



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.



Updated National Terrorism Alert System Bulletin

On May 9, Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen M. Nielsen reissued the National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin pertaining to the terror threat to the U.S. homeland. This marks the sixth iteration of the Bulletin on the homegrown threat, which has been reissued five times since the first Bulletin was released in December 2015. [Read the new NTAS Bulletin here.](#) The Bulletin is also available in [multiple languages.](#)

Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen Leads Hurricane Preparedness Exercise with Cabinet Officials

On May 1, the Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen M. Nielsen served as the principal federal official for domestic incident management, leading a national hurricane preparedness and response exercise for Cabinet members and senior administration officials hosted by the White House National Security Council. The [National Level Exercise \(NLE\)](#) 2018 brought together more than 250 federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, private industry, and non-governmental and community organizations to test their emergency response to a simulated major incident. The NLE 2018 scenario involved a hurricane making landfall in the Mid-Atlantic region near Hampton Roads, VA.

The Principals-level tabletop exercise was conducted in the Situation Room at the White House in Washington, D.C. and focused on the federal government's roles and responsibilities to support survivors and state and local governments, recover from infrastructure failures, and overcome communication, logistics, and coordination challenges.

“When a disaster hits, a matter of minutes could mean the difference between lives lost and lives saved,” said Secretary Nielsen. “As we have seen from last year’s historic hurricane season, establishing a national culture of preparedness at all levels of government is critical to mitigating the impact of disasters. Exercises like this bring together all levels of government, non-governmental organizations, and private sector partners to deliver a coordinated and effective response.”

The exercise examined federal agencies’ ability to meet core capabilities described in the National Preparedness Goal. Discussions focused on operational priorities and the coordination structures within the National Response Framework, which organizes federal response resources in support of state, local, tribal, and territorial partners.

For more information on the National Level Exercise 2018, visit www.fema.gov/nle. Learn more about hurricane preparedness at <http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>.

Inside

[Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen Leads Hurricane Preparedness Exercise](#)

[CRCL Hosts Listening Sessions with Stakeholders in PR and USVI](#)

[DHS Council on Combating Violence Against Women](#)

[CRCL Attends Ramadan Welcoming Reception](#)

[DHS Announcements on Temporary Protected Status for Nepal and Honduras](#)

[Public Service Recognition Week](#)

[CRCL on the Road](#)

[Contact Us](#)

CRCL Hosts Listening Sessions with Stakeholders in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands

This month CRCL continued its series of listening sessions with disability stakeholders in preparation for the 2018 hurricane season. In partnership with FEMA's Office of Disability and Integration Coordination and Office of Equal Rights, sessions were held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and on St. Thomas and St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands experienced the brunt of Hurricanes Irma and Maria last September. Disaster survivors with disabilities were particularly impacted, having issues with communication and language access, sheltering, evacuation, and medical and other functional needs.

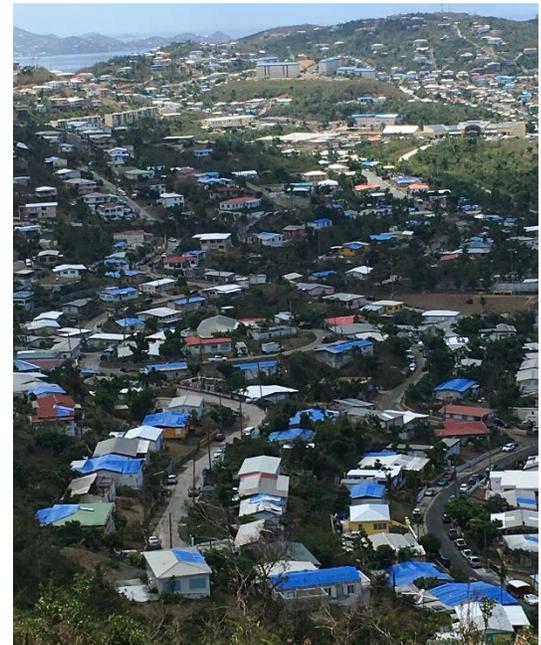
In Puerto Rico, more than 100 stakeholders attended from a cross-section of local government, non-profit and advocacy organizations, and disaster survivors with disabilities. Many expressed concerns and offered lessons learned for recovery efforts, such as health care and medical needs, integrating Community Emergency Response Teams, and how to effectively communicate with the deaf community in disasters. There were also several shared best practices, including the formation of a local disaster relief network to share information among stakeholders.

More than 40 stakeholders attended the sessions in St. Thomas and St. Croix, including representatives from the Governor's office, advocacy organizations, and disaster survivors. Attendees recounted their issues during recovery with communication to deaf and hard of hearing persons, difficulties with public transportation, accessibility issues in shelters, and the need for more ASL interpreters.

CRCL and FEMA will continue to host similar listening sessions, gather feedback, and work to implement needed improvements as the 2018 hurricane season approaches. Since earlier this year, sessions have been held in Houston, Orlando, Bonita Springs, Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, and Riverside and Ventura, California.



Nearly 100 stakeholders participate in the Puerto Rico listening session.



Blue tarps line the rooftops of homes in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

DHS Council on Combating Violence Against Women

DHS plays a critical role in addressing all forms of violence against women through law enforcement, protecting immigrant victims, and ensuring DHS employees are aware of their rights and resources if they themselves, co-workers, family members, friends, or neighbors are victims. This month, CRCL reconvened the DHS Council on Combating Violence Against Women (CCVAW) to discuss a number of items including: updating the Department's mandatory training, "Violence Against Women Act (VAWA): Confidentiality and Immigration Remedies," updating the Department's U and T Visa Resource Guide and CCVAW Resource Guide, and continuing outreach and engagement activities with stakeholders across the country.

The CCVAW was created in 2013 to coordinate the Department's efforts to stop domestic violence and other forms of violence against women. The CCVAW's mission is to identify and build consensus on internal policies, and examine how the Department can improve its ability to combat violence against women in the communities we serve and who are impacted by our work.

CRCL Attends Ramadan Welcoming Reception

CRCL Deputy Officer Veronica Venture and staff attended a Ramadan welcoming reception hosted by Islamic Relief USA (IRUSA). Deputy Officer Venture gave remarks where she acknowledged IRUSA's charitable work, and noted that collaborative efforts with organizations like IRUSA are key to shared success. She further emphasized CRCL's commitment to safeguarding civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans, including American Muslims, and looked forward to continued partnership in upholding constitutional values.

DHS Announcements on Temporary Protected Status for Nepal and Honduras

Release Date: April 26, 2018

The Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen M. Nielsen has determined that termination of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Nepal was required pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act. To allow for an orderly transition, she has determined to delay the termination for 12 months. The designation will terminate on June 24, 2019.

The decision to terminate TPS for Nepal was made after a review of the environmental disaster-related conditions upon which the country's original designation was based and an assessment of whether those originating conditions continue to exist as required by statute. Based on careful consideration of available information, including recommendations received as part of an inter-agency consultation process, the Secretary determined that the disruption of living conditions in Nepal from the April 2015 earthquake and subsequent aftershocks that served as the basis for its TPS designation have decreased to a degree that they should no longer be regarded as substantial, and Nepal can now adequately manage the return of its nationals. Thus, as required under the applicable statute, the current TPS designation must be terminated. [Read more.](#)

Release Date: May 4, 2018

The Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen M. Nielsen has determined that termination of the TPS designation for Honduras is required pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act. To allow for an orderly transition, she has determined to delay the effective date of the termination for 18 months. The designation will terminate on January 5, 2020.

The decision to terminate TPS for Honduras was made after a review of the environmental disaster-related conditions upon which the country's original 1999 TPS designation was based and an assessment of whether those originating conditions continue to exist, as required by statute. Based on careful consideration of available information, including recommendations received as part of an inter-agency consultation process, the Secretary determined that the disruption of living conditions in Honduras from Hurricane Mitch that served as the basis for its TPS designation has decreased to a degree that it should no longer be regarded as substantial. Thus, as required under the applicable statute, the current TPS designation must be terminated. [Read more.](#)

Public Service Recognition Week

May 6-12, 2018 was Public Service Recognition Week, a time to recognize the contributions of federal, state and local government employees who serve all across the nation. Here at DHS, Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity for our over 240,000 employees to reflect on their commitment to keep our nation safe and secure. Every day, the DHS workforce strives to find innovative solutions to complex issues and finds new and better ways to accomplish our mission to serve. We thank the DHS workforce for serving the American public and safeguarding our homeland and our values with honor and integrity.



DHS Law Enforcement Recruitment and Hiring Event – Spread the Word!

DHS will host a recruitment and hiring event to fill hundreds of mission critical positions in law enforcement, such as criminal investigators, deportation officers, Customs and Border Protection officers, Border Patrol agents, special agents, physical security specialists, and police officers. We will also be filling other critical positions such as emergency management specialists and intelligence analysts.

When: June 26, 2018, 12–8 p.m. (local time)
June 27, 2018, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. (local time)

Where: Arlington Convention Center
1200 Ballpark Way
Arlington, TX 76011

Participating DHS Components include Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Customs and Border Protection, United States Secret Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers. To learn more, visit: <http://www.dhs.gov/recruitment>.

CRCL on the Road, May

May 17 – Seattle, Washington

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

May 16-17 – St. Thomas/St. Croix, USVI

CRCL co-hosted listening sessions with disability stakeholders, in partnership with FEMA.

May 15 – San Juan, Puerto Rico

CRCL co-hosted a listening session with disability stakeholders, in partnership with FEMA.

CRCL on the Road Ahead, June

Columbus, Ohio: Quarterly roundtable

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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