

May 2016 Action
Call your House Member, promote the Genocide and Atrocities
Prevention Act

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

S. 2551 (GAP Act) was introduced in February by Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD)

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

Congressional Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

Call any time, day or night – leaving a message is great!

****Breaking News**:** Earlier this month, the Senate unanimously passed, as part of the State Department Re-Authorization Bill, an authorization of the Atrocities Prevention Board, which is a key part of the GAP Act. While the authorization is only temporary, every US Senator is now on record supporting the Atrocities Prevention Board. Tell them (and your House Members, in May) to go further by authorizing the APB permanently, authorizing the CCF, and requiring conflict prevention training for all FSOs by supporting the GAP Act!

Your Basic Phone Call:

"Hi, please connect me with Congresswoman _____'s office."

"Hi, my name is _____. I'm a constituent, and I'd like to share my opinion about a bill."

"The bill is called the Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act – the Senate version is S.2551, and I would like Congresswoman _____ to become an initial co-sponsor of the House version."

"Please ask the Congresswoman to contact Senator Ben Cardin – author of the Senate version, about supporting a House version of the GAP Act."

Optional:

"Is there a staffer in the office who deals specifically with Foreign Affairs?"

"Could I speak with them/Leave them a message?"

"Please let me know the Congresswoman's response. I would love to stay in touch with you about this issue. Here is my phone number/email."

Overview: S.2551 - The Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2015 (GAP Act)

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.¹ **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.**²
- 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.³ 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.**

***"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.

Another great option: Send this sheet to 25 of your closest friends – make sure they know who their house members are, or how they can find out (Congress.gov) – and invite them to take action too!!

¹ Credit and Thanks to FCNL, for their Atrocities Prevention Brief

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

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