



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

DHS Finalizes Prison Rape Elimination Act Standards

DHS has finalized [Prison Rape Elimination Act](#) (PREA) regulations to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and assault in DHS confinement facilities. PREA was enacted in 2003 with strong bipartisan support.

The rule builds on current DHS detention policies and practices, including Performance Based National Detention Standards and a May 2012 Directive on [“Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention.”](#) issued by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

“DHS is committed to upholding a culture that promotes safety and refuses to tolerate abuse,” said Secretary Jeh Johnson. “This rule will strengthen standards in DHS confinement facilities and ensure robust oversight.”

The DHS rule will require extensive planning and training for officers and others who work in detention facilities, as well as standards for audits and compliance review. The rule will cover immigration detention facilities overseen by ICE and holding facilities, which are used by both ICE and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

The DHS rule consolidates and builds on the substantial safeguards against sexual assault already in place. DHS will continue to develop policies, procedures, and practices that advance PREA’s goal of preventing sexual abuse in confinement facilities and is fully committed to the full implementation of its new regulations as well as continued oversight of the detention system.

DHS is issuing the rule pursuant to the [May 2012 Presidential Memorandum](#) directing all agencies with federal confinement facilities to create rules or procedures setting standards to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse, and also to comply with the subsequently enacted, bipartisan [Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013](#).

Privacy and Civil Liberties Assessment—Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity

The DHS Privacy Office and CRCL recently released the first annual [Executive Order 13636 Privacy and Civil Liberties Assessment Report](#) as required by [Executive Order 13636, Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity](#). The Executive Order (EO) requires that senior agency officials for privacy and civil liberties assess the privacy and civil liberties impacts of the activities their respective departments and agencies have undertaken to implement the EO, and publish their assessments annually. The Report includes assessments of certain DHS activities under Section 4 of the Executive Order (enhanced threat information sharing with the private sector) as well as assessments conducted independently by the Department of the Treasury and the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Defense (DoD), Health and Human Services (HHS), Justice (DOJ), Transportation, and Energy, and by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the General Services Administration.

Inside

[DHS Finalizes PREA Standards](#)

[Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity](#)

[CRCL Officer Presents with U.S. Delegation in Geneva Mission](#)

[CRCL Officer Meets with Women and Girls in Minneapolis](#)

[CRCL Launches Phoenix Roundtables](#)

[Women’s History Month](#)

[CRCL On the Road](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Executive Order 13636 also directs Privacy and CRCL to consult with the [Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board](#) in producing the annual Privacy and Civil Liberties Assessment Report. The Board reviewed the draft report and [provided comments to DHS](#). [DOJ](#) and [DHS](#) and provided responses to their comments.

CRCL Officer Presents with U.S. Delegation in Geneva

CRCL Officer Megan Mack joined the U.S. delegation in presenting the Fourth Periodic Report of the U.S. on Implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in Geneva, Switzerland. The Periodic Report details the ways in which the U.S. implements its obligations under the ICCPR, including continued efforts to integrate and maintain human rights and civil rights and civil liberties protections in civil society.

In Geneva, Mack addressed a number of civil rights and civil liberties issues, including those related to legal access programs, anti-trafficking efforts, and use of force policies. Other presenters included delegation head Mary E. McLeod, Principal Deputy Legal Adviser for the U.S. Department of State; Roy Austin, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at DOJ; Bruce Swartz, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division and Counselor for International Affairs at DOJ; and Riah Ramlogan, Principal Deputy Legal Adviser for ICE.



The full U.S. delegation comprised state and local representatives—including the Mayor of Salt Lake City, Utah and the Attorney General of Mississippi—and federal officials from the U.S. Departments of Interior and State, DoD, and HHS.

Read the [opening statement of the presentation](#).

CRCL Officer Meets with Women and Girls in Minneapolis

DHS is dedicated to ensuring that the needs and concerns of women and girls are considered in all aspects of the homeland security mission. The Department's efforts focus on human trafficking; combating violence against women; medical care for women in detention; parental rights in immigration enforcement activities; unaccompanied alien children; preventing sexual assault and abuse in detention; STEM programs; and travel facilitation, screening, and modesty concerns for women and girls.

As the Secretary's designee, Officer Megan Mack represents DHS on the [White House Council on Women and Girls](#) (CWG). As part of this role, Mack hosted a listening session in Minneapolis focusing on issues affecting women and girls in diverse communities. The meeting attracted a large group of government officials, non-governmental organizations, and community leaders. The mayor of Minneapolis, Betsy Hodges, spoke on her vision for protecting and promoting women and girls' interests and the city's efforts to reduce domestic abuse and crimes against young girls. Senior officials from the Minneapolis Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), Transportation Security Administration, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) also attended.

As a follow-up to the Minneapolis listening session, CRCL will also host a women and youth summit in the coming months. In addition, Mack hosted a similarly focused listening session with stakeholders in Chicago, and will continue to host more of these sessions in Los Angeles and other cities throughout the summer.

CRCL Launches New Community Roundtable in Phoenix

In March, CRCL launched a new quarterly community engagement roundtable in Phoenix, Arizona. A host of community stakeholders, the Phoenix and Maricopa County Police Departments, and federal representatives from CBP, Border Patrol, FBI, ICE, and USCIS were in attendance for the inaugural roundtable. This expanded roundtable will include participants from the Hispanic/Latino, Muslim, Middle Eastern, southeast Asian, and African communities. Issues of focus will include detention and deportation, community policing and countering violent extremism, immigration enforcement, and the CRCL complaint processes.



DHS Celebrates Women's History Month

In March, CRCL hosted the Department's annual Women's History Month program, where a panel of prominent DHS women leaders discussed experiences that led them to personal and professional success. This year's theme, "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment," recognized the extraordinary contribution, determination, and tenacity of women.

DHS Deputy Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas provided opening remarks, where he reiterated "the responsibility of the Department to ensure that the day comes sooner rather than later when a milestone is not a milestone because of the gender who accomplished it, but rather it is a milestone because of the accomplishment itself."



From left to right: Rear Admiral Mary Landry, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret), Special Assistant to the President for Resilience Policy; Maria Odom, Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman; Dr. Phyllis Schneck, Deputy Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Communications, National Protection and Programs Directorate; Dr. Christina Murata, Chief of Staff, Science and Technology Directorate; Karen Neuman, Chief Privacy Officer; Veronica Venture, CRCL Deputy Officer for EEO and Diversity; Megan Mack, Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

The program panelists included:

- Rear Admiral Mary Landry, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret), Special Assistant to the President for Resilience Policy
- Dr. Christina Murata, Chief of Staff, Science and Technology Directorate (Moderator)
- Karen L. Neuman, Chief Privacy Officer
- Maria M. Odom, Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman
- Dr. Phyllis Schneck, Deputy Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Communications, National Protection and Programs Directorate

In addition, as part of the Department's participation on the [White House Council on Women and Girls](#), Secretary Johnson contributed to the CWG's blog with a post focused on the [ways that DHS supports women and girls through the homeland security mission](#). Also in March, the CWG released a [report detailing federal agency accomplishments concerning women and girls](#). CRCL contributed to this report; highlighting the [DHS Blue Campaign](#) to combat human trafficking, the DHS Council on Combatting Violence Against Women, and several

other Department efforts in of support women and girls.

CRCL on the Road, February – April

February 11 – Minneapolis, Minnesota

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

March 5 – Phoenix, Arizona

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

March 13 – Denver, Colorado

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

April 10 – Denver, Colorado

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

April 30 – New York City, New York

CRCL will convene its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

February 27 – Houston, Texas

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

March 11-15 – Geneva, Switzerland

CRCL Officer and staff presented at the Fourth Periodic Report of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

March 27 – Chicago, Illinois

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

April 29 – Staten Island, New York

CRCL will convene a diverse interfaith meeting with faith-based organizations and community groups.

April 30 – Los Angeles, California

CRCL will convene its quarterly community engagement roundtable 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 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. We also post information pulled from the newsletter on a webpage, [CRCL at Work](#). 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.

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