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## **Hultgren Appointed as Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Co-Chairman**

*Key Panel Promotes Global Human Rights in Congress, Holds Countries Accountable*

Washington, DC — U.S. Representative Randy Hultgren (IL-14) has been named Co-Chairman of the prestigious bi-partisan [Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission](#), charged with promoting, defending and advocating for international human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant human rights instruments. The Commission is chaired by two members of the House of Representatives who are appointed by the Speaker of the House and the Minority Leader. Rep. Hultgren served [previously on the Commission's eight-member Executive Committee](#).

**Speaker Paul Ryan:** "I know Randy cares deeply about fighting injustices like human trafficking and threats to religious liberty. As Co-Chair of the Commission, he'll have an incredible opportunity to use his passion to support human rights around the world. The Commission's work has done its namesake great justice in its quest to defend freedom, and I look forward to its continued success under Randy's leadership."

**Rep. Randy Hultgren:** "Human rights are increasingly under attack around the world. Now more than ever we need Congress to be a strong voice for the vulnerable, oppressed and marginalized everywhere. I take my appointment as Co-Chairman very seriously. As is the tradition, as Co-Chairman I will set politics aside and work closely with current Co-Chairman Rep. Jim McGovern to protect human trafficking victims and punish perpetrators, defend religious liberty, protect vulnerable refugee families in harm's way, help those facing extreme poverty and hunger and stand for the many others whose rights are abused. I am dedicated to ensuring America continues to stand up for the oppressed and marginalized everywhere that have no other voice."

"I am also excited to join the Commission because of valuable personal connections. As a great-grandson of Swedish immigrants, I am personally touched by the story of Swede Raoul Wallenberg who helped save tens of thousands of Jews during the Holocaust, including former Rep. Tom Lantos. I hope my work on the Commission will do honor to Rep. Lantos's strong legacy. I am also pleased and humbled to represent the same great state of Illinois as Commission co-founder Rep. John Edward Porter, to walk in the steps of former Co-Chairmen Reps. Frank Wolf and Joe Pitts, and to work alongside current Co-Chairman Rep. Jim McGovern. Together we can unite around common areas of concern, shine a light on abuses around the world and stand with and for those whose rights are threatened."

[Established in 2008](#) and named in honor of the only Holocaust survivor to serve in Congress, the Commission undertakes public education activities, provides expert human rights advice and encourages members of Congress to actively engage in human rights matters. In carrying out its mandate, the Commission collaborates with congressional staff, the U.S. Senate and the executive branch, and continually engages with national and international civil society organizations.

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