



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.



U.S. Department of Justice Issues New Guidance for Federal Law Enforcement

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) recently released “[Guidance for Federal Law Enforcement Agencies Regarding the Use of Race, Ethnicity, Gender, National Origin, Religion, Sexual Orientation, or Gender Identity](#).” This guidance supersedes the DOJ 2003 guidance, and builds and expands upon the existing framework reaffirming the federal government’s deep commitment to ensuring its law enforcement agencies conduct their activities in an unbiased manner. Biased practices, as the federal government has long recognized, are unfair, promote mistrust of law enforcement, and perpetuate negative and harmful stereotypes. Moreover—and vitally important—biased practices are ineffective.

Existing DHS policy, updated as recently as last year, already prohibits racial profiling at all times by any employee of DHS. It also clarifies that DHS personnel may only use race or ethnicity as a factor “when a compelling governmental interest is present, and only in a way narrowly tailored to meet that compelling interest.” The DOJ guidance sets forth the limited circumstances when listed characteristics may be used as one of several factors in law enforcement activities.

DHS will review activities not directly covered by the guidance to establish every appropriate safeguard and civil rights protection in its security activities, and will enhance policy where necessary. DHS will also act to ensure its tens of thousands of law enforcement personnel properly implement and comply with this guidance. CRCL will be directly involved in these efforts, which will be undertaken in consultation with key stakeholders, and will include implementation guidance, compliance assessment, enhanced training, and enhanced statistical collection.

Secretary Johnson and Officer Megan Mack Meet with Community Leaders in Boston

Secretary Jeh Johnson recently traveled to Boston with CRCL Officer Megan Mack to meet with diverse community stakeholders and faith-based groups to discuss the Department’s ongoing efforts to build partnerships with law enforcement and state and local officials. Community leaders spoke positively of the discussions, and expressed interest in additional engagement opportunities with DHS— particularly having Secretary Johnson speak to Muslim American youth.

Secretary Johnson, along with U.S Attorney Carmen Ortiz, also met with federal, state, and local law enforcement to discuss best practices and share recommendations for collaborative efforts between DHS and law enforcement in the post-Boston Marathon environment. CRCL plans continued engagement in Boston, and will provide additional cultural competency training for law enforcement and other field office personnel.

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CRCL Presents at CVE Conference in Bangladesh

This month, a CRCL Community Engagement representative presented training as part of a DOJ regional workshop hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The workshop, entitled “Good Giving: Countering Terrorist Financing and Violent Extremism in the Charity Community,” included civil society, law enforcement, and members of the Judiciary from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, and the Maldives, along with officials from the United Kingdom and United Nations. CRCL’s curriculum focused on good practices in establishing an effective community engagement program and the important role played by civil society in homeland security as a result of an honest and transparent relationship with law enforcement. The two presentations conducted by CRCL highlighted the need to ensure civil rights and civil liberties protections within the context of countering violent extremism including how such efforts are not a means to gather intelligence, further criminal investigations, or be used as a platform to engage in racial, ethnic, or religious profiling.



The workshop is the first of its kind to be held in south central Asia. U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan Mozena and Bangladesh Law Minister (Attorney General) Anisul Huq gave remarks to conclude the three-day event and acknowledged the role that U.S. federal agencies played in the training.

CRCL Featured on National Public Radio

CRCL’s Community Engagement Lead Kareem Shora was interviewed for a three-part NPR series on ISIS recruitment tactics in the Denver area and how the city has emerged as a model for countering these tactics. Denver is one of 16 cities where CRCL holds quarterly community roundtables as well as other regular engagement events. Listen to the three-part interview here: [Part One](#), [Part Two](#), and [Part Three](#).

CRCL on the Road, December

December 4 – Atlanta, Georgia

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

December 15 – Houston, Texas

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

December 5 – Boston, Massachusetts

Secretary Johnson and Officer Megan Mack met with diverse community leaders.

December 18 – Tampa, Florida

CRCL convened 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 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.

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