

“I introduced the bipartisan Survivors of Human Trafficking Act of 2015 (H.R.500) and shepherded it through committee. On May 19th, 2015 it passed the U.S. House of Representatives as a part of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (S. 178), and, on May 29th, 2015, the President signed the bill into law. My bill establishes a survivors and experts-led U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking to review federal, state, and local government policy and programs on human trafficking – and make recommendations to the policymakers. By including the input of a diverse group of survivors, federal lawmakers will have a more complete understanding of all of the factors of sex and labor trafficking. The council includes both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals to provide the most comprehensive information possible.

Stopping Violence Against Women

“I have long championed the issue of historical reconciliation for the approximately 200,000 women from Asia and across the Pacific who were trafficked into sexual servitude by the Government of Japan’s Imperial Armed Forces during World War II. In 2007, I introduced House Resolution 121, which called on the Government of Japan to acknowledge, apologize, and

accept historical responsibility and give reparations to the surviving women. This Resolution passed in 2007.

In April 2015, I hosted a debate on the House floor to raise awareness on the issue of violence against women.

Protecting Victims

“I have long championed the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA), an essential tool the U.S. uses to maintain anti-human trafficking objectives, fund law enforcement and services for survivors, combat national and international trafficking in persons, punish perpetrators, boost prevention services, and establish international partnerships that combat trafficking by working with the countries of origin.

“Following the brutal kidnapping of nearly Nigerian 300 girls, I led over 170 member of Congress in urging President Obama to seek action at the United Nations to address Boko Haram’s threat of further human rights violations.

“Knowing that in the aftermath of catastrophes, women and children are especially vulnerable to trafficking and sexual violence, I introduced a resolution to support the protection of women and girls in our U.S. response following the Nepal earthquake. Too often in times of natural disasters and conflict, women and girls are the most vulnerable to the dangers of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and abuse. We have to ensure every effort is made to protect and empower women and girls in the post-disaster reconstruction and development efforts. During Typhoon Haiyan relief and recovery efforts, I led 44 members of Congress in urging Secretary of State John Kerry, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, and USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah to emphasize protection of Filipino women and children.

I have long used my position in Congress to bring the voices of human trafficking victims to Washington by:

- Fighting to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Reauthorization, which is pivotal legislation that provides aid to women, men, and children experience violence;

- Supporting the Child Protection Act (Hazel’s Law), which make it easier to prosecute sex traffickers by no longer requiring evidence that the perpetrators knew how old their victims are;

- Supporting the Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Human Trafficking Act, which directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop and publish guidelines to assist state, Indian tribe, and tribal organization child welfare agencies and juvenile and family courts in efforts to serve appropriately serve youth who are victims of trafficking and youth at-risk of becoming such victims;

- Supporting the Human Trafficking Prioritization Act, which creates the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons within the Department of State;

- Supporting the Our Daughters Are Not for Sale Proclamation and Resolution, which condemns child trafficking and sexual exploitation and encourages law enforcement to help victims and end these practices for good;

Supporting the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2014, which makes grants available to develop, improve, or expand comprehensive domestic child trafficking deterrence programs;
Supporting the Human Trafficking Prevention Act, which requires training for federal government personnel on how to recognize and prevent trafficking in persons.

Ethiopia

I have had the honor, as founder and co-Chair of the Congressional Ethiopia and Ethiopian American Caucus, to see first-hand how a compassionate and strategic implementation of foreign assistance can be invaluable in improving lives. In June of 2005, I traveled to Ethiopia and saw the economic, social and political challenges that this leading African nation faces. My visit to Ethiopia and my analysis of the country's progress toward democracy reinforce my belief that the Ethiopian American community has an important and powerful role to play in fostering democratic reforms, respect for human rights, and forming development policy.

Indonesia

As part of its program to promote genuine elections and support democratic development in Indonesia, the Carter Center had the opportunity to observe their presidential elections in 2004 and I had the privilege of participating as an election monitor with former President Carter. The Center was invited by the Indonesian Election Commission (KPU) to observe the 2004 legislative and presidential electoral processes, and all major political parties have welcomed the Center's role.

Overall, the Center's assessment of all three rounds of voting in Indonesia in 2004 was very positive. In early October 2004, former general Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was declared winner of the presidential run-off and was inaugurated as Indonesia's sixth president. An estimated 125 million people voted nationwide.

Ending the Cycle of Violence | Violence Against Women Act

As a father, a widow, a man, and a human being, I fight against unconscionable violence against women, children, and men – in all forms and arenas. Since my first days in Congress, I have been an ardent supporter of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which has served as a pivotal legislation that has provided aid to women, men, and children experiencing violence. That is why I proudly supported the reauthorization of VAWA 2013, which includes updated protections for Native American women, immigrant women, and provides specialized support and resources for LGBT, religious and ethnic communities. I also introduced the Domestic Violence Judicial Support Act of 2013 to highlight and build support for the indispensable judicial programs that comprise the backbone of VAWA. As the Representative of CA-17, I have seen firsthand how well-trained prosecutors and judges, like those in the East and South Bay, can forge efficiencies in the judicial system to better support women and families who are going through difficult violent traumas. I know their lives and futures depend on these judicial programs.

Trafficking of Women | Stopping Modern-Day Slavery

Each year, millions of women, men, and children are victimized and exploited for labor and sexual purposes. With this in mind, I am a passionate supporter of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, which aims to protect victims, prosecute criminals, boost prevention services, and establish international partnerships that combat trafficking by working with the countries of origin. I am proud to have secured funding for the YWCA Silicon Valley's Human Trafficking Victim Support Center and the National Institute on State Policy on Trafficking of Women and Girls. These efforts will assist local communities and state-level policy makers in developing best practices and educating community leaders. I have also championed the issue of historical reconciliation for the approximately 200,000 women from Asia and across the Pacific who were coerced into sexual servitude by the Government of Japan's Imperial Armed Forces during World War II. These violated women have too long been denied their dignity and honor. In 2007, I introduced H.Res. 121, which called on the Government of Japan to acknowledge, accept historical responsibility, and unequivocally apologize to surviving women. In addition, the Resolution called on the Government of Japan to educate the current and future generations about these horrible crimes, in the hopes that such horrors of history will never repeat. Knowing that in the aftermath of catastrophes women and children are especially vulnerable to sexual violence and trafficking, I led 44 members of Congress on a letter urging Secretary of State John Kerry, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, and USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah to emphasize protection of Filipino women and children during Typhoon Haiyan relief and recovery efforts.”⁴²https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Honda
[- cite note-41](#)

⁴² <https://honda.house.gov/priorities/issues/women>

Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]

Committees:

Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee.
senior-most member of the Appropriations Committee and of the Agriculture Committee.
Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on State Department, Foreign Operations and Related Programs.

Website Quotes

“Active on human rights issues, Leahy is the leading U.S. officeholder in the international campaign against the production, export and use of anti-personnel landmines. In 1992, Leahy wrote the first law by any government to ban the export of these weapons. He led efforts in Congress to aid mine victims by creating a special fund in the foreign aid budget, and the Leahy War Victims Fund now provides up to \$14 million of relief to these victims each year. He was instrumental in establishing programs to support humanitarian demining and played a key role in pushing for an international treaty banning anti-personnel mines. He also wrote and enacted civilian war victims relief programs in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Leahy believes that as the wealthiest, most powerful nation in the world, the U.S. has wide ranging interests and responsibilities around the globe -- from promoting trade and investment to combating terrorism, reducing poverty, protecting the environment, supporting human rights and broadening understanding between all Americans and people of different cultures, religions, races and ethnicities.

Poverty, greed and ethnic and religious intolerance are among the greatest causes of instability and conflict. Resource scarcity in sub-Saharan Africa, discrimination and violence against religious minorities in Southeast Asia, and the ecological impact of deforestation in South America affect the lives not only of vulnerable populations half a world away, but Americans living across the globe, including here in the U.S.

Some of the foreign policy/foreign aid initiatives Leahy is most proud of are the Leahy War Victims Fund, which provides medical, vocational and related assistance to civilian victims of war; his work to ban landmines, including the first law in any country to ban the export of these indiscriminate weapons; the "Leahy Law," which prohibits U.S. aid to foreign military and police forces that violate human rights, and encourages foreign governments to hold those who violate human rights accountable; the infectious disease and neglected diseases initiatives that target malaria, elephantiasis and other diseases that afflict hundreds of millions of people in tropical countries; and the Amazon Basin Conservation Strategy, a regional initiative to promote conservation of the Amazon rainforest.

A former prosecutor who has seen the horrors of domestic violence first hand, Senator Leahy has long been an advocate for domestic violence prevention programs. Senator Leahy made it a priority to strengthen and reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. Teaming with Senator Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Senator Leahy was the driving force behind the renewal and

strengthening of VAWA's proven efforts to prevent and remedy domestic and sexual violence. The bill was signed into law by President Barack Obama on Thursday, March 7, 2013."⁴³

⁴³ <http://www.leahy.senate.gov/issues/foreign-policy>

Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]*

Committees

second ranking Democrat on the powerful House Rules Committee,
House Agriculture Committee.

Democratic Ranking Member on the House Committee on Agriculture's Subcommittee
on Nutrition.

co-chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

“Since his election in 1996, Congressman Jim McGovern has been widely recognized as a tenacious advocate for his district, a tireless crusader for change, and an unrivaled supporter for social justice and fundamental human rights.

Described as "The Conscience of the Congress" by Senator Ed Markey, Congressman McGovern is one of the foremost voices for human rights in Congress.

Congressman McGovern serves as the co-chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, and is one of the foremost voices for human rights in Congress, both at home and abroad. The Congressman feels that human rights are not, and should not be treated as, a partisan issue.

In addition to focusing on human rights in the United States, Congressman McGovern has been an active force in advocating for human rights around the world. The Congressman has spoken to the House of Representatives about bringing an end to the prosecution of the Rohingya people by the government of Burma, supported U.S. assistance to the Nigerian government with the aim of finding nearly 300 abducted schoolgirls, and advocated for human rights in Bahrain and Columbia. In June, Congressman McGovern introduced HR 4851, The Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act.

This bipartisan bill promotes access to Tibetan areas of China for U.S. officials, journalists, and average citizens. Currently, travel restrictions imposed by the Chinese government on Tibet are more severe than for any other provincial-level entity of China.

Securing human rights for all people—both in the U.S. and abroad—is a key focus for Congressman McGovern and he will continue to monitor and speak out on situations that must be addressed.”

Wikipedia⁴⁴

“McGovern has been a prominent voice against the Islamist governments of Sudan for its prosecution of the war in Darfur.

He has been arrested twice during protests outside the Sudanese Embassy in Washington D.C. On April 28, 2006, he was one of five members of Congress arrested while protesting atrocities in the Darfur region.^[40]

⁴⁴ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_McGovern_\(U.S._politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_McGovern_(U.S._politician))

McGovern was arrested again at the Sudanese embassy on April 27, 2009, this time accompanied by Reps John Lewis (D-Georgia), Donna Edwards (D-Maryland), Lynn Woolsey (D-California), and Keith Ellison (D-Minnesota).^[41] He was arrested again on March 16, 2012 alongside George Clooney during a protest outside of the Sudanese embassy speaking out against the Bashir regime in the Sudan.^[42]

In April 2007, he called for the United States and other countries to boycott the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China to protest the Chinese government's support of the Sudanese government and, by extension, the genocide in Darfur.^[43]

McGovern has traveled several times to Colombia to meet with human rights advocates, and has been very critical of Plan Colombia and US military aid to that country. On March 25, 2008, the *Wall Street Journal* published an unsigned editorial suggesting that McGovern supported the Marxist FARC rebels in Colombia. According to the Journal, an investigation of the computer hard drive of the recently killed Raúl Reyes, second-in-command of the FARC, had turned up material indicating “an ardent effort” on the part of McGovern “to do business directly with the FARC.” The article said that McGovern had been “working with an American go-between, who has been offering the rebels help in undermining Colombia's elected and popular government.”^[44] In response to these charges, McGovern said that his concern was to help win the release of hostages held by the FARC, as requested by several families of Americans held by the FARC.^[45] He said that he had no sympathy for the rebels or for their hostage-taking.

On February 13, 2009, McGovern offered a resolution on the subject of the trial of the Iranian Bahá'í leadership co-sponsored by seven others in H.Res. 175 – "Condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights" which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.^[46] The situation has gathered international attention including defense of Nobel Laureate attorney Shirin Ebadi in June^[47] after she received threats in April warning her against making speeches abroad, and defending Iran's minority Baha'i community^[48] (See Arrest of Bahá'í leaders).

In 2000, McGovern met with the Cuban grandmothers of five-year-old Elian Gonzalez.^[49] Elian's mother had drowned while trying to escape from Cuba with the boy. Although Elian had reached Florida safely, McGovern advocated the boy's return to his father's custody in Cuba.^[50]

In 2002 McGovern joined the Congressional Cuba Working Group, which advocated for lowering restrictions on travel and food shipment to Cuba.^[51] He is the current co-chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission (formerly the "Human Rights Caucus").^[51] His work on human rights issues earned him the Washington Office on Latin America's^[52] "Human Rights Award" in 2007^[53]

On November 18, 2013, McGovern introduced the simple resolution Urging the Government of Burma to end the persecution of the Rohingya people and respect internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma (H.Res. 418; 113th Congress) into the United States House of Representatives.^[54] The resolution calls on the government of Burma to end the persecution and discrimination of the Rohingya people within its borders and calls on the United States government and the international community to pressure the Burmese to do so.^{[54][55]} The resolution is in response to allegations of Burmese Buddhist attacks on Rohingya Muslims that may have occurred earlier in 2014.^[55] McGovern argued that "the Burmese government needs to recognize the Rohingya as an ethnic group. The

situation is dire and rapidly
deteriorating."^[55]⁴⁵[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_McGovern_\(U.S._politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_McGovern_(U.S._politician)) - cite note-
[BurmaResoluHill-55](#)

⁴⁵ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_McGovern_\(U.S._politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_McGovern_(U.S._politician))

Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

Ranking Member

Member, East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy Subcommittee

Member, Africa and Global Health Policy Subcommittee

Member, Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism Subcommittee

Senate Committee on Finance

Co-Chair, Business Income Tax Working Group

Member, Health Care Subcommittee

Member, Taxation and IRS Oversight Subcommittee

Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

Member, Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water Subcommittee

Member, Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee

Member, Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission)

Senior Senate Democratic Member (bicameral commission has no subcommittees)

Main Sponsor of *Global Human Rights Accountability Act*, legislation that would ensure human rights abusers from anywhere in the world are denied entry into the United States and barred from using our financial institutions.

Website Quotes

“Senator Cardin has a deep interest in foreign affairs and has worked across party lines to further our national security and protect universal human rights. He has fought to ensure that anti-corruption, transparency and respect for human rights are integrated our foreign policy. He has been a Commissioner on the U.S. Helsinki Commission since 1993, serving as Chairman of the Commission in the 111th and 113th Congress. In 2015, he was named as the Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Intolerance for the 57-nation Organization Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly. He has served as the Ranking Member of the SFRC East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy Subcommittee and previously was the Chairman of the International Development and Foreign Assistance Subcommittee.

Serving as a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee during his first four years in the Senate, Senator Cardin also has developed a reputation for defending civil rights at home and has sought to find a balance between protection of civil liberties and national security. He is the lead sponsors of legislation to prohibit racial profiling by all levels of law enforcement, restore voting rights for former felons, and remove the deadline for ratification of the Equal Right Amendment. He has been a proud cosponsor of the Respect for Marriage Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

The United States faces a wide range of international challenges, including threats to our national security, economy, environment, and commitment to basic human rights.”⁴⁶

“The United States must maintain its global leadership in the fight against corruption and human rights abuses wherever they occur,” said Senator Cardin. “This bipartisan bill gives us the tools to deter future abuses throughout the world, while also protecting our strategic financial infrastructure from those who would use it to launder or shelter ill-gotten gains. Gross violators of human rights from Zimbabwe to Ukraine, and Honduras to Papua New Guinea, are put on notice that they cannot escape the consequences of their actions even when their home country fails to act.”⁴⁷

⁴⁶ <https://www.action.coop/legislatordetail.aspx?LegisID=CardLBen10051943>

⁴⁷ <http://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-mccain-global-magnitsky-human-rights-accountability-act-clears-committee-hurdle>

Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

Subcommittee on Homeland Security (Ranking Member)

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Subcommittee on the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

Subcommittee on Seapower

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on European Affairs

Subcommittee on International Operations and Organizations, Human Rights, Democracy and Global Women's Issues

Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship (Ranking Member)

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-14]

Committees: Committee on Energy and Commerce

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology (Ranking Member)

Legislation

Rep. Eshoo voted for S. 47, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013
cosponsored H.R. 5331, the Violence Against Immigrant Women Act.

voted to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act on February 28, 2013

co-sponsored Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2003

Member of Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission <http://eshoo.house.gov/legislative-priorities/womens-issues/violence-against-women-act-vawa/>

Biography

an Assyrian and Armenian American --- lost family members during the Armenian
Genocide

Website Quotes

“Rep. Eshoo has been a forceful advocate of humanitarian efforts to assist vulnerable and abused people worldwide, and has consistently spoken out against human rights violations. In addition to her regular committee assignments, Rep. Eshoo Co-Chairs the Religious Minorities in the Middle East Caucus and is an active member of the Armenian Caucus.

In the 113th Congress, Rep. Eshoo is a principal cosponsor of House Resolution 227, calling on the President to work toward equitable, constructive, stable, and durable Armenian-Turkish relations based on the Republic of Turkey’s full acknowledgement of the facts and ongoing consequences of the Armenian Genocide. Rep. Eshoo worked tirelessly to secure passage of a similar resolution in the House Foreign Affairs Committee in 2010, and continues to work to ensure its passage on the Floor of the House, despite the intensive lobbying efforts of the Turkish Government which continues to fight against the recognition of this historical record.”⁴⁸ <http://eshoo.house.gov/legislative-priorities/womens-issues/violence-against-women-act-vawa/>

⁴⁸ <http://eshoo.house.gov/legislative-priorities/womens-issues/violence-against-women-act-vawa/>