



The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) supports the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as it secures the nation while preserving individual liberty, fairness, and equality under the law.



CRCL Operations During COVID-19 Response

Per guidance from the [U.S. Office of Personnel Management](#) in response to COVID-19, CRCL is operating under telework flexibilities while continuing to serve and support the public. As a result, mail operations may be impacted and our response to mailed letters may be delayed. If you wish to file a complaint, the best method of submission at this time is via email to: CRCLCompliance@hq.dhs.gov. CRCL staff will continue to monitor this email address, and our toll-free hotline for your questions at: 1-866-644-8360, TTY: 1-866-644-8361. For additional details on how to file a civil rights complaint, visit: <https://www.dhs.gov/file-civil-rights-complaint>.

CRCL Holds Townhall with Stakeholders in Uvalde

This month, CRCL convened a townhall meeting with local community members in Uvalde, Texas following the tragic mass shooting during which 19 students and two teachers were killed. Over 185 community representatives joined the call, including community organizations providing direct support services to Uvalde-area residents. Presenters shared information on resources available to affected communities and addressed community concerns involving the need for mental health resources, immigration flexibilities, language access, and other support services for victims. Representatives from the following federal agencies provided remarks: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS); U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Del Rio Sector; Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Office for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships; Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA); Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3); U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs; Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Victim Services Division; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administrations (SAMHSA); and U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary & Secondary Education.

The townhall was CRCL’s first virtual bilingual virtual engagement. Spanish language interpreters translated the presentations and Q&A sessions, ensuring language accessibility for all participants. CRCL is compiling a list of resources shared by the presenters and will provide copies in English and Spanish to all participants. If you would like to receive the resource sheet or be included on future CRCL engagements, please contact CRCL at: CommunityEngagement@hq.dhs.gov.

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DHS Celebrates LGBTQI+ Pride Month



DHS joins the nation in observing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI+) Pride Month. Each June, we take this time to reflect on the contributions and accomplishments of the LGBTQI+ community. This year, our adopted theme is “(re)United Stronger: Stronger Today, Stronger Together,” penned by DHS Pride, our Department-wide employee association for LGBTQI+ employees and allies. This

theme reminds us that we have reunited as a community and as we return to a post-pandemic world, we have come back stronger and grown closer. Together, we must remain strong, especially during these uncertain times of political and judicial discourse along with perceived injustice.

Throughout June, DHS celebrated LGBTQI+ Pride Month with events and activities across the Department. Secretary Mayorkas, Deputy Secretary Tien, and CBP Commissioner Magnus kicked off Pride Month with the second annual raising of the DHS Pride Flag stating “This flag serves as a symbol of our dedication and commitment to the LGBTQI+ community this **#PrideMonth** and throughout the year.”



Later in the month, the DHS Council on Combatting Gender-Based Violence (CCGBV), co-chaired by CRCL and USCIS, hosted a virtual roundtable for LGBTQI+ stakeholders in honor of Pride Month. The CCGBV works to identify best practices to combat gender-based violence and promote consistency across the Department involving DHS policies. The CCGBV also supports the implementation of many of the Biden Administration’s executive orders related to gender identity and sexual orientation. During the session, LGBTQI+ stakeholders discussed and provided feedback on DHS policies that directly impact LGBTQI+ individuals and that intersect with efforts to combat gender-based violence.

In closing out Pride Month, CRCL, the Office of Social Impact, CBP and the DHS Pride Employee Association hosted a DHS-wide LGBTQI+ Pride Month Program where Deputy Secretary Tien welcomed participants and introduced the keynote speaker, CBP Commissioner Magnus, CBP’s first openly gay commissioner in the Component’s history. The event also featured a moderated panel of current and past employees from the LGBTQI+ community who shared their inspiring stories of living authentically in their personal and professional lives.

DHS Celebrates Juneteenth

On June 19, we recognized Juneteenth National Independence Day, which commemorates the arrival of Union Army troops in Galveston, Texas to deliver the news to the last remaining enslaved African Americans that they were free. Since that day on June 19, 1865, Juneteenth—also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day—has been celebrated in African American communities across the country as a day of jubilation, and solemn reflection and remembrance.



The significance of the Juneteenth holiday is rooted in resilience, family and cultural traditions, and liberation. It is a day to remember that all Americans have the right to live in an equal, fair, and inclusive society that is free from discrimination.

The recent tragic and racially-motivated mass shooting in Buffalo, NY that claimed the lives of 10 African Americans is a stark reminder of the critical work that remains to combat systemic racism and domestic violent extremism that threatens our communities and American way of life.

DHS is firmly committed to protecting all communities that compose our Nation’s homeland. The [Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties \(CRCL\)](#) proudly leads the Department’s efforts to advance racial equity and

support for underserved communities, per [President Biden's Executive Order](#). Recently, [DHS released its first-ever Equity Action plan](#), which outlines seven focus areas and specific steps the Department will take to equitably serve the public and communities across the country. CRCL will further engage with community stakeholders to solicit their valuable feedback and input on how best to implement these strategies.

As we observe this Juneteenth holiday, it is a time to acknowledge our Nation's past while also working to secure a future that provides equal access to healthcare, quality education, and economic opportunity for all. As CRCL works to support the Department's mission to safeguard the American people, our homeland, and our values, we will continue this work to protect the civil and human rights of all—through fairness, inclusion, and equal protection under the law.

DHS Case Management Pilot Program Announces Notice of Funding Opportunity

On June 28, 2022, FEMA released a [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) to fund the Case Management Pilot Program (CMPP) National Board. The [CMPP will provide voluntary case management and other services](#) to noncitizens in removal proceedings. The program is managed by a National Board, chaired by the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, and comprised of nonprofit organizations that are experienced in providing and evaluating case management programs for asylees and refugees. The CMPP National Board member organizations are: Church World Services, Catholic Charities USA, and The Center for Migration Studies of New York. The National Board will later release its own request for proposals from eligible local governments and nonprofit organizations.

The National Board is responsible for awarding funds to eligible local governments and other nonprofit organizations who will then provide CMPP services, similar to FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program. CMPP services will include, among others: mental health services; human and sex trafficking screening; legal orientation programs; cultural orientation programs; connections to social services; and departure planning and reintegration services for individuals returning to their home countries.

CRCL Participates in CBP Engagement with Detroit-Area Stakeholders

Earlier this month, CRCL participated in a meeting with Detroit-area stakeholders and CBP leadership. CBP and CRCL representatives shared information on DHS policies and procedures at points of entry (both land and air) and facilitated an open discussion session with community leaders. This meeting is a part of the Department's ongoing commitment to engage with communities in the Detroit/Dearborn areas on DHS-related concerns that have been brought to Secretary Mayorkas and other senior leaders at national engagement events. CRCL is also working to re-establish regular engagement with area stakeholders.

DHS Issues National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin

On June 7, 2022, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas issued a [National Terrorism Advisory System \(NTAS\) Bulletin](#) regarding the continued heightened threat environment across the United States. This is the sixth NTAS Bulletin issued by DHS since January 2021.



“As recent acts of violence in communities across the country have so tragically demonstrated, the nation remains in a heightened threat environment, and we expect that environment will become more dynamic in the coming months,” said Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas. “The Department of Homeland Security remains steadfast in our commitment to provide timely information and resources to the American public and our partners across every level of government, in law enforcement, and in the private sector. This includes regular engagements with stakeholders to maintain awareness about the threat environment, trainings and online resources to help communities stay safe, increased sharing of information with law enforcement partners, and millions of dollars in grant funding opportunities for communities and organizations to enhance security and advance prevention efforts.”

Read the NTAS Bulletin [translated into various languages](#).

Hurricane Season 2022

June 1, 2022, officially marked the beginning of the Atlantic hurricane season, and according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's 2022 outlook it will be another active season. No matter what the hurricane season outlook predicts, it's important to remember that it only takes one storm to devastate a community. Now is the time to prepare your home and your family. Remember, hurricanes are not just a coastal problem, so it's important to know the risks where you live: rain, wind and flooding could happen far from the coast. Consider these actions to start your preparedness today:



- Visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) to learn about how to prepare for disasters that might happen where you live, work or visit. You'll get information for individuals, individuals with disabilities, families, kids, pets and businesses on how to prepare for or what to do in case of a severe storm this hurricane season.
- Build an [emergency kit](#). If you live in Hawai'i, Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands, consider having supplies to last at least 10 days.
- You can also [download the free FEMA App](#) to receive weather alerts and warnings for up to five different locations in the United States.
- Visit [Ready.gov/hurricanes](https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes) for the latest information on being prepared for this hurricane season.
- FEMA recently updated the agency's text to shelter feature. In the event of an evacuation, you can text **43362** to research emergency shelters in your location.

CRCL on the Road, June*

Detroit, Michigan

On June 8, CRCL participated a community engagement roundtable meeting hosted by CBP officials in the Detroit area.

Denver, Colorado

On June 29, CRCL hosted a virtual regular roundtable meeting with diverse community leaders in the Denver area.

Miami, Florida

On June 22, CRCL co-hosted a meeting with DOJ Community Relations Service with diverse stakeholders supporting resettlement efforts for Afghan refugees.

*Following continued guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov) to exercise social distancing, our Community Engagement team will continue to carry out our mission using various virtual and telephonic tools during this national public health emergency. While our team maintains constant communication with federal, state, local, and civil society stakeholders across the country, we encourage anyone who needs to contact us to do so via email to: CommunityEngagement@hq.dhs.gov. Thank you for your flexibility and understanding during this time.

Additional information, and contacting us

The goal of this periodic newsletter is to inform members of the public about the activities of the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, including: how to file complaints; ongoing and upcoming projects; opportunities to offer comments and feedback; etc. We distribute our newsletters via our stakeholder email list and make them available to community groups for redistribution. Issues of the newsletter can be accessed online at: www.dhs.gov/crcl-newsletter.

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, want to request back issues, or have other comments or questions, please let us know by emailing crcloutreach@hq.dhs.gov. For more information, including how to make a civil rights or civil liberties complaint about DHS activities, visit: www.dhs.gov/crcl.

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