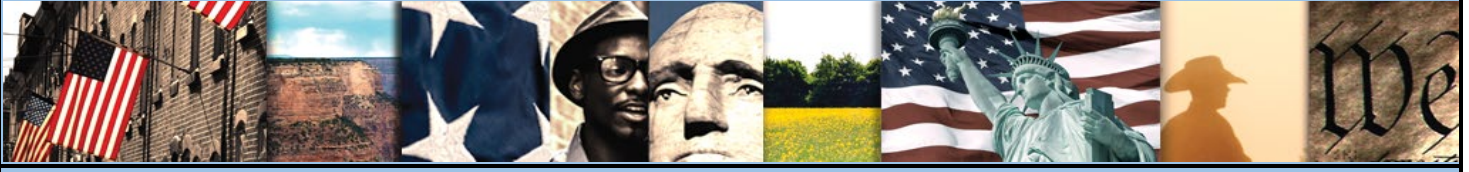




*The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) supports the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as it secures the nation while preserving individual liberty, fairness, and equality under the law.*



### 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 Participates in FEMA Civil Rights Summit

This month, CRCL Senior Official Peter Mina participated in panel discussion on “Civil Rights and Housing Inequities” during the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) recent Civil Rights Summit – 3.0 Back to Basics. The two-day virtual event brought together diverse leaders from government and community organizations to discuss integrating civil rights into FEMA’s work.



“We are on a mission at FEMA to honor and build upon the decades-long and heroic work of our nation’s civil rights leaders to advance equity and justice for all,” said FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell. “That’s why we believe it’s not enough to simply increase equity during and after disasters; we must get help to all people, in all communities, well before disaster strikes.”

During the panel discussion, alongside a senior leader from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and several others from FEMA, Mr. Mina provided an overview of CRCL’s work to support individual and community resilience related to natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other emergencies. He discussed the importance of ensuring civil rights protections throughout disaster preparedness, response, and recovery in federally conducted and federally assisted programs and activities. Mr. Mina emphasized the need for accessible short-term temporary housing or shelter and for accessible long-term housing that meets the needs of disaster survivors who have been displaced from their pre-disaster housing.

Prior Civil Rights Summits focused on environmental justice, accessibility, and equity. This year’s Summit expanded on foundational themes, theories, and issues in civil rights, featuring a number of presentations on discrimination, housing inequities, intersectionality, and underserved communities.

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## **ICYMI: Secretary Mayorkas Remarks: The Convergence of National Security and Homeland Security**

Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas recently delivered keynote remarks and participated in fireside chat at the Center for Strategic and International Studies on the convergence of “national security” and “homeland security,” as well as the critical role played by DHS in protecting Americans and U.S. national security interests.

Secretary Mayorkas highlighted some of the major threats facing the Homeland, both foreign and domestic, as well as key steps the Department is taking to address them. These topics included, but were not limited to Cybersecurity, Immigration, Counterterrorism and Domestic Violent Extremism.

Read the [full transcript](#) of Secretary Mayorkas’s speech.

## **U.S. Delegation Meets with European Counterparts on Transnational Repression**

This month, a CRCL official represented DHS as part of a U.S. delegation that travelled to Germany, Belgium, and the United Kingdom to meet with European counterparts and share its whole-of-government approach to countering transnational repression. Transnational repression includes actions taken by governments to reach across borders to intimidate or deter people from exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The delegation included representatives from the U.S. Department of State, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Department of Justice, and DHS CRCL and Office of Policy.

The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor led and presented a strategy for countering transnational repression. CRCL described some of its work with diaspora communities in the U.S. and provided examples of the economic and potential psychological impact of transnational repression on targeted individuals. The DHS Office of Policy discussed its efforts to increase information sharing with a focus on refining pathways to protection by bolstering access to humanitarian immigration programs with a focus to prevent refoulement.

DHS provides resources to assist communities faced with transnational repression. FEMA facilitates a Non-Profit Security Grant Program through which non-profit institutions, including places of worship, can apply for to enhance their physical security. Additionally, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency offers online tools that focus on active shooter preparedness, how to reduce the risk of a cyberattack, and tips to recognize and act on suspicious activities that can translate into threats.

## **CRCL Participates in ICE ATD Symposium**

This month, CRCL Compliance Branch Director Dana Salvano-Dunn participated in the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Alternatives to Detention (ATD) Symposium. The event brought together stakeholders from government, nongovernmental organizations, academia, and private industry to discuss the ATD program, which uses technology and case management to ensure non-detained noncitizen compliance with release conditions, court hearings, and final orders of removal. As a member of an expert panel discussing case management best practices, Ms. Salvano-Dunn provided an overview the CRCL Case Management Pilot Program (CMPP) and discussed how the structure and service delivery model for the CMPP addresses social work case management best practices, while also meeting the Department’s law enforcement goals. The symposium provided an opportunity for dialogue and learning among stakeholders.

## **CRCL Holds Community Engagement Events**

This month, CRCL representatives traveled across the country to conduct in-person and virtual meetings with diverse community stakeholders. CRCL’s Community Engagement Section leads efforts to engage with diverse American communities in many metropolitan areas in the U.S. to hear community concerns regarding DHS programs and policies, share information on the Department’s priorities, and provide information on avenues for redress and complaints.

In Chicago, CRCL convened a community engagement roundtable with local stakeholders. As CRCL's Community Engagement team is resuming in-person engagement with stakeholders across the country, this event marked a special milestone where participants were invited to join the roundtable either in person or virtually. Over 50 participants joined the meeting, where DHS partners from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Chicago Field Office, USCIS Chicago Asylum Office, and the DHS Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships provided an overview of their offices and missions. Additionally, a representative from CRCL's Compliance Branch presented on CRCL's complaints process. Following the presentations, meeting participants raised a number of topics including, but not limited to asylum claims, "Know Your Rights" trainings for migrants, religious artifacts, and resources available to the public to counter domestic violent extremism.



In Minneapolis and St. Paul, a CRCL representative conducted the first set of in-person meetings since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The meetings focused on continuing relationships with current stakeholders, as well as making introductions with new ones. The CRCL representative engaged in discussions around potential DHS and CRCL equities affecting the greater Twin Cities area.

In El Paso and the Rio Grande Valley, a CRCL representative met with DHS partners including ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations; U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), U.S. Border Patrol; and USCIS, as well as diverse community stakeholders. Topics raised during the series of meetings included CBP search procedures, language access of the CBP One application, data and privacy of noncitizens, the increase of noncitizens at the border, and the potential lifting of Centers for Disease Control's order pursuant to Title 42 and its operational impact on DHS and stakeholder partners.

### **CRCL Publishes FY 2021 Annual Report to Congress**

CRCL is pleased to announce the release of its [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2021 Annual Report to Congress](#). In accordance with 6 U.S.C. § 345 and 42 U.S.C. § 2000ee-1, the report highlights CRCL's activities and accomplishments, including:

- *Implementing Equity Executive Orders*
- *Convening the Equity Task Force*
- *Women, Peace, and Security Initiative*
- *Supporting Operation Allies Welcome*
- *Enhancing Protections in Policies Related to Conditions of Detention*

These efforts continue to reflect the Department's dedication to securing the country while protecting our freedoms, including core civil rights and civil liberties values of liberty, fairness, and equality under the law. Read the full report here: <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/crcl-annual-reports>.

### **DHS Issues National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin**

On November 30, 2022, DHS issued a [National Terrorism Advisory System \(NTAS\) Bulletin](#) regarding the continued heightened threat environment across the United States. This is the seventh NTAS Bulletin issued by DHS since January 2021.

The United States remains in a heightened threat environment. Lone offenders and small groups motivated by a range of ideological beliefs and/or personal grievances continue to pose a persistent and lethal threat to the Homeland. Domestic actors and foreign terrorist organizations continue to maintain a visible presence online in attempts to motivate supporters to conduct attacks in the Homeland. Threat actors have recently mobilized to violence, citing factors such as reactions to current events and adherence to violent extremist ideologies. In the coming months, threat actors could exploit several upcoming events to justify or commit acts of violence, including certifications related to the midterm elections, the holiday season and associated large gatherings, the marking of two years since the breach of the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, and potential sociopolitical

developments connected to ideological beliefs or personal hostility. Targets of potential violence include public gatherings, faith-based institutions, the LGBTQI+ community, schools, racial and religious minorities, government facilities and personnel, U.S. critical infrastructure, the media, and perceived ideological opponents. [Read this Bulletin translated into various languages](#)

## **Prepare for Winter Weather**

Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion. Winter storms including blizzards can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice and high winds. Be prepared for winter weather at home, at work, and in your car. Create an emergency supply kit for your car with jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water, and non-perishable snacks. Keep a full tank of gas.



Prepare your home to keep out the cold with insulation, caulking, and weather stripping. Learn how to keep pipes from freezing. Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups. Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Remember the needs of your pets. Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights. If you are unable to afford your heating costs, weatherization, or energy-related home repairs, contact the [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#) for help.

## **CRCL on the Road, December\***

### *Minneapolis, Minnesota*

From November 28-December 5, CRCL hosted stakeholder engagements with community organizations and leaders in Minneapolis.

### *Chicago, Illinois*

On December 14, CRCL hosted stakeholder engagements with community organizations and leaders in Chicago.

### *El Paso and Rio Grande Valley, Texas*

On December 14, CRCL hosted stakeholder engagements with community organizations and leaders in the El Paso and Rio Grande Valley areas.

\* 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@hq.dhs.gov](mailto: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](http://www.dhs.gov/crcl).

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