

largely untold, rendering many of their past and present contributions to the very fabric of Europe unseen or forgotten, which is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, on May 14, 2018, Congresswoman MEEKS, Congresswoman MOORE, and I had the pleasure of being U.S. Honorary Hosts during PADWEEK. I include in the RECORD, the statement we made to our friends in the European Parliament. It is my hope that when we gather in the years to come to review the efforts of the United Nations designated International Decade for People of African Descent, we will not only speak of how our efforts resulted in our respective nations publicly recognizing the injustices and long-term impact of slavery and colonialism, but also of how our societies reconciled these issues in a manner that ensured equal opportunity, access, and justice for all People of African Descent.

STATEMENT OF U.S. HONORARY HOSTS: HONORABLE ALCEE L. HASTINGS—HONORABLE GREGORY MEEKS—HONORABLE GWEN MOORE
HONORING BLACK EUROPEANS: PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT WEEK (PADWEEK), EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS, MAY 14, 2018

I, Congressman Hastings, am extremely honored to speak at the inaugural People of African Descent Week at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium on behalf of myself and Honorary Hosts Representatives to the U.S. Congress Gwen Moore and Gregory Meeks.

Ten years ago, on April 29, 2008, I chaired a U.S. Helsinki Commission hearing entitled, "The State of (In)visible Black Europe: Race, Rights, and Politics," which featured then Swedish Parliamentarian Joe Frans whom I am pleased is here today.

At that hearing, we discovered that Spanish poet Juan Latino, Italian Duke Alessandro Medici, French novelist Alexandre Dumas, German scholar Anthony William Amo, French Composer Le Chevalier de St. George, British abolitionist Olaudah Equiano, Russian General and Governor Abram Hannibal, great-grandfather of Russian poet Aleksandr Pushkin and so many others are largely unknown People of African Descent who have made significant contributions to Europe.

Whether the presence of Blacks in Europe can be traced to enslavement, colonization, military deployments, voluntary or forced migration, the movement of refugees and asylum seekers, or educational and other professional exchanges, the story of Europeans of African Descent and Black Europeans remains largely untold, rendering many of their past and present contributions to the very fabric of Europe unseen or forgotten.

A visit to Each One Teach One in Berlin or a tour through the Black Archives in Amsterdam demonstrates that European history is also American history. A history where from 1884-85, 13 European nations and the United States met in Berlin to divide and occupy Africa. 2019 will mark the 100 year anniversary of the first Pan-African Congress in Paris co-organized by African-American WEB Dubois to decolonize Africa and end racial discrimination.

Eric Gamer, Tamir Rice, Aiyana Jones, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Stephen Lawrence, Oury Jalloh, Mark Duggan, Zyed Benna, Bouna Traore and the names of so many others exemplify the fact that despite the significant achievements and contributions of African descendants to our societies, and their efforts to address the past, the protections, rights and opportunities of European and American democracies still do not wholly include Black people.

Since that hearing in 2008, Members of Congress have worked with European legislators and civil society to convene annual events—from the 2009 Black European Summit held in this very Parliament—to Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conferences in the U.S. Congress, and particularly to address political inclusion by co-founding the Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network in cooperation with the U.S. State Department and German Marshall Fund.

I am pleased and honored to join with past and present Parliamentarians and experts Cecile Kyenge of Italy, Claude Moraes of the UK, Soraya Post and Momodou Jallow of Sweden, Killion Munyama of Poland, Karamba Diaby of Germany, Joe Franz, Chibo Onyeji, Simon Woolley, Larry Olomoofo, Daniel Gyamerah, Rohkaya Diallo, Hedwig Bvumburah, Alex Johnson, Karisia Gichuke, and many others whom we have worked with over the years to address the common issues of racism and discrimination we face on both sides of the Atlantic.

On the occasion of the inaugural People of African Descent Week, I encourage you to join in not only recognizing and celebrating the collective history and achievements made by People of African Descent in Europe, but also in acting to ensure that our nations develop concrete measurable national strategies to realize the goals of the United Nations designated International Decade for People of African Descent.

In the United States we have developed many strategies from the adoption and implementation of the historic Civil Rights Act by our government to the nonprofit Urban League's annual State of Black America report assessing racial equality across sectors, including in technology. Google has partnered with Historically Black Colleges and Universities such as Howard University to address the digital divide. For decades the United Negro College Fund has provided educational scholarships, while Black-owned banks increase wealth-building knowledge and provide loans to communities traditional banks have historically ignored. Philanthropic organizations have partnered with local governments and civil society to support young Black men.

Even so, our work in the United States remains undone, and we too could benefit from a holistic strategy.

The European Network Against Racism with the support of numerous African descent civil society groups across Europe have called for an Europe-wide framework for national strategies. In support of this effort, I introduced legislation in the U.S. Congress to establish within the U.S. State Department a Global Office of African Descent Affairs to establish global foreign policy and assistance strategies, fund civil society anti-discrimination and empowerment initiatives, and monitor the human rights situation of people of African descent in Europe in annual U.S. Country Reports. If adopted, this legislation would complement European efforts.

I and my Congressional colleagues stand poised to continue to work with all of you across sectors in support of the rights and inclusion of African descendants on both sides of the Atlantic.

In both the United States and Europe, our nations are becoming more racially, ethnically, and religiously diverse. The test for our democracies will be whether we can truly embrace and utilize that diversity to achieve the long term prosperity and stability needed for our futures.

Our hope is that when we gather in ten years to review the efforts of the International Decade we will not only speak of how our efforts resulted in our nations pub-

licly recognizing the injustices and long term impact of slavery and colonialism, but also of how our societies reconciled these issues such that equal opportunity, access, and justice have been realized for People of African Descent and the rest of our societies. Thank you.

RECOGNIZING AND JOINING THE GUAM ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS IN CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIR HOUSING ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Guam Association of REALTORS in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. The Fair Housing Act enunciates a national policy of fair housing for all who live in the United States.

For the last 50 years, the Fair Housing Act has prohibited discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status and national origin. There is no doubt that the Fair Housing Act has been a positive initiative for the island of Guam and our country. The Fair Housing Act has promoted diversity throughout communities, and this diversity and integration has promoted economic stability, community health, and human relations.

Additionally, Fair Housing is integral to the ethical commitment of members of the National Association of REALTORS and the Guam Association of REALTORS. The Fair Housing Act gives all real estate professionals the ability to serve their clients, customers and communities.

Again, I join the Guam Association of REALTORS in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. I recognize the Guam Association of REALTORS as an inclusive community committed to fair housing and to promote appropriate activities by private and public entities intended to provide or advocate for equal housing opportunities for all residents and prospective residents of Guam. The Guam Association of REALTORS is the official voice of real estate on Guam with over 400 members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries. I look forward to their continued contributions to the island of Guam.

WHY WE MUST CEASE AND DESIST THE CRUEL AND INHUMANE PRACTICE OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION OF SEPARATING FAMILIES APPREHENDED ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER BY U.S. BORDER PATROL

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call upon the President and the Congress of the United States to act without delay regarding the "zero-tolerance" policy that separates families apprehended on the southern border by U.S. Border Patrol.