



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



DHS Statement Regarding Safety and Enforcement During the Northern California Wildfires

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is deeply concerned by the devastation wildfires have caused in significant portions of northern California. Our thoughts remain with those impacted by this tragedy while our highest priority remains the preservation of life and safety wherever possible.

In consideration of these distressing circumstances, ICE will continue to suspend routine immigration enforcement operations in the areas affected by the fires in northern California, except in the event of a serious criminal presenting a public safety threat. Likewise, immigration enforcement will not be conducted at evacuation sites, or assistance centers such as shelters or food banks.

[En Español](#)

CRCL and FEMA Lead Call on Disaster Preparedness for Individuals with Disabilities

As we remember the one year anniversary of the landfall of Hurricane Harvey, CRCL and FEMA leaders held a conference call with disability stakeholders to discuss improving emergency preparedness, response, and recovery for persons with disabilities and others with access and functional needs during disasters.

CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn, FEMA Director of Disability Integration and Coordination Linda Mastrandrea, and FEMA Director of Equal Rights JoLinda Johnson held a conference call with several dozen disability stakeholders to hear feedback on the listening sessions that were conducted from February – June, 2018 in Texas, Florida, California, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands as follow up to the devastating and historic series of 2017 disasters, including both hurricanes and wildfires. The conference call provided an opportunity for stakeholders to ask questions and provide additional feedback to DHS leadership.

Discussion covered a number of cross-cutting issues that were noted during the 11 listening sessions within five key areas of concern for individuals with disabilities. Key issues that were raised in multiple locations and listening sessions included improving communication access for people with disabilities, integrating individuals with disabilities into planning and preparedness efforts at all levels of government, ensuring emergency shelters are accessible and are resourced and prepared for the whole community, and strengthening access to FEMA resources and programs before, during, and after disasters.

During the call, CRCL provided information on the new DHS webpage, [Civil Rights in Emergencies and Disasters](#), which offers information and resources to the public on civil rights in emergency management. In addition to providing summaries of the listening sessions held with disability stakeholders, the page provides

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information on civil rights laws, resources for ensuring nondiscrimination during disasters, and training materials. It will soon include CRCL's recommendations for state, territorial, and local governments for strengthening their compliance with civil rights laws in disasters.



Additionally, FEMA has several resources available on its website (also linked on [CRCL's Civil Rights in Emergencies and Disasters page](#)) to assist the public plan for disasters today. [Ready.gov](#) has preparedness tips for diverse communities including [individuals with disabilities and other access and functional needs](#). The site offers practical guidance on making a plan and building an emergency kit. FEMA also has a number of videos that are interpreted using American Sign Language (ASL) on topics such as "How to Register for Disaster Assistance." <https://www.fema.gov/resources-people-disabilities-access-functional-needs>.

CRCL Officer Visits U.S. Border Patrol Academy in Artesia

This month, CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn visited the U.S. Border Patrol Academy in Artesia, New Mexico. During her day and a half tour of the Academy, she observed training in several Academy disciplines, including physical techniques, spanish language, and firearms.

During the visit, Ms. Quinn observed first-hand how Border Patrol agents are trained, their professional expectations in the field, and how the Academy operates on a daily basis. Ms. Quinn also spoke to trainees during a law class about their role as federal law enforcement officers and how important it is for them to be respectful of all individuals' human rights, regardless of nationality or immigration status.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Border Patrol Academy graduated its first class under a new 117-day curriculum. Previously, the trainees underwent a 66-day curriculum. The new curriculum features substantial scenario-based training, taking the trainee through more real-life encounters, and allowing more in-depth training in all disciplines to include driving, firearms, physical techniques, command of the Spanish language, and tactics.



The new training curriculum incorporates recommendations from several sources including CRCL and various non-governmental organizations. The training is performance-based in simulated environments, with an increased focus on safe tactics, de-escalation strategies, and communication techniques.

CRCL Attends Annual FDR Training Conference



This month, CRCL staff traveled to Orlando, Florida to attend the annual [Federal Dispute Resolution Training](#) focused on the latest trends in equal employment opportunity and diversity, human resources, and alternative dispute resolution programs across government. Workshops and sessions covered a variety of topics including free speech and religious liberty in the federal workplace, reasonable accommodation, and harassment, among others.

CRCL's Deputy Officer Veronica Venture presented during a session called "Strategic Leadership for the 21st-Century Civil Rights Office," offering practical tips for identifying leadership strengths and competencies within a civil rights program. The session also covered best practices for managing and leveraging scarce resources within an office, and sharpening internal communications to improve the image and efficiencies of a civil rights office.

CRCL Hosts International Visitor Leadership Program Delegation

CRCL recently hosted a delegation from Pakistan sponsored by the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). The purpose of the visit was to increase connections between U.S and Pakistani Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) experts, leading to more communication, cooperation, and innovation in CVE programs.

CRCL gave an overview of its community engagement work in providing strategies to prevent, reduce, manage, and resolve conflict through research, training, and techniques that empower diverse communities. A member of the Pakistani delegation, Usam Zafar of the Pakistan Peace Collective, also presented his research on methods that governments, think tanks, and local communities can employ to engage vulnerable segments and counter violent extremism. The discussion focused on how instability and violent conflict present complex challenges for government. CRCL and other DHS officials also spoke on programs and resources available to communities, and collaborative efforts to build resilience against violent extremism.



The IVLP is the State Department's premier professional exchange program. Through short-term visits to the United States current and emerging foreign leaders in a variety of fields experience our nation firsthand and cultivate lasting relationships with their American counterparts. Regularly held meetings reflect the participants' professional interests, and support the foreign policy goals of the United States.

Re-Registration Period Now Open for Temporary Protected Status for Yemen

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that current beneficiaries of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under Yemen's designation who want to maintain their status through the extension date of March 3, 2020, must re-register between August 14, 2018, and October 15, 2018.

Re-registration procedures, including how to renew employment authorization documents, have been published in the [Federal Register](#) and on uscis.gov/tps.

All applicants must submit Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status. Applicants may also request an EAD by submitting Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, at the time they file Form I-821, or separately at a later date. Like all USCIS forms both forms are free for download from the USCIS website at uscis.gov/tps. [Read the entire notice.](#) [Versión en español.](#)

CRCL on the Road, August

August 2 – Chicago, Illinois

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

CRCL on the Road Ahead, September

Minneapolis, Minnesota: Quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

Columbus, Ohio: Quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

August 9 – Denver, Colorado

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

California: Townhall community engagement meeting with CRCL stakeholders

For more information on engagement events, email: communityengagement@hq.dhs.gov.

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.

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