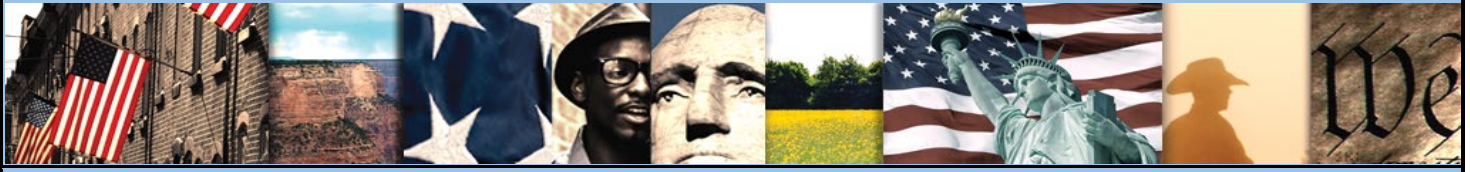




The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) supports the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as it secures the nation while preserving individual liberty, fairness, and equality under the law.



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>.

DHS Welcomes New Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Officer, Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia



DHS is pleased to welcome **Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia** as the new DHS Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. In this role, she will lead efforts to ensure and integrate civil rights and civil liberties protections across the Department’s programs and activities.

Prior to joining DHS, Wadhia was the associate dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion; the Samuel Weiss Faculty Scholar; and clinical professor of law at Penn State Law in University Park, where she is taking a leave of absence. Her

research focuses on the role of prosecutorial discretion in immigration law and the intersections of race, national security, and immigration. Her work has been published in numerous law journals.

Wadhia also previously served as deputy director for legal affairs at the National Immigration Forum, where she provided legal and policy expertise on multiple legislative efforts, including forming the Department of Homeland Security. She has received numerous awards including the Pro Bono Attorney for the Year Award from the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and most recently the President’s Commendation and the Michael Maggio Pro Bono Award as a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Wadhia holds a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Indiana University Bloomington. Read her full bio here: [Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia](#).

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CRCL Participates in ICCPR Civil Society Consultation

This month CRCL leadership, along with representatives from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), participated in a civil society consultation held in preparation for the upcoming U.S. government presentation to the United Nations Human Rights Committee on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (to take place in October 2023). The event was hosted by the U.S. Department of State. Topics discussed included the right to be free from arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy, hate crimes, non-discrimination/equality before the law, and the rights of LGBTQI+ persons.



CRCL's Officer is the Department's designated point of contact for international human rights treaty reporting and coordination under Executive Order 13107. CRCL coordinates DHS-wide efforts and works with the federal interagency on U.S. government reporting to various international organizations, namely the various United Nations Treaty Bodies as well as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

CRCL Coordinates with USCIS on Asylum Issues

Recently CRCL, along with representatives the Office of Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) Ombudsman, visited the Houston Asylum Office to observe the potential asylum merits interview process there, and at the Houston Contract Detention Facility. Following this visit, CRCL and CIS Ombudsman representatives also visited the South Texas ICE Processing Center to observe the interview process there as well. This work is part of a joint effort to monitor implementation of the asylum processing rule to ensure that civil rights and civil liberties are being fully integrated.

CRCL Hosts Language Access Listening Session

Last month, CRCL held a national listening session to receive input on updates to the DHS Language Access Plan and to strengthen language access across the Department. More than 200 individuals participated in the virtual listening session, including representatives from local governmental organizations, community-based and nongovernmental organizations, and language industry professionals. Officials from across DHS Headquarters and Components were also in attendance.

Prior to the session, CRCL invited participants to review the current [DHS Language Access Plan](#) and the U.S. Attorney General's [Memorandum for Heads of Federal Agencies, General Counsels, and Civil Rights Offices regarding Strengthening the Federal Government's Commitment to Language Access](#) (November 21, 2022). CRCL requested advance feedback concerning:

- General input on the DHS Language Access Plan, e.g., identification of any gaps, what more CRCL and DHS Components can do to strengthen the plan
- Quality of DHS translations and interpretation
- Meaningful access for speakers of Indigenous languages and less common languages
- Meaningful access for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders
- Effective methods for reaching LEP communities about DHS information, programs, and activities

After giving an overview of CRCL's role in leading the Department's language access programs, stakeholders shared their concerns and suggestions, which included the importance of being inclusive of Indigenous language speakers, among other best practices. Spanish-English interpretation was provided by USCIS Language Services Section and CRCL offered interpretation in other languages upon request, along with Communication Access Realtime Translation services and sign language interpretation.

Secretary Mayorkas Delivers First State of Homeland Security Address

On April 21, Secretary Mayorkas [announced two new groundbreaking initiatives](#) to combat evolving threats during his first address on the State of Homeland Security. Focused on two trends that will shape what President Biden has called a “decisive decade” for the world” - the revolution created by generative artificial intelligence (AI) and the multi-faceted threat posed by the People’s Republic of China (PRC) - the Secretary unveiled the Department’s first-ever AI Task Force and a Department-wide 90-day sprint to counter PRC threats.

The address, delivered at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, DC, also highlighted the mission areas detailed in the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review delivered to Congress, which include combatting a range of evolving threats like cybersecurity, targeted violence, and crimes of exploitation. The Secretary’s [remarks](#) offered an insightful look at how the homeland security environment has changed since the Department was founded 20 years ago, and the modern approach driving it into its third decade.

Read more here: [Secretary Mayorkas Announces New Measures to Tackle A.I., PRC Challenges at First State of Homeland Security Address.](#)

2022 White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable Report

In March, Attorney General Merrick B. Garland and White House Counsel Stuart Delery jointly issued the 2022 White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable Report, entitled [Access to Justice through Simplification: A Roadmap for People-Centered Simplification of Federal Government Forms, Processes, and Language](#). The report focuses on ways the Federal Government can simplify its forms, language and processes to reduce the need for individuals to seek legal assistance.

The report features efforts across DHS, a member agency of the Roundtable, to expand access to justice, which includes the work of the DHS Customer Experience Team, and their coordination with Components and offices on burden reduction strategies through the lens of human-centered design. DHS has further developed a range of resources and guides to assist Components and offices in their customer and user experience efforts. For this effort, CRCL supported the DHS Secretary’s Office in identifying efforts across the Department to simplify forms, eliminate unnecessary requirements, and use plain language.

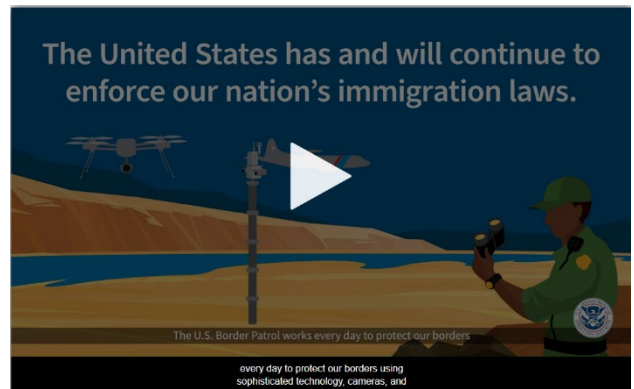
DHS Issues Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Detailing Strategy to Stay Ahead of Evolving Threat Environment

QHSR Adds New Homeland Security Mission to Combat Crimes of Exploitation

On April 20, DHS [released the statutorily required Quadrennial Homeland Security Review](#) (QHSR), a comprehensive strategic approach to the Department’s efforts to secure the nation. The QHSR, the Department’s capstone strategy document, assesses the ways homeland security has evolved since the Department was formed over 20 years ago and the significant changes to the threats and challenges facing the nation since the last report was issued nearly a decade ago. These challenges include changes in global migration, human trafficking, domestic violent extremism, strategic competition from nation states, wide-ranging cyber threats, impacts of climate change, emerging infectious diseases, and transnational organized crime. *Read more here:* [Department of Homeland Security Issues QHSR Detailing Strategy to Stay Ahead of Evolving Threat Environment.](#)

The U.S. Immigration System: Explained

When the Title 42 public health Order lifts on May 11, 2023, DHS will revert to fully utilizing Title 8 immigration enforcement processes. Under Title 8, those who unlawfully cross the border are subject to criminal consequences, including possible deportation, prosecution, and a five-year bar on reentry. Our message remains clear to those seeking to come to the United States: Do not believe smugglers. Do not put your life at risk by taking the dangerous journey only to be sent back. Use lawful pathways to come to the United States. The United States will continue to remove noncitizens who arrive without authorization. [Explicación del sistema migratorio de los EE.UU.](#) (Video by DHS Office of Public Affairs/Released)



Notice of Funding Opportunity: FY 2022 Case Management Pilot Program

The Case Management Pilot Program (CMPP) has announced its [FY 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for an anticipated \$15 million in grant funds. CMPP makes funds available through a solicitation to local governments and/or nonprofits to provide voluntary case management and other services to eligible noncitizens. CMPP funds will be awarded through a competitive solicitation process to eligible subrecipients through the CMPP National Board, chaired by the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. CMPP services are to be made available to non-detained noncitizens enrolled in ICE's Alternatives to Detention programs, in geographic locations served by the CMPP. Services can include mental health services; human trafficking screening; legal orientation programs; cultural orientation programs; connections to social services; and for individuals who will be removed, reintegration services. Once the grant is awarded, the National Board will release its own solicitation to request applications from local governments and nonprofit organizations.

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 meetings 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. 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.

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. For more information, including how to make a civil rights or civil liberties complaint about DHS activities, visit: www.dhs.gov/crcl.

CRCL Phone: 202-401-1474 • Toll Free: 866-644-8360 • TTY: 202-401-0470 • Toll Free TTY: 866-644-8361

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