



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.



Fact Sheet: Zero-Tolerance Prosecution and Family Reunification

Release Date: June 23, 2018 – The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Health and Human Services (HHS) have a process established to ensure that family members know the location of their children and have regular communication after separation to ensure that those adults who are subject to removal are reunited with their children for the purposes of removal. The United States government knows the location of all children in its custody and is working to reunite them with their families.

As part of the apprehension, detention and prosecution process, illegal aliens, adults and children, are initially detained by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) before the children are sent to HHS’ Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) and parents to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody. Each entity plays a role in reunification. This process is well coordinated.

[Read the entire Fact Sheet.](#)

CRCL Hosts DHS EEO and Diversity Training Conference

This month, CRCL hosted the *2018 DHS EEO and Diversity Training Conference*, which brought together over 300 equal employment opportunity (EEO) and diversity professionals from across the Department. This year’s conference theme, “Partners in Leadership and Excellence,” highlighted the critical role that EEO and diversity practitioners play in fostering effective leadership at all levels and promoting excellence throughout the Department.

Mr. Bruce Stewart provided remarks during the plenary session on day two. He shared inspiring thoughts on improving inclusion in the workplace and how incorporating “inclusive intelligence” in our work environment leads to better teamwork, employee retention, innovation, and overall productivity.

During the plenary session on the final day of the conference, Mr. Michael Fosberg acted out a one-man play which raised a number of topics including unconscious bias, micro-inequities, cultural competency, diversity, identity, and race. He shared several tools to help individuals foster authentic dialogue surrounding difficult issues of race and identity.



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The three-day conference featured plenary sessions, a number of breakout workshops, and refresher trainings for EEO counselors across DHS. The conference also featured an awards ceremony recognizing employees for their contributions to the Department's EEO and Diversity programs. The 2018 Awards included:

- **DHS Component Award:** U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
- **Team Award:** Women Executives at the Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
- **Officer's Special Service Award:** Supervisory Federal Air Marshal George Parker, TSA
- **Practitioner of the Year Award:** Teresa Richard, USCIS
- **Conciliator Award:** Rayann Saddoris, U.S. Coast Guard
- **Peer-to-Peer Awards:** Sandra Hewitt, U.S. Coast Guard; Nayla Sprouse, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP); Ayeisha Ramirez, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); Laura Denney, TSA; Britt Roberts-Brown, TSA; Patricia Cousin, TSA; and Tammy Cook, USCIS

CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn Speaks at AILA Annual Conference



CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn spoke on the Government Open Forum panel at the American Immigration Lawyers Association's Annual Conference on Immigration Law in San Francisco, California. Officer Quinn gave an overview of CRCL, and how its statutory authority and mission make it unique among civil rights offices in the federal government. She further explained CRCL's work in investigating civil rights complaints involving the Department, and their role in programs and policy, which includes: DHS immigration oversight, providing meaningful access for individuals who are limited English proficient and individuals with disabilities, and engaging with diverse ethnic and faith-based communities across the country. Ms. Quinn also described the process through which individuals may contact CRCL to file a civil rights and civil liberties complaint, and she encouraged immigration attorneys to contact CRCL if they know of allegations of civil rights or civil liberties violations to file a complaint.

CRCL and DHS Privacy Office Brief New Fusion Center Directors

This month, representatives from CRCL and the DHS Privacy Office (PRIV) travelled to Lemont, Illinois to join the team orienting the seventeen new fusion center directors. The 9/11 Act mandates a strong role for the both CRCL and the DHS Privacy Officer in providing privacy and civil liberties training support and technical assistance to the 79 [State and Major Urban Area Fusion Centers](#), the locally controlled and operated centers that provide a focus for the sharing and analysis of threat-related information.

CRCL and PRIV presented an overview of key issues and solicited feedback on a training and technical assistance support plan for the Privacy/Civil Liberties Officers located at each center. Based on the feedback, CRCL and PRIV will be working with the DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis to finalize how we will support these key partners in the future to ensure that the civil liberties and privacy of individuals are protected.



Other session topics ranged from the history of the fusion center network, its various partners and the core policy guidance to the practical elements of DHS grant funding for the centers and security clearances.

CRCL and FEMA Host Listening Session in California



This month, CRCL completed its series of listening sessions with disability stakeholders with a final session in Santa Rosa, California. CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn, along with leadership from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Office of Equal Rights and others, took a guided tour of the area affected by wildfires in 2017. The North Bay wildfires ravaged for northern California counties, destroying nearly 11,000 structures across 250 square miles and killing at least 44 people. The tour included a visit to Journey's End Park, a rent-controlled mobile home park for senior citizens, mostly destroyed by the fire.

After the tour, Officer Quinn and FEMA leadership heard from Santa Rosa local government officials, first responders, emergency managers, advocacy organizations, and survivors about their experiences during the wildfires. Participants individually shared ideas on how to improve preparedness, response, and recovery for persons with disabilities during similar future disasters.

CRCL Participates in Conference on Disability Access in Disasters

Last month, CRCL staff participated in the *2018 Getting it Right National Inclusive Disaster Strategies Conference* in Washington, D.C. The conference brought together emergency and disaster experts, disability leaders, emergency managers, government representatives, elected officials, public health and safety experts, faith leaders, industry and higher education leaders to improve readiness and recovery for individuals, families, communities, and businesses.



The focus of the three-day conference was achieving and sustaining disability inclusive whole community emergency preparedness, community resilience, response, and recovery and mitigation before, during, and after disasters.

Staff from CRCL's Antidiscrimination Group participated in various panels during the conference including: *Disability Rights and Disasters; Funding Disability Inclusive Preparedness, Response and Recovery; Public Health, Mass Care and Disability Rights; and Disaster Recovery and Community Resilience – Housing, Universal Design, Inclusion and Civil Rights.*

DHS and Election Security

"The American public's confidence that their vote counts—and is counted correctly—relies on secure election infrastructure." – Kirstjen Nielsen

Elections play a vital role in a free and fair society and are a cornerstone of American democracy. DHS recognizes the fundamental link between the trust in election infrastructure and the confidence the American public places in basic democratic function. A secure and resilient electoral process is a vital national interest and one of our highest priorities at the Department of Homeland Security.

DHS is committed to working collaboratively with those on the front lines of elections – state and local government, election officials, federal partners and the vendor community – to manage risks to election infrastructure. We will remain transparent as well as agile to combat and secure our physical and cyber infrastructure against new and evolving threats.

Learn more about the Department's work in [election security](#).

Hurricane Preparedness Tips

June 1 marked the beginning of the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season. Hurricanes bring threats like high winds, heavy rainfall, storm surge, coastal and inland flooding, rip currents, and even tornadoes. Get ready by familiarizing yourself with your evacuation routes. If you're unsure how to find out, check with your local emergency management office. More tips can be found here: ready.gov/hurricanes.

Ahead of the official start of the season, Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen visited the National Hurricane Center in Miami. Secretary Nielsen urged Americans to use the time before the next disaster hits to understand their risk, prepare, and stay informed. She also reiterated that DHS and FEMA continue to work closely with private sector, state, local, tribal, and territorial partners to identify, prepare for, respond to, mitigate, and recover from the threat of natural disasters.



CRCL on the Road, June

June 14 – Northern California

CRCL and FEMA partners conducted a disaster preparedness listening session with local disability stakeholders.

June 15 – Central Valley, California

CRCL conducted a community engagement meeting with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

June 18-19 – Los Angeles, California

CRCL conducted a series of community engagement meetings with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

June 21 – Detroit, Illinois

Representatives from CRCL, TSA, and DOJ conducted a community engagement meeting with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

CRCL on the Road Ahead, July

Queens and Bronx, New York: Quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

Houston, Texas: Quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations

June 25 – Columbus, Ohio

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

June 28 – Seattle, Washington

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

June 29 – New York, New York

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

Minneapolis, Minnesota: Quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

For more information on engagement events, email: 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.

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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