



*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.*



### Reunification for Eligible Children Under Age 5

As of July 27, 2018, the administration can confirm that DHS has reunified all eligible parents in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody with their children. The administration continues to comply in good faith with the court’s requests while protecting the safety and well-being of all children in DHS’ care. Some illegal alien adults are not eligible or available for reunification today, including some adults who are not in ICE custody and are instead in the interior of the U.S. or their home country or who have chosen not to be reunited. The administration will continue to make every effort to reunify eligible adults with their children.

### Secretary Nielsen Statement on FEMA 2017 Hurricane Season After-Action Report

Last month, Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen M. Nielsen released the following statement regarding the release of FEMA’s 2017 Hurricane Season After-Action Report:

“By capturing the insights gained from the previous hurricane season, this report, which is focused only on the efforts of DHS and FEMA, provides a transformative roadmap for how we respond to future catastrophic incidents in support of states, tribes, and territories. No two disasters are alike and each requires the first responders on the ground, as well as federal support, to adapt to the unique circumstances and needs in real-time. With every response or recovery effort, we take with us lessons learned that help build a nation-wide culture of preparedness and shape the way FEMA and the emergency management community respond to and recover from future disasters. 2017 taught us that we need to further strengthen the nation’s ability to rapidly stabilize critical lifelines. It also underscored the importance of enhancing logistics capabilities across the emergency management community. While we don’t know what future hurricane seasons may bring, we do know that the women and men of DHS and FEMA remain committed and dedicated as ever to helping our fellow Americans.”

[Read the 2017 Hurricane Season After-Action Report here.](#)

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## **CRCL Convenes Community Roundtables in Columbus**

Last month, CRCL convened its quarterly roundtable in Columbus, Ohio, along with additional meetings with area school districts and local law enforcement. CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn attended, along with DHS Policy Advisor Katie Gorka, as part of her first trip to meet with stakeholders in the Columbus area.

Officer Quinn and staff first met with officials and high school students (current and alumni) from the Hilliard City School District. Hilliard, a suburb of Columbus, has established a student-led support group to foster diversity and inclusion among students. The program also promotes youth empowerment, resilience, and positive alternatives to challenges with bullying and discrimination. Hilliard's superintendent and program coordinators briefed on the elements of their program, including the VBO (Values, Behavior, Outcome) strategy that was developed to establish a culture for success among students. The students in attendance also spoke on the program's impact and value during their high school experience.



CRCL also met with officers from the Strategic Response Bureau of the Columbus Police Department who briefed on their multiple engagement and outreach initiatives. Their jurisdiction comprises five zones and 20 precincts where each precinct has its own liaison officer who works specifically with individual diverse groups. The department has more than 300 officers trained as part of crisis intervention teams to assist individuals with mental health issues. The officers also discussed how they work with area fusion centers and other entities to share threat-related information with federal, state, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners.

Lastly CRCL held its quarterly roundtable with community stakeholders. Officer Quinn gave opening remarks, followed by presentations from the Hilliard School District, YMCA, and the City of Columbus' New America Initiative. Attendees discussed ways to identify behaviors that can lead to extremism among other topics.

## **CRCL Hosts Meeting with Sikh Community Organizations**

This month, CRCL and the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Community Relations Service hosted a meeting with leaders from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and leadership from several Sikh community organizations to discuss questions and concerns involving travel and screening procedures, as well as religious accommodations in detention facilities. TSA representatives provided an overview of current screening procedures including screening of head coverings and religious articles. Participants raised a number of questions involving secondary screening and suggested increased collaboration with TSA representatives offering to participate in an advisory capacity for TSA trainings, policies, and procedures.



Additional questions were raised involving allegations of a lack of appropriate religious accommodations for individuals in certain detention centers and an increase in denials of asylum requests. This was the first in a series of upcoming meetings with DHS components and community stakeholders to discuss issues and concerns involving Sikh communities across the country.

## **CRCL Attends Federal Interagency Meeting with Diverse Communities**

This month, CRCL participated in the federal interagency meeting with Muslim American, Sikh, South Asian, and Hindu communities (MASSAH). The quarterly meeting was chaired by DOJ's Civil Rights Division, and included government officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the U.S. Department of Education.

DOJ welcomed meeting participants, and announced the pilot of their updated Muslim and Sikh community training course (see more information in the blue box). CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn shared information from CRCL's recent listening sessions with disability stakeholders on disaster preparedness, and also announced upcoming compliance site visits at detention centers.

### **Upcoming Trainings from the Department of Justice**

The U.S. Department of Justice's [Community Relations Service](#) is offering a training opportunity this August in the Kansas City metropolitan area. "Engaging and Building Partnerships with Muslim Americans and Sikh Americans," is open to the public and aims to:

- Increase public awareness of civil-rights related issues that impact Muslim and Sikh Americans
- Develop an understanding of beliefs and religious practices of Muslim and Sikh Americans
- Provide recommended best practices to increase communication and collaboration with the Muslim and Sikh American communities

For more information and to register, visit:

- August 15:  
[https://www.marc2.org/iEBMS/reg/reg\\_p1\\_form.aspx?oc=10&ct=STDES&eventid=18264](https://www.marc2.org/iEBMS/reg/reg_p1_form.aspx?oc=10&ct=STDES&eventid=18264)
- August 16:  
[https://www.marc2.org/iEBMS/reg/reg\\_p1\\_form.aspx?oc=10&ct=STDES&eventid=18265](https://www.marc2.org/iEBMS/reg/reg_p1_form.aspx?oc=10&ct=STDES&eventid=18265)

National advocacy groups posed questions to officials on a wide range of topics; including legal access and other conditions at detention centers, information on Hajj travel, screening of religious headwear at airports, changes to visa forms, and temporary protected status for Somalia and Yemen. Participating advocacy groups were South Asian Americans Leading Together, Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Muslim Public Affairs Council, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Karamah, American Arab Institute, Islamic Relief, and the ADAMS Center.

## **DHS Announcement on Temporary Protected Status for Yemen and Somalia**

Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen M. Nielsen has announced her determination that an extension of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Yemen is warranted, pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act. After carefully reviewing conditions in Yemen with interagency partners, Secretary Nielsen determined that the ongoing armed conflict and extraordinary and temporary conditions that support Yemen's current designation for TPS continue to exist. Therefore, pursuant to the statute, she has extended Yemen's TPS designation for 18 months. Individuals from Yemen with TPS will be eligible to re-register for an extension of their status for 18 months, through March 3, 2020. Prior to the conclusion of the 18-month extension, the Secretary will review conditions in Yemen to determine whether its TPS designation should be extended again or terminated. [Read more](#). (Release date: July 5, 2018)

Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen M. Nielsen has announced her determination that an extension of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Somalia is warranted, pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act. After carefully reviewing conditions in Somalia with interagency partners, Secretary Nielsen determined the ongoing armed conflict and extraordinary and temporary conditions that support Somalia's current designation for TPS continue to exist. Therefore, pursuant to the statute, she has extended Somalia's TPS designation for 18 months. Individuals from Somalia with TPS will be eligible to re-register for an extension of their status for 18 months, through March 17, 2020. Prior to the conclusion of the 18-month extension, the Secretary will review conditions in Somalia to determine whether its TPS designation should be extended again or terminated. [Read more](#). (Release date: July 19, 2018)

## **Commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fourteenth Amendment**

This month, we celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution](#), which was ratified on July 9, 1868. The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment grants citizenship to “all persons born or naturalized in the United States,” and forbids states from denying any person “life, liberty or property, without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.” The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment expanded civil rights protections to all Americans regardless of race, ensuring equality for all under the law.

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

*July 23-28 – Garmisch Partenkirchen, Germany*

CRCL led an exercise on integrating engagement and civil rights protections and strategies in counterterrorism policies.

*July 24-26 – Houston, Texas*

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

### **CRCL on the Road Ahead, August**

*Portland, Oregon:* Quarterly roundtable

*Chicago, Illinois:* Quarterly roundtable

*Denver, Colorado:* Quarterly roundtable

For more information on engagement events, email: [communityengagement@hq.dhs.gov](mailto: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](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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