

**December 2015 Action**  
**Enlist your Senators as Initial Co-sponsors**  
**of the Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act**  
**With an Email and Follow-up Phone Call**

*Promoting our Best Practices in International Peacebuilding – and taking a stand to Prevent Genocide and other Atrocities – is what this action is about.*

**Note: this bill's introduction is expected within the next two weeks (so it doesn't have a number yet). We are seeking initial cosponsors.**

With a worldwide refugee crisis; and violent inter-religious, inter-ethnic, and international conflict raging around the globe; it's time for us to emphasize getting ahead of the curve! This bill would help transform such conflicts at the earliest stages.

**Request: Ask your Senators to Contact lead sponsor Ben Cardin, and become co-sponsors of the forthcoming bill**

**Cong. switchboard (202)224-3121**

**E-mails and phone calls can be very brief – most important is that you DO IT!!**

**Preparation:**

1. Review this Action Sheet for inspiration/information about the need and importance of GAPA.
2. Most Congress Members have a contact form on their website that allows you to submit a typed letter. On their site you can also find phone contact information. Today we ask you to **send email and also make a key, follow-up phone call.**
3. Critical Follow-up: Call to emphasize your request, to seek to learn your Senators' thoughts/feelings about the bill, and possibly to schedule a time to meet in-person. Please call their D.C. office, and ask for the staff member most concerned with issues involving Foreign Relations.

**Email and Phone Call Outline:**

1. Introduce yourself briefly (I am a grandmother/teacher/student/etc.)
2. On the phone, you might ask to speak with the aide who handles Foreign Relations issues.
3. Speak from your heart. Share any relevant personal story(s) about why this issue is important to you.
4. Call to Action: Ask for your Senators to contact Senator Cardin (the lead sponsor), and become initial co-sponsors. And request that they respond to you, letting you know their thoughts or positions regarding this prospect.

## **Overview: The Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2015 (GAPA)**

**The Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2015 would strengthen the US' best practices in international peacebuilding, including:**

1. **Authorize\* The Atrocities Prevention Board.** The primary purpose of the interagency APB is “to **coordinate a whole-of-government approach to preventing mass atrocities and genocide,**” As it is **credited in doing in** Burundi over the past two years.<sup>1</sup> **The cooperative and comprehensive prevention efforts of the APB helped forestall another round of interethnic violence in Burundi, a country already wracked by genocidal conflict.**<sup>2</sup>
2. **Authorize\* The Complex Crises Fund (along with an increase in funding from \$50 million - \$100 million).** In 2013, CCF allocated resources for **the swift and effective stopping of mass violence** in the Central African Republic through effective community peacebuilding practices.<sup>3</sup> CCF has also been effective in dozens of other countries including Yemen, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka, Cote D'Ivoire, and Tunisia.
3. **Require conflict prevention and de-escalation training for all State Department Foreign Service Officers.**
4. **Affirm Atrocities Prevention as a US policy priority.**

We ask our Senators to **contact Senator Ben Cardin's office, to co-sponsor the forthcoming bill**, so we can make the world safer and more peaceful for people everywhere.

**\*"Authorizing"** - These two entities – APB and CCF - currently exist because of Executive Orders. “Authorizing” them means they would be established by Congress, so their funding and continued existence would be far more secure.

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<sup>1</sup> Credit and Thanks to FCNL, for their Atrocities Prevention Brief

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2015/06/11/we-predicted-burundis-crisis-is-the-response-working/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/international/218272-assessing-the-state-of-us-atrocity-prevention-policy>