

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1134

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 18, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. RUSH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

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

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

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “African Descent Af-  
5       fairs Act of 2021”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 “(b) HEAD OF OFFICE.—

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

18 “(2) APPOINTMENT.—The Special Envoy shall  
19 be an expert on issues of African Descent Affairs  
20 and be appointed by the Secretary.

21 “(c) OTHER PERSONNEL.—The Office shall be sup-  
22 ported by at least two senior Foreign Service officers and  
23 two Civil Service officers.

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

1           “(1) Advise the Secretary and direct activities,  
2       policies, programs, and funding relating to the  
3       human rights and the advancement of people of Af-  
4       rican descent internationally, for all bureaus and of-  
5       fices of the Department of State and shall lead the  
6       coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of relevant  
7       international programs for all other Federal agen-  
8       cies.

9           “(2) Represent the United States in diplomatic  
10      matters relevant to the human rights of people of  
11      African descent in contacts with foreign govern-  
12      ments, intergovernmental organizations, and special-  
13      ized agencies of the United Nations, the Organiza-  
14      tion for American States, the Organization for Secu-  
15      rity and Cooperation in Europe, other international  
16      organizations of which the United States is a mem-  
17      ber, and relevant multilateral conferences and meet-  
18      ings.

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

1           “(4) Develop and manage the Fund for African  
2       Descent Affairs, established under section 3(c) of  
3       the African Descent Affairs Act of 2021, for the  
4       purpose of investing in efficient and innovative solu-  
5       tions to combat racial discrimination and create eco-  
6       nomic and other opportunities for people of African  
7       descent internationally.

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

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

20          “(7) Develop and coordinate United States Gov-  
21      ernment international efforts related to the imple-  
22      mentation of the International Decade for People of  
23      African Descent and submit annual reports to Con-  
24      gress on these efforts.

1           “(8) Work in collaboration with the front of-  
2           fices of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy  
3           and Public Affairs and the Under Secretary of Civil-  
4           ian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, and in  
5           consultation with the Race, Ethnicity, and Social In-  
6           clusion Unit in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere  
7           Affairs, and the Bureau of African Affairs.

8           “(9) Compile an annual report on activities of  
9           the United States Government relating to people of  
10          African descent to fulfill the requirements of this  
11          section and the African Descent Affairs Act of 2021.

12          “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13               “(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
14               TEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional com-  
15               mittees’ means—

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

19                       “(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs  
20                       and the Committee on Appropriations of the  
21                       House of Representatives; and

22                       “(C) the Commission on Security and Co-  
23                       operation in Europe.

24               “(2) PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT.—The  
25               term ‘people of African descent’ has the meaning

1 given the term in section 5 of the African Descent  
2 Affairs Act of 2021.”.

3 (b) ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT.—

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

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

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

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The report required under  
10 subsection (d) shall include, for countries outside of  
11 sub-Saharan Africa, a description of the status of  
12 people of African descent in each such country.

13 “(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term  
14 ‘people of African descent’ has the meaning given  
15 the term in section 5 of the African Descent Affairs  
16 Act of 2021.”; and

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

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

22 (ii) by adding at the end the following  
23 new subsection:

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

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The report required under  
2           subsection (b) shall include, for countries outside of  
3           sub-Saharan Africa, a description of the status of  
4           people of African descent in each such country.

5           “(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term  
6           ‘people of African descent’ has the meaning given  
7           the term in section 5 of the African Descent Affairs  
8           Act of 2021.”.

9           (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made  
10          by this subsection take effect on the date of the en-  
11          actment of this Act and apply with respect to re-  
12          ports required to be submitted under sections 116  
13          and 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as  
14          amended by this subsection, on or after such date of  
15          enactment.

16          (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

17                 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
18                 appropriated to the Secretary of State \$5,000,000  
19                 for each of the fiscal years 2021 through 2030 to  
20                 carry out this section and the amendments made by  
21                 this section.

22                 (2) PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS.—Notwithstand-  
23                 ing any other provision of law, the Secretary of  
24                 State is authorized to accept private contributions to



1 carry out this section and the amendments made by  
2 this section.

3 (3) DESIGNATION.—Amounts appropriated pur-  
4 suant to the authorization of appropriations under  
5 paragraph (1) and private contributions accepted  
6 under paragraph (2) may be referred to as the  
7 “Fund for African Descent Affairs”.

8 **SEC. 4. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR**  
9 **INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**

10 (a) SENIOR ADVISOR.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the  
12 United States Agency for International Development  
13 shall appoint within the immediate office of the Ad-  
14 ministrator a Senior Advisor to the Administrator on  
15 Global African Descent Affairs (in this section re-  
16 ferred to as the “Senior Advisor”).

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

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

21 (1) Advise the Administrator and direct and co-  
22 ordinate activities, policies, programs, and funding  
23 relating to the human rights and advancement of  
24 people of African descent internationally for all bu-  
25 reaus and offices of the Agency.

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

5           (3) Serve as the Agency liaison to the Depart-  
6           ment of State’s Office of Global African Descent Af-  
7           fairs.

8           (4) Develop a uniform set of indicators and  
9           standards for monitoring and evaluating foreign as-  
10          sistance for people of African descent in Federal  
11          agencies.

12       (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
13       authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator  
14       \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2021 through  
15       2030 to carry out this section.

16       **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

17       In this Act:

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

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

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

4 (C) the Commission on Security and Co-  
5 operation in Europe.

6 (2) PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT.—The term  
7 “people of African descent” means persons of Afri-  
8 can origin who reside outside of sub-Saharan Africa.

9 **SEC. 6. BRIEFINGS AND ASSESSMENTS.**

10 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-  
11 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director  
12 and Special Envoy to the Secretary on Global African De-  
13 scent Affairs (appointed under section 64 of the State De-  
14 partment Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (as added by sec-  
15 tion 3 of this Act))—

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

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

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

3 **SEC. 7. UNITED STATES POLICY TO PREVENT AND RE-**  
4 **SPOND TO DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE**  
5 **AGAINST PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT.**

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

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

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

1 **SEC. 8. SUNSET.**

2       This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall  
3 terminate on October 1, 2031.

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