



*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 Commemorates the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act**

On July 26, 2015 we celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – the landmark civil rights law that broke down barriers to access and equality for individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life. The ADA's impact is far reaching and extends to employment, schools, transportation, and a range of public and private services and programs.

At the Department of Homeland Security, equal opportunity and full inclusion is critical to fulfilling our core missions. Whether traveling through an airport, crossing into our country at a border, becoming a naturalized citizen, or rebuilding following a disaster, [DHS is committed to providing equal access for individuals with disabilities in our workforce and our programs and activities.](#) The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties leads our efforts with a focus on:

- **Recruitment** – We utilize [Schedule A Hiring Authority](#), the [Operation Warfighter program](#), and the [Wounded Warrior program](#), among others, to assist in recruiting and hiring individuals and veterans with disabilities. We are pleased to have more than 11,000 employees with disabilities contributing to the homeland security mission each day.
- **Accessibility** – The DHS Disability Access Working Group shares and coordinates strategies for effective communication, program and physical accessibility, and reasonable accommodations. Accessibility improvements are underway at the DHS headquarters, which include installing additional ramps and curb cuts, enhancing automatic doors, and improving lighting and signage in buildings and on the grounds.
- **Integration** – DHS [policy and implementing mechanisms](#) ensure nondiscrimination for individuals with disabilities served by our programs. With guidance and oversight from CRCL, this year each DHS component will designate a disability access coordinator; initiate a self-evaluation of their programs and activities; and develop and implement a plan to strengthen integration and compliance with disability laws.

Additionally, we are proud of the work that is being accomplished across DHS components that include but are not limited to:

- FEMA's Ready Campaign and the Ad Council have launched a [new PSA showing people with disabilities taking charge to prepare for disasters](#). FEMA also leads the [Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities](#).
- TSA provides information and resources on screening to assist travelers with disabilities through its [TSA Cares](#) program. TSA also delivers training and technical assistance to its frontline workforce on successful interactions with individuals with disabilities.

Read CRCL Officer Megan H. Mack's [full message on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ADA](#).

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## **DHS Blue Campaign Five Year Milestone**

On July 22, 2015, the [DHS Blue Campaign](#) marked five years of collective effort to end the heinous crime of human trafficking in the United States. During this short period, the DHS Blue Campaign has served as the unified voice for the Department's efforts to combat human trafficking, bringing together the resources and capabilities across DHS to protect victims and bring traffickers to justice. Of course, we do not do this alone. We work closely with our governmental and law enforcement partners, as well as those service providers and non-governmental organizations that work each day to assist victims of human trafficking. Ending human trafficking in the United States requires the collective resolve of all corners of our nation, and we are grateful to work alongside our committed partners in this effort.

To date, the DHS Blue Campaign, through DHS components such as the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations, and Customs and Border Protection, has provided training to federal human trafficking task forces, more than 10,000 state, local, and campus law enforcement professionals, over 2,000 foreign law enforcement partners, and approximately 50,000 airline employees. These are all professionals on the front lines each day who can help identify victims of human trafficking.

Over the past five years, the Blue Campaign has become a national leader on anti-trafficking training, creating and delivering high quality human trafficking training across the country for federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and campus law enforcement. We have teamed up with our public and private sector friends and partners around the country to ensure that important information about human trafficking is being shared with individuals, families, and communities, from truck stops along our nation's highways all the way to the Super Bowl. Finally, we have implemented a nationwide public awareness campaign, displaying awareness materials in 13 major U.S. airports; creating and sharing tools for law enforcement, educators, judges, and health care professionals; and airing our Public Service Announcement around the country over 50,000 times. Our goal is to better equip the American public to recognize and report the indicators of human trafficking. DHS has announced a [new partnership](#) with South Carolina's Office of the Attorney General, and we continue to look for more partners in our shared fight to end human trafficking in the United States.

Read Deputy Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas' [full message on the anniversary of the DHS Blue Campaign](#).

## **DHS Emergency and Incident Resources for Communities**

In the aftermath of the recent attacks in Chattanooga, Tennessee, CRCL heard from many community stakeholders who expressed concerns and asked for resources and points of contact. (Read Secretary Johnson's [statement on the incident](#).) We understand the concerns related to community safety and the misguided anger some are exhibiting on social media against entire communities. We also understand that it is a sensitive time with the observance of religious and other national holidays and celebrations across the country.

We invite you to share any concerns and information you may have especially those related to the intersection of homeland security and civil rights and civil liberties. Additionally, a list of DHS community resources and contacts can be found on our website at: <http://www.dhs.gov/community-outreach-and-training>. Please remember, if you feel your immediate safety or that of your local community is in jeopardy, always call local police first to request assistance. If you have questions or need to follow up, please contact CRCL at [CommunityEngagement@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:CommunityEngagement@hq.dhs.gov).

Additional federal resources include:

- Federal Bureau of Investigation, [Information on Hate Crimes](#)
- U.S. Department of Justice, [Community Relations Service](#)
  - Contact: (202) 305-2935, [askcrs@usdoj.gov](mailto:askcrs@usdoj.gov)

## **CRCL Releases FY 2014 Annual Report to Congress**

CRCL is pleased to announce the release of its [FY 2014 Annual Report to Congress](#), which highlights significant activities and accomplishments throughout the fiscal year. These accomplishments include:

- Implementing confidentiality provisions in accordance with the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013;
- Responding to the influx of unaccompanied children;
- Continuing efforts to counter violent extremism through public outreach and community engagement;
- Recognizing and honoring women leaders during Women's History Month;
- Commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act across the Department;
- Developing a government-wide course for employing individuals with disabilities; and
- Completing the final phase of the Section 508 Trusted Tester training.

## **CRCL FY 2015 First and Second Quarter Report to Congress**

CRCL has released its [FY 2015 First and Second Quarter Report to Congress](#), as required by section 803 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, 42 U.S.C. § 2000ee-1(f). The Report details statistical data analysis of civil right and civil liberties investigations from October 2014 – March 2015.

## **CRCL on the Road, July**

### ***July 23 – Chicago, Illinois***

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

### ***July 28 – Lexington, Kentucky***

CRCL will participate in a panel discussion on CVE hosted by the National Homeland Security Consortium.

### ***July 27-30 – Madrid, Spain***

CRCL will present at the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate meeting.

### ***July 28-30 – Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany***

CRCL will participate in a conference and tabletop exercise hosted by the Department of State.

## **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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.dhs.gov/crcl).

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