



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

DHS Announces New Guidance on Limited English Proficiency

CRCL is pleased to announce that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has published new Guidance for agencies and organizations that receive DHS financial assistance in the [Federal Register](#). Last year, CRCL posted the draft Guidance for public comment in the Federal Register, and DHS modified the Guidance based on input from a variety of stakeholders. The purpose of the new Guidance is to help those who carry out Department-supported activities – such as homeland security grants – to understand and implement their obligations under [Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#) to provide meaningful access for people with limited English proficiency (LEP). Title VI and its regulations forbid recipients of federal financial assistance to conduct their programs in a way that has the effect of subjecting persons to discrimination based on race, color, or national origin.

DHS grant recipients include state and local emergency management agencies, fire and police departments, mass transit authorities, community emergency response teams, and other governmental and non-governmental organizations that provide vital services to the public. We hope this new Guidance will assist this entire homeland security enterprise to better understand and carry out their programs in a way that is accessible to all communities, regardless of English proficiency.

CRCL is working across the Department to improve language access in DHS programs and will continually engage with LEP stakeholders, including national and local policy-making organizations. CRCL recently held a productive listening session with many stakeholders to discuss language access and other related issues. We hope and expect that these and other discussions will contribute to a comprehensive DHS LEP plan, which is underway.

Read more about the new [LEP Guidance](#).

DHS Secure Communities

CRCL actively engages U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), other government partners, and immigrants’ rights and civil liberties advocacy stakeholders about the [Secure Communities](#) program. Through the use of fingerprint-based biometric technology, Secure Communities checks fingerprint records taken by local law enforcement against FBI criminal history and DHS immigration records. ICE uses this information to determine if immigration enforcement action is warranted, prioritizing the removal of criminal aliens convicted of serious crimes. Read more about [ICE’s civil immigration priorities](#) in a memo from Director John Morton.

[Secure communities, continued]

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CRCL and ICE are working together extensively to further solidify civil rights monitoring and oversight of the program, including developing statistical analysis protocols, consistent training guidance for local law enforcement officers, and more transparent procedures for how complaints will be processed and investigated. CRCL also recently held a listening session with many immigrants' rights and civil liberties advocacy groups to discuss the Secure Communities program. The meeting provided a forum for CRCL Officer Margo Schlanger to hear concerns and suggestions on how to improve the program.

DHS is serious about responding to complaints or allegations as a result of Secure Communities. Individuals and organizations should [report allegations](#) of racial profiling, due process violations, or other potential violations of civil rights or civil liberties to CRCL.

To learn more about Secure Communities and to share your thoughts on the program, please contact us at crcloutreach@dhs.gov.

CRCL Expands Community Outreach with Denver Roundtable

As part of its continued expansion of community engagement and outreach, CRCL recently inaugurated a quarterly community engagement roundtable in Denver, Colorado. The meeting was attended by organizations and leaders representing Latino, Asian/Asian Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, African, Jewish and Muslim communities. Several DHS components and other federal and state partners also attended the meeting, including representatives from TSA, ICE, CBP, USCIS, DOJ, FBI, and the Colorado Governor's Office of Homeland Security.



CRCL's inaugural Denver roundtable

The roundtable discussion focused on DHS programs, including Secure Communities (see section above). ICE and CRCL immigration experts were present to listen and respond to community concerns and identify any issues requiring follow-up. Future quarterly roundtables in Denver have been scheduled for the rest of the year and will be hosted by USCIS, the Mosaic Multicultural Foundation, and the Colorado Muslim Society—the largest Muslim mosque in Colorado. Click [here](#) for more information about CRCL's Community Engagement activities.

2011 National Fusion Center Conference

In March, CRCL also traveled to Denver, Colorado to present and exhibit at the 2011 National Fusion Center conference. The annual conference brings together more than 1,000 fusion center directors, analysts and federal partners from across the country and provided training, technical assistance, and other support to meet the goals outlined in the [National Strategy for Information Sharing](#).

In accordance with the [Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007](#), CRCL provides training on privacy, civil rights and civil liberties for all DHS officers and intelligence

analysts at state, local and tribal fusion centers. During the conference, CRCL staff interacted with conference participants at the CRCL exhibition booth and provided materials on privacy training and other CRCL resources.

[National Fusion Center Conference, continued]



The CRCL booth at the National Fusion Center Conference

As part of the conference agenda, staff conducted an hour-long overview of CRCL's web portal, which provides access to a wide range of [resources and training materials](#) that address civil rights, civil liberties and privacy. David Gersten, Director of CRCL's Programs Branch, presented at the fusion center directors meeting and at a breakout session on building partnerships through community outreach.

CRCL Hosts Renowned Diversity and Immigration Scholars

CRCL recently welcomed presentations from two acclaimed scholars in the fields of diversity and immigration—Harvard University professor Frank Dobbin and Brookings Institute Senior Fellow Audrey Singer.

Professor Dobbin is a sociologist and leading researcher on the topic of workplace diversity. He presented his research findings on successful diversity programs at a joint meeting of the DHS Equal Employment Opportunity Council and Human Capital Leadership Council, and shared strategies for promoting diversity throughout the Department.

Demographer Audrey Singer is an immigration expert with the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institute. Dr. Singer's work focuses on 21st century immigrant gateways and new immigrant settlement patterns. She presented findings on immigration trends in the metropolitan areas of Atlanta, Denver, Seattle, and Washington, DC—urban centers where CRCL is currently increasing its engagement with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.



Immigration expert Audrey Singer

DHS Honors Women's History Month

CRCL recently participated in a DHS-wide event honoring Women's History Month at which DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano recognized some of the programs and initiatives across DHS that demonstrate the Department's commitment to increasing the safety of women and girls.

Among the many initiatives highlighted was the DHS [Blue Campaign](#), which unifies efforts across the Department and components to help prevent, detect, and investigate human trafficking—a crime that disproportionately affects women and girls; ICE's [Victim Assistance Program](#) which provides guidance and support for victims of violent crimes; and the CRCL/ICE partnership focused on ensuring the safety and health of women housed in detention facilities.



CRCL staff with Secretary Napolitano at DHS Women's History Month event

While DHS is proud of its many accomplishments in protecting women and girls, there is always the opportunity to do more. DHS is committed to further ensuring the security of women and girls in the years to come. If you have suggestions for how we can improve in this area, we'd love to hear them at crcloutreach@dhs.gov.

CRCL on the Road, March and April 2011

March 1 – New York, New York

A CRCL representative delivered training on Countering Violent Extremism for federal, state, and local law enforcement.

March 2 – Portland, Maine

A CRCL representative met with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations to discuss civil rights and civil liberties issues.

March 4 – New Haven, Connecticut

CRCL Officer Margo Schlanger spoke on a panel at the Fourteenth Annual Liman Colloquium on Collaboration, Cooperation, and Confrontation.

March 8 – Lincoln, Nebraska

A CRCL representative trained new USCIS Verification Division staff on civil rights and civil liberties issues associated with E-Verify.

March 9 – Denver, Colorado

CRCL staff led the inaugural meeting of a regular Denver Community Engagement roundtable.

March 9 – Warren, Michigan

CRCL Officer Margo Schlanger attended a BRIDGES community meeting, along with ICE Assistant Deputy Director Beth Gibson.

March 14 - 17 – Denver, Colorado

CRCL staff attended the National Fusion Center conference.

March 18 – New York, New York

A CRCL representative spoke on a panel concerning intelligence and law enforcement at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law.

March 31-April 1 – Boston, Massachusetts

CRCL representatives attended a BRIDGES meeting with federal partners and community leaders.

March 31-April 2 – Atlanta, Georgia

CRCL representatives met with community groups, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia Sally Yates, and DHS leadership in the Atlanta-area.

April 1 – Minneapolis, Minnesota

CRCL hosted a roundtable with Somali community groups and local and federal partners.

April 4-8 – Berlin, Germany

A CRCL representative spoke on a panel hosted by the U.S-Germany Security Contact Group that focused on how research can inform immigration policy.

April 5 – Provo, Utah

A CRCL representative spoke to students at Brigham Young University as part of the Walter and Leonore Annenberg Public Service Speakers Bureau.

April 6 and 8 – Chicago, Illinois

CRCL hosted two events – a regular roundtable meeting with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations, and a special Somali community town hall.

April 19 – Los Angeles, California

A CRCL representative will conduct Intelligence and CVE training for the Los Angeles Police Department.

April 26 – Tampa, Florida

CRCL staff will meet with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations to plan for a regular roundtable in Central Florida.

April 28 – Los Angeles, California

CRCL Officer Margo Schlanger will meet with several non-governmental organizations to discuss civil rights and civil liberties issues.

April 30 – Cleveland, Ohio

A CRCL representative will participate in a town hall event with diverse ethnic and community stakeholders.

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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 make complaints; ongoing and upcoming projects; opportunities to offer comments and feedback; etc. We distribute our newsletters via an email list and make them available to community groups for redistribution. 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. If you are on this list, but no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send an email to the same address asking us to unsubscribe you. For more information, including on how to make a civil rights or civil liberties complaint about DHS activities, see 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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Prior newsletters:

Issue 1 (Sept. 2010) *About this Newsletter • Civil Rights Complaints • Anti-Discrimination Obligations for Recipients of DHS Financial Support • Expanded Community Engagement*

Issue 2 (Oct. 2010) *CRCL Leads Presentation on Children • Guidance to Travelers Carrying Religious Articles • New Environmental Justice Group • DHS and Hispanic Heritage Month • ITACG Impact Assessment Completed*

Issue 3 (Nov. 2010) *New Website Launched • CRCL Submits Annual Report to Congress • ICC Submits Annual Report to the President • Complaints Process Improved • Universal Periodic Review, Before the UN Human Rights Council • Human Rights Day, December 10 • CRCL Expands Community Outreach Roundtables • CRCL Leadership*

Issue 4 (Jan. 2011) *Message from the Officer • If You See Something, Say Something Listening Session • E-Verify Rights and Responsibilities Videos • Training of Trainers • EEO Complaints Backlog Reduced • Expanded Los Angeles Roundtable Kickoff*

Issue 5 (March 2011) *Message from the Officer • CRCL Convenes Somali Youth Summit • State and Major Urban Area Fusion Center Program Stakeholder Meeting • DHS and Wounded Warriors*