



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

Guest Message by ICE Director John Morton



The primary mission of the [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement](#) (ICE) is to promote homeland security and public safety through the criminal and civil enforcement of federal laws governing border control, customs, trade, and immigration. As ICE's Director, I am committed to the robust protection of civil rights and civil liberties as we carry out that mission. That's a large part of why I have announced a set of initiatives and policy changes to improve ICE's Secure

Communities program. [Secure Communities](#) is an important program that has helped ICE focus our enforcement resources primarily on aliens who have been convicted of criminal offenses, along with fugitives and re-entrants identified through the criminal justice system. I encourage you to contact [ICE](#) or [CRCL](#) if you have information about alleged civil rights violations.

Secure Communities

Last week, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced a series of reforms to the Secure Communities program. [Secure Communities](#) is an information-sharing program by which the fingerprints of those arrested for criminal offenses are checked against immigration databases, and an immigration enforcement decision made for any who are removable. This program facilitates ICE's ability to identify and remove aliens who pose a threat to public safety, and the new reforms build additional civil rights protections into existing program protocols. They include:

- *Advisory Committee:* ICE is creating a new Secure Communities advisory committee, bringing together law enforcement, immigration advocates, and others to advise the Director of ICE on ways to improve Secure Communities, including making recommendations with respect to the best treatment of those arrested for minor traffic misdemeanors.
- *Prosecutorial Discretion:* ICE Director Morton has issued [a new memo providing guidance for ICE law enforcement personnel and attorneys](#) regarding their authority to exercise discretion when appropriate – authority designed to help ICE better focus on meeting the priorities of both the agency and the Secure Communities program to use limited resources to target criminals and those who put public safety at risk.

[Secure Communities, continued next page]

Inside

[Guest Message by ICE Director John Morton](#)

[Secure Communities](#)

[State Department Outreach Activities](#)

[CRCL Highlighted in State Department Publication](#)

[Fusion Center and CVE Trainings](#)

[ICE Announces Employment Authorization Eligibility for Certain Libyan Students](#)

[TSA Announces Airports Authorized to Build Animal Relief Areas Beyond Checkpoints](#)

[CRCL on the Road](#)

- *Protecting Victims & Witnesses of Crimes:* At the direction of Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, ICE, in consultation with CRCL, has developed [a new policy specifically to protect victims of domestic violence and other crimes](#) and to ensure these crimes continue to be reported and prosecuted. This policy directs ICE officers to exercise appropriate discretion to ensure victims and witnesses to crimes are not penalized by removal. ICE is also working to develop additional tools that will help identify people who may be a victim, witness, or member of a vulnerable class so officers can exercise appropriate discretion.
- *Training:* ICE and CRCL have developed a new training program for state and local law enforcement agencies to provide more information for state and local law enforcement about how Secure Communities works and how it relates to laws governing civil rights. [The first set of training materials can be accessed here.](#)
- *Detainer Policy:* ICE has [revised the detainer form](#) ICE sends to local jurisdictions to emphasize the longstanding guidance that state and local authorities are not to detain an individual for more than 48 hours. The form also requires local law enforcement to provide arrestees with a copy (with relevant notices provided in multiple languages), which has a number to call if they believe their civil rights have been violated.
- *Statistical Oversight:* With the help of an expert statistician, ICE and CRCL have created an ongoing quarterly [statistical review](#) of the program to examine data for each jurisdiction where Secure Communities is activated to identify any indications of potentially improper use of the program. Statistical outliers in local jurisdictions will be subject to an in-depth analysis and DHS and ICE will take appropriate steps to resolve any civil rights issues.
- *Civil rights complaints:* ICE and CRCL have created a [new complaint system](#) whereby individuals or organizations who believe civil rights violations connected to Secure Communities have occurred can [file a complaint](#). DHS and ICE take allegations of racial profiling and other complaints relating to civil rights and civil liberties violations very seriously. Formal allegations are referred to CRCL, which is tasked with guarding against violations in DHS programs (view the [Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Complaint Form in English](#) and [Spanish](#) and in [seven other languages](#)). Visit CRCL's [complaint intake website](#) for more information about reporting allegations of racial profiling, due process violations, or other possible violations of civil rights or civil liberties related to Secure Communities.



CRCL Participates in State Department Outreach Activities

Over the last several weeks, CRCL has participated in several outreach and training activities in coordination with the Department of State. In May, CRCL provided subject matter expertise in a pilot course for State Department Foreign Service Officers entitled “Countering Violent Extremism: Building a Community-based Approach.” During the training, CRCL provided an overview of grassroots efforts to counter violent extremism, increase cultural awareness, and build and sustain community outreach programs.

Later in May, the Department of State also organized a visit with senior law enforcement officials from Pakistan through of the International Visitor Leadership Program. During the meeting, CRCL discussed DHS and other federal government community policing models that leverage cooperative efforts between law enforcement and citizens to protect communities from crime; collaboration and information sharing among law enforcement at border regions; and approaches to conflict resolution, mediation, and human rights issues for law enforcement.

CRCL's Work Highlighted by the State Department

"When we talk about homeland security, what are we securing? If the idea of homeland security is that the American way of life can flourish, that includes civil rights and civil liberties." – CRCL Officer Margo Schlanger quoted in IIP Digital.



CRCL was recently featured in a [three-part series](#) of articles in *IIP Digital*, an online publication from the State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs. The first article of the series provides readers with a basic overview of CRCL's mission, programs, and the various trainings provided by CRCL to ensure the protection of civil rights and civil liberties. The second article highlights CRCL's community engagement efforts and the importance of building strong relationships with our nation's diverse communities. The third and final article of the series, soon to be published, will focus on CRCL's countering violent extremism (CVE) training for law enforcement officers. (More information on CRCL's CVE training in the entry below).

CRCL Delivers Fusion Center and CVE Training

In its efforts to increase cultural competency and awareness, CRCL offers training for officials operating in fusion centers and for law enforcement working to counter violent extremism (CVE). Both training courses underscore Secretary Napolitano's message that our homeland security efforts begin with hometown security.

CRCL developed CVE training in response to concerns from attendees at community roundtables. The training is offered to federal, state, and local law enforcement officials that serve diverse communities across the country. The eight-hour course covers key cultural and religious factors as well as guidance on effective community policing strategies without the use of ethnic profiling. In the first half of fiscal year 2011, CRCL staff trained 2,100 law enforcement officers in Alabama, California, Kentucky, Michigan, New York, Ohio, and Washington; CRCL plans to train at least 500 additional officers by the end of the year.

An eight-hour fusion center training course is also offered to State and Major Urban Area Fusion Centers. The course fulfills a Congressional mandate to ensure that privacy officers, intelligence analysts, and all other government officials working with fusion centers receive training on core civil rights and civil liberties issues. Participants receive guidance on intelligence product development, recognizing potential violations of First Amendment rights, and data security. DHS Privacy representatives also provide instruction on privacy protection in the Information Sharing Environment. CRCL staff will train officials from more than 30 fusion centers by the end of 2011. In addition, CRCL provides a train-the-trainer course for fusion center privacy officers, which equips them to facilitate the fusion center course to staff and officials in their centers. In 2010, CRCL trained the majority of fusion center privacy officers at regional fusion center conferences throughout the year, and plans to have all privacy officers trained by the end of 2011.

DHS Issues Notice on Employment Authorization for Libyan F-1 Students

On June 10, 2011, ICE published a notice in the Federal Register announcing the suspension of certain regulatory requirements for F-1 nonimmigrant students whose country of citizenship is Libya and who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the civil unrest in Libya since February 2011.

DHS is taking action to provide relief to these F-1 students so they may obtain employment authorization, work an increased number of hours while school is in session, and reduce their course load while continuing to maintain their F-1 student status. A fact sheet regarding employment authorization eligibility for certain Libyan students is available by clicking [here](#).

In addition, USCIS regularly considers special situations such as disasters or civil unrest in adjudicating immigration benefits. Read more [here](#).

TSA Announces Guidelines For Building Animal Relief Areas Beyond Airport Checkpoints

Air travelers with service animals sometimes face difficulty if they need to transfer planes, because service animal relief areas are outside airport secure perimeters. Waiting for an escort, walking to the relief area, and getting back through security and to the connecting plane can take more time than is available. To solve this problem, after coordination with CRCL, TSA's revised version of "[Recommended Security Guidelines for Airport Planning, Design and Construction](#)," makes clear that there is no security obstacle to establishing a service animal relief area inside airports' secure area. This is a necessary first step to solving the connecting flight problem for this group of travelers with disabilities.

CRCL on the Road, June 2011

June 6-9 – Miami, Florida

CRCL participated in a training offered to ICE employees by the Department of Justice, about Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

June 8 – Atlanta, Georgia

CRCL conducted planning meetings to initiate a regular community engagement roundtable meeting.

June 9 – Denver, Colorado

CRCL convened its regular community engagement roundtable meeting.

June 9 – Minneapolis, Minnesota

CRCL convened its regular community engagement roundtable meeting.

June 9-10 – Detroit, Michigan

CRCL participated in the Sovereign Challenge Conference hosted by the Department of Defense.

June 11 – St. Paul, Minnesota

CRCL co-hosted a Somali American Youth Summit with the St. Paul Police Department and the Somali Action Alliance.

June 16 – Chicago, Illinois

CRCL convened its regular community engagement roundtable meeting.

June 20-23 – St. Louis, Missouri

CRCL participated in the National Sheriff's Association meeting.

June 21 – Los Angeles, California

CRCL convened its regular community engagement roundtable meeting.

June 21 – Los Angeles, California

CRCL Officer Margo Schlanger and ICE Director John Morton discussed DHS Secure Communities initiatives with community groups, law enforcement, and local officials.

June 22 – Orono, Maine

CRCL convened a Somali community engagement roundtable meeting.

June 23-26 – Los Angeles, California

CRCL will participate in the North American South Asian Bar Association conference.

June 24 – Miami, Florida

CRCL Officer Margo Schlanger and ICE Executive Associate Director Gary Mead discussed DHS Secure Communities initiatives with community groups, law enforcement, and local officials.

June 25 – Hamilton, New Jersey

CRCL will participate in the "Securing our Communities" conference, hosted by the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness.

June 27 – Houston, Texas

CRCL, with ICE Deputy Director Kumar Kibble, will conduct outreach for the DHS Secure Communities program.

June 27-July 2 – Columbus, Ohio

CRCL will participate in the League of United Latin American Citizens annual convention.

June 28 – Chicago, Illinois

CRCL Officer Margo Schlanger and ICE Director John Morton discussed DHS Secure Communities initiatives with community groups, law enforcement, and local officials.

June 30 – Atlanta, Georgia

CRCL Officer Margo Schlanger and ICE Executive Associate Director Gary Mead discussed DHS Secure Communities initiatives with community groups, law enforcement, and local officials.

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 make complaints; ongoing and upcoming projects; opportunities to offer comments and feedback; etc. We distribute our newsletters via an email list and make them available to community groups for redistribution. 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. If you are on this list, but no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send an email to the same address asking us to unsubscribe you. For more information, including on how to make a civil rights or civil liberties complaint about DHS activities, see www.dhs.gov/crcl.

CRCL Phone: 202-401-1474 • Toll Free: 866-644-8360 • TTY: 202-401-0470 • Toll Free TTY: 866-644-8361

DISCLAIMER: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provides links to non-government websites for convenience and informational purposes only. These websites may contain information that is copyrighted with restrictions on reuse. Permission to use copyrighted materials must be obtained from the original source and cannot be obtained from DHS. DHS is not responsible for the content of external websites linked to or referenced from the DHS web server. DHS neither endorses the information or content of external websites, nor guarantees the accuracy of the information contained on external websites. When you select a link to an external website, you are leaving the DHS site.

Prior newsletters:

Issue 1 (Sept. 2010) *About this Newsletter • Civil Rights Complaints • Anti-Discrimination Obligations for Recipients of DHS Financial Support • Expanded Community Engagement*

Issue 2 (Oct. 2010) *CRCL Leads Presentation on Children • Guidance to Travelers Carrying Religious Articles • New Environmental Justice Group • DHS and Hispanic Heritage Month • ITACG Impact Assessment Completed*

Issue 3 (Nov. 2010) *New Website Launched • CRCL Submits Annual Report to Congress • ICC Submits Annual Report to the President • Complaints Process Improved • Universal Periodic Review, Before the UN Human Rights Council • Human Rights Day, December 10 • CRCL Expands Community Outreach Roundtables • CRCL Leadership*

Issue 4 (Jan. 2011) *Message from the Officer • If You See Something, Say Something Listening Session • E-Verify Rights and Responsibilities Videos • Training of Trainers • EEO Complaints Backlog Reduced • Expanded Los Angeles Roundtable Kickoff*

Issue 5 (March 2011) *Message from the Officer • CRCL Convenes Somali Youth Summit • State and Major Urban Area Fusion Center Program Stakeholder Meeting • DHS and Wounded Warriors*

Issue 6 (April 2011) *DHS Announces New Guidance on Limited English Proficiency • DHS Secure Communities • CRCL Expands Community Outreach with Denver Roundtable • 2011 National Fusion Center Conference • CRCL Hosts Renowned Diversity and Immigration Scholars • DHS Honors Women's History Month*

Issue 7 (May 2011) *Secretary Napolitano Issues Statement on the Death of Osama Bin Laden • DHS Removes Designated Countries from NSEERS Registration • 2010 No FEAR Act Report • CRCL Engages with Somali Communities • CRCL Meets with Immigration NGOs on the East and West Coasts • New CRCL Leadership*