



U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Homeland Security Advisory Council

Disinformation Best Practices and Safeguards Subcommittee | Final Interim Recommendation



July 18, 2022

Tasking

The Disinformation Best Practices and Safeguards Subcommittee will provide findings and recommendations to the Homeland Security Advisory Council on how the Department can most effectively and appropriately address disinformation that poses a threat to the homeland, while increasing transparency and protecting free speech, civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy.

The subcommittee's assessment will include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- Recommendations for how the Department can most effectively and appropriately address disinformation that poses a threat to the homeland, while protecting free speech, civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy, including through proposed unified principles to guide the Department's disinformation-related work; and,
- Recommendations for how to achieve greater transparency across our disinformation-related work, including to increase trust with the public and other key stakeholders, in a way that could serve as a model for achieving transparency in other mission areas.



Subcommittee Composition & Methodology

Membership

- Michael Chertoff (Co-Chair)
- Jamie Gorelick (Co-Chair)
- Ted Schlein
- Sonal Shah
- Ali Soufan
- Matthew F. Ferraro

Methodology

- Between May 27 and July 6, Subcommittee members met with leaders and subject matter experts from every DHS component that plays a role in the mis- dis- and mal-information mission, including:
 - Office of the Secretary (OS)
 - Privacy (PRIV)
 - Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
 - Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL)
 - Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
 - Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A)
 - U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
 - Office of Strategy, Policy and Plans (PLCY)
 - Office of General Counsel (OGC)



Interim Recommendation

We have now had briefings on the relevant disinformation-related activities of the Department. We are not ready, as of yet, to provide recommendations on the Department's most effective approach to disinformation threats, including commitments to increase transparency and protect civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy.

However, at this point, we have concluded that there is no need for a Disinformation Governance Board.

Final Draft Report

- The Subcommittee will be issuing its final draft report to the Council in early August.

