



*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 Monitors Conditions in US Border Patrol Custody in El Paso**

This month, CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn and CRCL’s Compliance Branch staff investigated conditions for individuals in U.S. Border Patrol custody in El Paso, Texas. The investigation resulted from CRCL receiving several allegations concerning conditions at the El Paso Border Patrol Station One, El Paso Del Norte Processing Center, the Clint Border Patrol Station, and the Ysleta Border Patrol Station. CRCL was accompanied on this investigation by a corrections and detention expert and an environmental health and safety expert, who examined issues at each of these locations. CRCL also examined CBP’s implementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) Guiding Principles regarding aliens not amenable to MPP and discretionary determinations regarding other vulnerable populations.

### **CRCL Attends 2019 Homeland Security Conference**

CRCL’s Antidiscrimination Group recently participated in the 2019 National Homeland Security Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. The annual conference brought together 1500 participants; including homeland security, law enforcement, fire and emergency management professionals, business owners, federal and nonprofit agencies, and universities to learn about emerging trends and technologies in homeland security, and to engage on topics ranging from preparedness and public health to grants management and cybersecurity.

CRCL presented on a panel with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and state and local partners from Kentucky. The panel presentation, “Effective Preparedness is Inclusive Preparedness: Accessibility in the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program,” highlighted efforts at the state and county level to improve accessibility for both persons with disabilities and with limited English proficiency through engaging stakeholders, evaluating outreach, developing plans, training staff, and conducting inclusive exercises. Participants came away from the session with an overview of core concepts and key considerations for improving accessibility in emergency preparedness, and resources to assist jurisdictions in the planning process. CRCL also distributed language access and disability access materials to state and local agencies at the conference.

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## **CRCL Hosts Open House and First-Ever Partnership Awards**

On July 10, 2019, CRCL opened its doors to DHS family and federal partners for its first-ever open house and partnership awards ceremony. CRCL employees welcomed over 175 guests to learn more about the Office's mission, roles, and responsibilities. The event provided an opportunity for CRCL to showcase its broad range of programs and services to support the DHS protection mission, and employees staffed display tables featuring the work of their various sections and chatted with guests, sharing in-depth information about their work.



***CRCL Open House Attendees***

A highlight of the event included the First Annual CRCL Partnership Awards, which recognized several exceptional CRCL partners from across the Department. Awardees were nominated by CRCL staff and leadership for demonstrating excellence in supporting civil rights and civil liberties at DHS and for contributing to the shared mission of preserving individual rights and liberties while protecting the Homeland.

CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn led the ceremony and recognized several awardees from DHS Components and Headquarters Offices including:

- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- Transportation Security Administration
- DHS Intelligence Training Academy
- DHS Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer
- DHS Office of Policy
- DHS Office of Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention



***CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn leads the First Annual CRCL Partnership Awards Ceremony***



***CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn addresses DHS interns during the CRCL Open House***

The Open House also featured a breakout intern program, which brought together interns from Components and HQ Offices across the Department to learn about CRCL through presentations and a unique “issue spotter” exercise. The exercise simulated a mock complaint that CRCL might potentially receive and allowed interns to identify areas where they suspected civil rights and civil liberties violations may have occurred.

At the end of the awards ceremony, Officer Quinn stated, “I hope that you leave today with a better understanding of the breadth and variety of the work done by CRCL, but also leave feeling better equipped to integrate civil rights protections into your day-to-day work. Most importantly, I challenge you to take what you learn here and share your experience and insight with others.”

### **Joint Statement Between the U.S. Government and the Government of Guatemala**

The U.S. Government and the Government of Guatemala continue to make important progress on a comprehensive regional approach to addressing irregular migration patterns. The two countries are currently cooperating on several initiatives to reduce the flow of irregular migration and ensure the safety and protection of vulnerable populations, especially children.

Both countries have entered into several agreements, the terms of which foster collaboration to expand the capacity of migrant reception, adjudication of protection claims, shelter, and removal infrastructure. By working cooperatively and with international organizations, both governments will continue to harmonize immigration regulations, synchronize regional immigration systems to ensure migrants and children are not victimized by smugglers, and enhance protection systems and capacity through partnership. The partnership also increases Guatemala's attractiveness to its own citizens and foreign investors through workforce and infrastructure development. *Read the [full statement](#).*

### **CRCL Hosts Annual Informational Briefing for Hajj Pilgrimage Travelers**

CRCL, in partnership with the U.S. Department of State, hosted its annual interagency briefing for Muslim Americans on guidance for making their Hajj pilgrimage. More than 30 Muslim American community members who lead large groups on the Hajj pilgrimage attended the briefing.

Representatives from the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh and the Consulate General in Jeddah (Saudi Arabia), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and CRCL gave presentations on proper protocols; including what items travelers can bring and how to facilitate the process for large groups. TSA also shared information on training they provide to their transportation security officers on appropriate measures for interacting with travelers making the pilgrimage. CRCL specifically spoke on the direct assistance they provide to travelers that might experience issues during transportation screening and at ports of entry.

### **CRCL Participates in 2019 Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom**

CRCL recently participated in the U.S. State Department's second Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom. The three-day event brought together leaders from around the world to discuss the challenges facing religious freedom, identify concrete ways to combat and address religious persecution and discrimination, and promote greater respect and preservation of religion liberty for all. Nearly 1,000 representatives from government, international organizations, religious leaders, and civil society activists were in attendance. A portion of the event focused on government action and efforts, which mentioned CRCL's work on UN Resolution 16/18.

### **CRCL Leads Efforts to Promote Inclusion and Equal Access for Persons with Disabilities**

July 26, 2019 marks the 29th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by President George H. W. Bush. The ADA expands the civil rights protections for people with disabilities established in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Mindful of the ADA's promise of full participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life, CRCL works across the agency to ensure such access in DHS. Since 2013, CRCL has overseen a comprehensive effort to identify any gaps or barriers to equal access to persons with disabilities in DHS programs. The culmination of this work is a series of Component plans that will address these barriers and gaps, document progress to date, and include timelines and benchmarks.

In working with Components on its evaluation and planning activities, CRCL has provided training and information on key principles for ensuring nondiscrimination, including but not limited to: inclusion, integration, self-determination, and reasonable accommodations and Modifications. In addition, CRCL and the Components engaged members of the disability community during the evaluation, and we will continue to foster this engagement as the plans are implemented. These plans will be available in the coming months on CRCL's Disability Access webpage: <https://www.dhs.gov/disability-access-department-homeland-security>.

## **CRCL on the Road, July**

***July 22-24 – Houston, Texas***

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtables with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

### **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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