



*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](mailto: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 and CBP Host Stakeholder Meeting on Religious Accommodations

This month, CRCL and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) convened a hybrid listening session with faith-based community stakeholders on religious accommodations pertaining to CBP search and custodial operations. Following opening remarks by CRCL Senior Official Peter Mina and CBP Acting Commissioner Troy Miller, there was an open discussion on the handling of religious articles of faith and attire/headwear of religious significance to inform possible changes to CBP policy and training.

This engagement was held in follow-up to a meeting held this past September with the American Civil Liberties Union and representatives of Sikh organizations, to discuss the impact of border operations on religious freedoms. During that meeting, CBP leadership stressed the continued need for early training and a culture shift to include peer intervention and individual accountability. CBP also expressed interest in revisiting the policy with a wide variety of faith-based organizations to ensure inclusion.

The listening session provided an opportunity for CBP and CRCL to: receive input from and consideration of a broad range of faiths impacted by CBP operations; share CBP and CRCL work in addressing religious accommodation in this area; and strengthen feedback mechanisms between DHS and faith communities to promote sensitivity and awareness. The feedback received from participants will be used to inform Border Patrol operations, response mechanisms, and applicable accountability measures.

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**Statement from DHS on Court Granted Stay  
That Temporarily Keeps the Title 42 Public Health Order in Place**

“Today, the court granted a stay of the court’s order vacating the CDC’s Title 42 public health order. Title 42 will remain in place during the period of the stay, allowing the government to prepare for a transition and to continue to manage the border in a safe, orderly, and humane way.

“While the stay is in effect, DHS will continue to process individuals in accordance with the CDC’s Title 42 public health order and expel single adults and family units encountered at the Southwest Border.

“People should not listen to the lies by smugglers who will take advantage of vulnerable migrants, putting lives at risk. The border is closed, and we will continue to fully enforce our immigration laws at the border.

“We also continue to work with our partners throughout the Western Hemisphere on an anti-smuggler campaign of unprecedented scale that has already resulted in more than 5,500 arrests and nearly 6,000 disruptions of human smuggler infrastructure. Among other actions, we and our partners have raided smuggler stash houses, impounded tractor trailers that are used to smuggle migrants, and confiscated smuggler IT to track down more smugglers. Across the federal government we also continue to work with other countries to address the root causes of irregular migration that are leading to an unprecedented migratory surge and challenging our hemisphere.”

**Statement from DHS on First Arrivals of Venezuelan Nationals Under New Process**

On October 12, 2022, DHS announced a new process for Venezuelan nationals that enhances the security of our border and provides a lawful means for eligible Venezuelans to come to the United States. Less than a week after the portal went live, DHS reports that the first four Venezuelan nationals arrived at U.S. airports in a safe, orderly, and lawful manner. While it is still in its early days, this process has already reduced irregular entries of Venezuelans at our border by more than 85%, showing that when there is a lawful and orderly way, people will be less inclined to put lives in hands of smugglers.

Within 24 hours of USCIS starting to accept applications under the new Venezuelan migration enforcement process, approvals began to go out, and screening and vetting of individuals began. Hundreds of vetted and approved Venezuelan individuals are now able to book their own travel to come to the United States.

Venezuelans who attempt to cross the southern border of the United States illegally will continue to be returned to Mexico and will be ineligible for this process in the future.

As this process moves forward, the United States and Mexico are also continuing to reinforce their coordinated enforcement operations to target human smuggling organizations and bring them to justice. That campaign includes new migration checkpoints, additional resources and personnel, joint targeting of human smuggling organizations, and expanded information sharing related to transit nodes, hotels, stash houses, and staging locations.

The actions the United States of America and Mexico are taking together to expand legal pathways and reduce irregular migration are grounded in the principles of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection that both countries adopted in June alongside 19 other countries in the Western Hemisphere.

## **CRCL Hosts Indigenous Migrant Languages and Cultures Workshop**

This month, CRCL was pleased to host a workshop on “Indigenous Migrant Languages and Cultures” for DHS leadership and staff including several partners from across the DHS Components. The workshop featured in-depth presentations from experts from Comunidades Indígenas en Liderazgo (CIELO), an organization that works with migrant Indigenous communities residing in Los Angeles.



DHS recognizes the importance of being able to communicate effectively with individuals, including those with limited English Proficiency (LEP), across our many missions and functions. CRCL leads the Department’s efforts to provide meaningful access for LEP individuals in its programs, activities, services, and operations.

During the workshop, CRCL Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Officer Peter Mina welcomed participants and shared highlights of the work underway to improve the Department’s Indigenous language services. Over the last several years, CRCL has led roundtables, assessed Indigenous languages interpreter services, and conducted internal and external stakeholder engagements with partner organizations, such as CIELO. He noted that DHS recently convened an internal committee on Indigenous migrant languages to examine current demographic data and strengthen efforts across DHS to provide meaningful access to Indigenous migrants.

During the workshop, presenters from CIELO shared information about Indigenous language speakers in Latin America and the U.S., noting that there is a common misconception that all individuals from Latin America speak Spanish. The presenters discussed the challenges and social barriers that Indigenous language speakers face, including a lack of access to Indigenous language interpreters. The speakers shared best practices such as collaborating with local law enforcement to provide cultural awareness training to officers who may encounter Indigenous language speakers. These trainings aim to educate service organizations, stakeholders, and community leaders on crucial areas of Indigenous language culture and migration to increase social awareness, as well as service delivery and accessibility for this population.

DHS looks forward to continuing the dialogue on strengthening language access for Indigenous speakers in DHS programs and services. Learn more about [Language Access at DHS](#), and access a number of [resources and materials available to assist DHS personnel and grantees in serving LEP individuals](#).

## **DHS Hosts First Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Symposium**

On November 3 and 4, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) held the first ever Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) Grantee symposium. The symposium brought together more than 200 representatives from 73 Grantees and partner organizations, to share promising practices, increase awareness of available DHS resources, and foster professional relationships among prevention practitioners. DHS, through its Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3), works to prevent targeted violence and terrorism through funding, training, increasing public awareness, and developing partnerships across every level of government, the private sector, law enforcement, and in local communities across our country.

“Our Department is fundamentally one of partnerships. Through CP3 we support our partners and stakeholders in their efforts to prevent targeted violence and terrorism in their communities” **said Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas**. “DHS is committed to bolstering our partners’ capacity to identify potential risks and prevent tragedies.”

CP3 works to build safer communities that work together to prevent targeted violence and terrorism, by providing individuals and organizations with funding, training, increased public awareness, and the development of partnerships across every level of government, the private sector, and in local communities across our country. DHS’s approach to prevention mirrors other forms of prevention – like suicide prevention – with the focus on health and well-being. DHS believes prevention works because of the strong evidence base for prevention of other types of violence, like suicide and domestic violence prevention.

The TVTP Grants Program is administered by CP3 and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and is the only federal grant program solely dedicated to enhancing targeted violence and terrorism prevention capabilities in local communities. Over the past three years, CP3 has invested \$50 million in communities across the United States to prevent acts of targeted violence and terrorism, to include \$20 million to 43 organizations in 2022.

“Our grantees are our partners, they are force multipliers, and they bring unique expertise and experiences that allow for the development of promising practices that are relevant to specific communities and across the country,” **said Assistant Secretary for Counterterrorism, Threat Prevention, and Law Enforcement Policy Samantha Vinograd.** “Many of the TVTP grantees have been collaborating online, but this inaugural symposium is essential to ensure grantees can share promising practices that will enable them to better support their communities.”

The symposium allowed for grantees to create and foster new partnerships, share the impact of their work, and make plans for future collaboration. Grantees organized panels on Building Awareness and Resiliency; Threat Assessment and Management Teams; and Evaluation and Metrics for Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention. Breakout sessions were held on Achieving Sustainability; Community Engagement and Communications; and School-based Interventions and Prevention Programming (K-12). One of the key discussions at the symposium was K-12 school-based interventions and prevention programming. The discussions centered around youth empowerment as a protective factor, communication and outreach with school administrators, and youth engagement and retention.

Following the symposium, CP3 will disseminate the promising practices, models for replication, and lessons learned through its Regional Prevention Coordinators and other engagement opportunities to allow partners to continue enhancing their prevention programming and further support strong partnerships amongst TVTP grant recipients. For additional information on Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant Program, visit [www.dhs.gov/tvtpgrants](http://www.dhs.gov/tvtpgrants).

## **DHS Celebrates Veterans Day**

Each November, we pause to thank our military veterans and reflect on their service and sacrifices—past, present, and future. This year’s theme for Veteran’s Day is “Honor.” Honor reflects the value and tradition of answering the call to duty, in service of one’s team, our institutions, and the nation. There are 16.5 million American veterans who embody this ethos, but none more so than the 54,000 veterans honorably serving at DHS. It is an unparalleled privilege to serve alongside our DHS veteran colleagues and witness their inspiring dedication to our mission every day.

CRCL especially recognizes and thanks our veteran colleagues who are still proudly serving their country. It is our honor to work beside you as we strive to fulfill the DHS mission—with honor and integrity, we will safeguard the American people, our homeland, and our values.



## Learn How to Shine a Light on Human Trafficking in Native Communities

November is National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. Blue Campaign is honoring #NAHM by raising awareness of human trafficking, sharing what it can look like, and how communities can protect themselves. Human trafficking poses a unique threat to Native American people, including children, because traffickers operate under the assumption that Native victims are invisible to law enforcement and the greater community. It is Blue Campaign's mission to bring this often-hidden crime to light.



Take a moment to learn more and share Blue Campaign's awareness and prevention [resources](#):

- [“Indicators of Human Trafficking” webpage](#): Recognize the potential indicators of human trafficking. Doing so can be the first step toward saving a life.
- [Native Communities Awareness Poster Series](#): Display these survivor-informed materials in locations where you live, work, and play, like schools and community centers, to help spread the word.
- [Human trafficking scenario video](#): Learn why traffickers target Native communities and what the crime can look like.
- [Law enforcement training webinar](#): Find out how human trafficking uniquely affects Native communities, as well as how law enforcement can respond.

## Stay Vigilant this Holiday Season: Recognize and Report Suspicious Activity

Threats are impacting every corner of society, and the United States remains in a heightened threat environment as we approach the holiday season. In the past, mass gatherings and holiday events have served as potential targets for acts of violence. We all have a role to play in keeping our communities safe. The public can use the free tools and resources provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) [“If You See Something, Say Something®”](#) campaign to learn the signs and indicators of suspicious activity and how to report it to local authorities.

**Suspicious activity is any observed behavior that may indicate that someone is planning a potential attack or terrorism-related crime.** Historically, during the holiday season, violent extremists have targeted crowded commercial facilities (such as malls), places of worship, and public gatherings associated with several dates of religious significance. Criminals, including terrorists, often engage in some type of precursor action(s) to carry out their illegal activities. They make plans, acquire materials, engage in intelligence collection, and often commit other crimes in support of their plan. These [indicators](#) may be possible elements of a larger plan to commit an act of violence or terrorism.

A cornerstone of the DHS mission is ensuring that people's civil rights and civil liberties are not diminished by our security efforts, activities, and programs. As such, the campaign encourages the public to report only suspicious **behavior and situations** (e.g., someone breaking into a place of worship), rather than one's **appearance**, to authorities. **Factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity are not suspicious.**

The campaign supports organizations, big and small, by providing [free, ready-to-use materials](#) to raise awareness. Start by checking out the materials DHS has already created for your [city, state, or jurisdiction](#). If you're interested in creating something more customized for your community or want to become more active year-round, [contact the campaign](#) to begin a conversation.

Interested in finding other ways to participate, or want to access more resources? Visit [dhs.gov/SeeSay](#). The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) also provides preparedness and training resources to keep you and your hometown safe visit, <https://www.cisa.gov/hometown-security>, to access these preventative tools. We all have something or someone to protect this holiday season and public safety is everyone's responsibility.

If you do see something you know shouldn't be there or behavior that doesn't seem quite right, report it to appropriate law enforcement or local authorities. Our nation is made safer when we come together with the shared goal of protecting one another.

### **CRCL on the Road**

\* CRCL's Community Engagement team is resuming in-person engagement with diverse communities. We are now conducting virtual, hybrid, and in-person meeting with federal, state, local, and civil society stakeholders across the country. We remain available to respond to any stakeholder questions or concerns via email at: [CommunityEngagement@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:CommunityEngagement@hq.dhs.gov). Thank you for your continued flexibility and partnership 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](http://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@dhs.gov](mailto:crcloutreach@dhs.gov). For more information, including how to make a civil rights or civil liberties complaint about DHS activities, visit: [www.dhs.gov/crcl](http://www.dhs.gov/crcl).

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