

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3909

To authorize the Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative focusing on peace and nonviolence in global conflict resolution, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 2, 2017

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative focusing on peace and nonviolence in global conflict resolution, 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 “Gandhi-King Scholarly
5 Exchange Initiative Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Mohandas (Mahatma) Karamchand Gandhi
9 and Martin Luther King, Jr., were dedicated leaders
10 of peace, civil rights, social justice, and social change

1 in their respective communities and countries and in
2 the world.

3 (2) Mahatma Gandhi, who was born on October
4 2, 1869, was murdered on January 30, 1948, after
5 dedicating his life to the peaceful empowerment of
6 the people of India and to their liberation from Brit-
7 ish occupation.

8 (3) Martin Luther King, Jr., who was born on
9 January 15, 1929, was murdered on April 4, 1968,
10 after a life dedicated to peaceful movements against
11 segregation, discrimination, racial injustice, and pov-
12 erty.

13 (4) On August 22, 2011, the Dr. Martin Lu-
14 ther King, Jr. National Memorial opened to the pub-
15 lic in Washington, DC. This newest memorial on the
16 National Mall pays tribute to Dr. King's national
17 and international contributions to world peace
18 through nonviolent social change.

19 (5) Mahatma Gandhi, who employed the prin-
20 ciple of satyagraha, or nonviolent resistance, has
21 come to represent the moral force inspiring many
22 civil and social rights movements around the world.

23 (6) King's effective use of Gandhian principles
24 was instrumental to the American civil rights move-
25 ment.

1 (7) In February 2009, a congressional delega-
2 tion traveled to India to commemorate the 50th an-
3 niversary of the pilgrimage of Martin Luther King,
4 Jr., and his wife, Coretta Scott King, to that coun-
5 try in 1959, and to study Gandhi’s life and work,
6 highlighting the need for further progress in peace-
7 ful conflict resolution and combating poverty.

8 (8) According to the 2017 Global Peace Index
9 prepared by the Institute for Economics and Peace,
10 the economic impact of violence on the global econ-
11 omy in 2016 was \$14.3 trillion, which equals 12.6
12 percent of the world’s gross domestic product.

13 **SEC. 3. GANDHI-KING SCHOLARLY EXCHANGE INITIATIVE.**

14 (a) INITIATIVE ESTABLISHED.—The Secretary of
15 State is authorized to carry out, in cooperation with the
16 appropriate representatives of the Government of India,
17 an initiative to be known as the “Gandhi-King Scholarly
18 Exchange Initiative”. The initiative shall be comprised of
19 educational, scholarly, and professional exchange pro-
20 grams, including the following:

21 (1) An annual public diplomacy forum for
22 scholars from the United States and India that fo-
23 cuses on the legacies of Mahatma Gandhi and Mar-
24 tin Luther King, Jr., which shall—

1 (A) be held alternately in the United
2 States and in India;

3 (B) include representatives from govern-
4 ments, nongovernmental organizations, edu-
5 cational institutions, cultural organizations, and
6 civic organizations; and

7 (C) focus on studying the work of Gandhi
8 and King, and applying their philosophies to
9 current issues, including the status of poverty,
10 conflict, human rights, civil rights, peace, non-
11 violence, and democracy in the United States
12 and India.

13 (2) A professional development training initia-
14 tive for government employees to develop inter-
15 national conflict solutions based on the principles of
16 nonviolence developed in consultation with the presi-
17 dent and chief executive officer of the United States
18 Institute of Peace, the Under Secretary for Public
19 Diplomacy and Public Affairs of the Department of
20 State, and United States cooperating partners,
21 which shall—

22 (A) target Federal, State, and local gov-
23 ernment employees in countries with ongoing
24 political, social, ethnic, or violent conflict;

1 (B) include a specific focus on the success
2 of nonviolent movements in conflict resolution;

3 (C) develop a curriculum for teaching con-
4 flict resolution and make such curriculum avail-
5 able to participating government employees; and

6 (D) be made publically available through a
7 variety of media.

8 (3) An undergraduate, graduate, and post-grad-
9 uate student exchange for students to—

10 (A) study the history and legacies of Mar-
11 tin Luther King, Jr., and Mahatma Gandhi;

12 (B) visit historic sites in India and the
13 United States that were integral to the Amer-
14 ican civil rights movement and the Indian inde-
15 pendence movement; and

16 (C) research and develop papers on the im-
17 portance of peace, nonviolence, and reconcili-
18 ation in current conflict regions.

19 (b) UNITED STATES COOPERATING PARTNERS DE-
20 FINED.—The term “United States cooperating partners”
21 means—

22 (1) an institution of higher education (as such
23 term is defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Edu-
24 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))), including,
25 to the maximum extent practicable, a historically

1 Black college or university that is a part B institu-
2 tion (as such term is defined in section 322(2) of
3 such Act (20 U.S.C. 1061(2))) or a Hispanic-serving
4 institution (as such term is defined in section
5 502(a)(5) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(5)));

6 (2) a combination of institutions of higher edu-
7 cation (as such term is defined in section 103(2) of
8 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
9 1003(2)));

10 (3) a nongovernmental organization incor-
11 porated in the United States; or

12 (4) a consortium consisting of two or more such
13 institutions of higher education, higher education as-
14 sociations, or nongovernmental organizations.

15 **SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

16 (a) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after
17 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
18 State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs
19 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of
20 Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations
21 and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a re-
22 port on the Secretary's plan to carry out the initiative au-
23 thorized under section 3.

24 (b) PERIODIC UPDATES.—Upon the request of the
25 committees referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of

1 State shall submit to such committees an update on the
2 Secretary's progress in implementing the plan referred to
3 in such subsection.

4 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 To carry out this Act, there are authorized to be ap-
6 propriated to the Secretary of State such sums as may
7 be necessary for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2023.
8 Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of
9 appropriations under this section are in addition to
10 amounts otherwise available for such purpose.

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