



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.



CRCL Participates in City-to-City Exchange Programs

This month, CRCL led a delegation of French government and civil society officials in the first phase of a community exchange tour to Orlando and Tampa, Florida. The visit began in Washington, D.C., where CRCL hosted an interagency briefing with officials from DHS, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), the National Counterterrorism Center, and the U.S. Department of State. From there, the group traveled to central Florida where they met with diverse community and faith-based stakeholders, federal partners, local advocacy groups, and refugee resettlement agencies. Notably, the group observed a



French delegation at the Tampa mayor's office

naturalization ceremony with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Tampa field office; visited the memorial site of the Pulse nightclub where a tragic shooting took place this past June; and met with the U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, the FBI Orlando Field Office, the Tampa and Orlando Mayors, and the Orlando police department.

In November, CRCL also participated in the City-to-City exchange between Phoenix, Arizona and

Arnhem, Netherlands, where law enforcement officials, civil society members, and local government representatives visited The Hague, Arnhem, and Amsterdam to engage in a series of meetings and events pertaining to civil rights and community engagement. The next phase of the program will take place in early 2017, where members of the exchange will visit Washington, D.C. and Phoenix, Arizona, and attend a series of meetings organized by CRCL to understand best practices in civil rights and community engagement at the national and local levels.

CRCL regularly partners with the U.S. Department of State to coordinate the city-to-city exchange program, which pairs cities in the U.S. and Europe to exchange community engagement best practices in support of countering violent extremism. Since 2011, CRCL has coordinated tours with delegations from Belgium, Germany, and Sweden.

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French delegation visits the Pulse Nightclub memorial site

CRCL Responds Following the Incident at Ohio State University

In the wake of the attack earlier this month at Ohio State University, CRCL worked with the Somali and Muslim communities to address their concerns of backlash and harassment against individuals perceived to be Muslim. At the request of community stakeholders, CRCL hosted a meeting in Columbus, Ohio, on the day of the incident. More than 40 stakeholders attended, including representatives from the Columbus mayor's office, the campus Somali Student Association and Muslim Student Association, members from the largest mosques in the city, and local women's advocacy groups.

CRCL condemns the attack and during the meeting, encouraged stakeholders to utilize all available training and protection resources offered by DHS for community members at school, work, and places of worship. Meeting participants gave accounts of harassment and bullying experienced since the presidential election, noting that many of these incidents have not been reported to law enforcement. CRCL encouraged attendees to report all hate-based incidents to local law enforcement and the FBI. Community stakeholders requested that CRCL convene a larger roundtable to include law enforcement agencies and local youth. CRCL is planning an expanded roundtable meeting in Columbus to take place in early 2017.

CRCL hosts a quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse communities in Columbus. CRCL also regularly participates in engagement events with Somali youth and women in the Columbus area.

DHS Components Release Language Access Plans

This month DHS Components released their final [Language Access Plans](#). These plans describe the efforts of individual Components to provide meaningful access to DHS programs and activities to persons who are Limited English Proficient (LEP) consistent with the requirements of [Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency \(August 11, 2000\)](#). The Executive Order requires that each federal department and agency "examine the services it provides to LEP persons and develop and implement a system by which LEP persons have 'meaningful access' to those services without unduly burdening the fundamental mission of the agency."

The updated plans, which incorporate comments and feedback from LEP stakeholders, highlight Component efforts to integrate language access considerations into DHS programs that provide critical information to the public, such as the [National Terrorism Advisory System \(NTAS\)](#), the [If You See Something, Say Something™](#) and [Blue Campaigns](#), and information about disaster preparedness, to name a few.

This month, CRCL also released two additional resources to its "I Speak..." materials, which assist DHS employees and recipients of federal funding in their interactions with LEP individuals to identify their preferred language. The new materials, [a poster](#) and an ["I Speak..." booklet insert](#), identify the primary language of indigenous language speakers from Central or South America.

In 2012, the Department released the first-ever [Language Access Plan](#), which established DHS language access policy, operating principles, and guidelines to govern the delivery of language access services. Later, in 2014, DHS Components developed [draft Language Access Plans](#) specific to each Component.

Under [DHS Delegation 19003](#), CRCL is delegated the authority for ensuring that all federally conducted programs of the Department comply with Executive Order 13166.



CRCL on the Road, December

December 1-7 – Tampa and Orlando, Florida

CRCL participated in the first phase of the U.S. State Department-sponsored City-to-City Exchange Program with French Delegation.

December 13-17 – Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona

CRCL participated in a series of meetings with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

December 6-8 – Detroit, Michigan

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

December 14 – Boston, Massachusetts

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. 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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