



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 Reissues NTAS Bulletin

On November 9, 2017, Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke announced the issuance of an updated National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin pertaining to the terrorism threat to the U.S. homeland.

To read the new NTAS Bulletin click <https://www.dhs.gov/national-terrorism-advisory-system>. The Bulletin is also available in [multiple languages](#), including: English, Arabic, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), French, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

Statement from Acting Secretary of Homeland Security on Terror Attack in New York

Release Date: November 1, 2017 - "On behalf of the men and women of DHS, I want to extend my condolences and prayers to everyone affected by the act of terror yesterday in New York City. Unfortunately, we have recently seen a rise in such senseless attacks across the globe and face a persistent terror threat here at home. DHS and our partners remain alert in the wake of this attack and committed to keeping America safe.

Last night, I spoke with Governor Cuomo, Mayor de Blasio, and NYPD Commissioner O’Neill to receive an update on the ongoing investigation as well as to extend the full support of the Department of Homeland Security. While the FBI and NYPD continue to investigate, we are assisting where necessary. I want to thank our federal, state and local partners, first responders and police officers for their brave and tireless work protecting our citizens – yesterday was one more example that their vigilance is much needed.

Finally, as the people of New York got up this morning and began their day as normal, they once again demonstrated to the world that Americans will not be intimidated or coerced by terrorists. We will continue to counter terrorist hate while relentlessly defending our country, our values, and our way of life."

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Officer Cameron Quinn Meets with Diverse Communities in Minnesota

Earlier this month, CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn traveled to Minneapolis/St. Paul for a series of engagement events and meetings with diverse communities, advocacy groups, local law enforcement, and other federal partners.

The trip began with a tour of the local U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Field Office, and a briefing from their director and staff on various issues including the new electronic application process, challenges, and fraudulent applications. The Minnesota field office processes over 12,000 citizenship cases in any given year. CRCL staff also witnessed a naturalization ceremony at the federal courthouse where 51 new Americans took the Oath of Allegiance.

CRCL hosted a roundtable with women leaders in partnership with Isuroon, an East African women's organization. The discussion focused on homeland security policies, relations between minority communities and law enforcement, and countering violent extremism. Attendees also expressed significant concerns with the potential for human and sex trafficking, as well as profiling and heavy-handed security measures that could alienate community members, leading up to and during Super Bowl 2018 to be held at the nearby U.S. Bank Stadium. CRCL also met with local advocacy groups, the American Refugee Committee, and the Jewish Community Relations Council to discuss engagement strategies and best practices to combat hate crimes and protect places of worship.

CRCL also met with federal and local law enforcement including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Field Office Special Agent in Charge, the Hennepin County Sheriff and outreach team, and the St. Paul Police Department's command staff. CRCL plans to coordinate with these agencies to expand the quarterly roundtable to include broader participation by other diverse groups including those representing local Native American and Hispanic/Latino communities.



At the trip's end CRCL hosted its quarterly roundtable which featured presentations by the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs on victim assistance when abroad, and by the DHS Office of Infrastructure Protection on its program to assist non-government organizations (NGO) and faith-based organizations on improving the security of their facilities. More than 85 community stakeholders and law enforcement partners participated in the discussion.

CRCL Leads Community Engagement Meetings in Southern California

Recently, CRCL representatives traveled to Southern California to conduct outreach and engagement meetings with a variety of community stakeholders in El Centro, San Diego, and Los Angeles. At a roundtable meeting held in El Centro, a representative from CRCL's Antidiscrimination Group provided a well-received presentation on its role and responsibilities to ensure compliance with legal authorities requiring [disability access](#) and [language access](#) in DHS programs. Meeting attendees raised questions involving U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) processing at nearby ports of entry, DHS responsibilities regarding treatment of asylum seekers, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) enforcement actions.

In San Diego and Los Angeles, CRCL and local DHS representatives met with a diverse group of community stakeholders, as well as local law enforcement personnel. Representatives from CBP, ICE, the Transportation Security Administration, and USCIS participated in the discussions, and a number of issues were raised by community stakeholders including reasonable accommodations of religious articles at federal facilities, searches conducted by CBP personnel at San Diego ports of entry, CBP treatment of unaccompanied minors, new federal hate crimes guidance, access for individuals with disabilities to CBP ports, and attorney access to ICE facilities.

CRCL Holds Listening Session with Southwest Border Stakeholders

CRCL recently conducted a listening session with a coalition of NGOs visiting Washington D.C. from Southwest border communities. Representatives from CBP, ICE, and USCIS also attended the meeting listening to issues raised by the NGO representatives. CRCL opened the meeting with an overview of CRCL's mission, role, and responsibilities. The NGO representatives, some of whom are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, discussed a number of items with the DHS representatives including ICE operations regarding DACA recipients, conditions of detention in ICE facilities, ICE/CBP operations in sensitive locations, and CBP checkpoints. CRCL and its DHS partners will continue the dialogue with border communities regarding DHS programs and enforcement priorities.



DHS Announcements on Temporary Protected Status for Nicaragua, Honduras, and Haiti

On November 6, 2017, Acting Secretary Duke announced her decision to terminate the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Nicaragua with a delayed effective date of 12 months to allow for an orderly transition before the designation terminates on January 5, 2019. She also determined that additional information is necessary regarding the TPS designation for Honduras, and therefore has made no determination regarding Honduras at this time. As a result of the inability to make a determination, the TPS designation for Honduras will be automatically extended for six months from the current January 5, 2018 date of expiration to the new expiration date of July 5, 2018.

The decision to terminate TPS for Nicaragua was made after a review of the conditions upon which the country's original 1999 designation were based and whether those substantial but temporary conditions prevented Nicaragua from adequately handling the return of their nationals, as required by statute. There was also no request made by the Nicaraguan government to extend the current TPS status. Based on all available information, including recommendations received as part of an inter-agency consultation process, Acting Secretary Duke determined that those substantial but temporary conditions caused in Nicaragua by Hurricane Mitch no longer exist, and thus, under the applicable statute, the current TPS designation must be terminated.

To allow for an orderly transition, the effective date of the termination of TPS for Nicaragua will be delayed 12 months. This will provide time for individuals with TPS to seek an alternative lawful immigration status in the United States, if eligible, or, if necessary, arrange for their departure. It will also provide time for Nicaragua to prepare for the return and reintegration of their citizens. TPS for Nicaragua will terminate on January 5, 2019.

Regarding Honduras, Acting Secretary Duke concluded that despite receiving input from a broad spectrum of sources, additional time is necessary to obtain and assess supplemental information pertaining to country conditions in Honduras in order to make an appropriately deliberative TPS designation determination. Based on the lack of definitive information regarding conditions on the ground compared to pre-Hurricane Mitch, the acting secretary has not made a determination at this time, thereby automatically extending the current TPS designation for Honduras for six months – through July 5, 2018.

However, given the information currently available to the acting secretary, it is possible that the TPS designation for Honduras will be terminated at the end of the six-month automatic extension with an appropriate delay.

Recognizing the difficulty facing citizens of Nicaragua – and potentially citizens of other countries – who have received TPS designation for close to two decades, Acting Secretary Duke calls on Congress to enact a permanent solution for this inherently temporary program.

Nicaraguans and Hondurans with TPS will be required to reapply for Employment Authorization Documents in order to legally work in the United States until the end of the respective termination or extension periods. Further details about this renewal for TPS will appear in a Federal Register notice.

Signed Memos: [Nicaragua](#) and [Honduras](#)

On November 20, 2017, Acting Secretary Duke announced her decision to terminate the TPS designation for Haiti with a delayed effective date of 18 months to allow for an orderly transition before the designation terminates on July 22, 2019. This decision follows then-Secretary Kelly's announcement in May 2017 that Haiti had made considerable progress, and that the country's designation will likely not be extended past six months.

The decision to terminate TPS for Haiti was made after a review of the conditions upon which the country's original designation were based and whether those extraordinary but temporary conditions prevented Haiti from adequately handling the return of their nationals, as required by statute. Based on all available information, including recommendations received as part of an inter-agency consultation process, Acting Secretary Duke determined that those extraordinary but temporary conditions caused by the 2010 earthquake no longer exist. Thus, under the applicable statute, the current TPS designation must be terminated.

Acting Secretary Duke met with Haitian Foreign Minister Antonio Rodrigue and Haitian Ambassador to the United States Paul Altidor recently in Washington to discuss the issue.

In 2017 alone, USCIS conducted extensive outreach to the Haitian communities throughout the country. These include but are not limited to community forums on TPS, panel discussions with Haitian community organizers, stakeholder teleconferences, regular meetings with TPS beneficiaries, news releases to the Haitian community, meetings with Haitian government officials, meetings at local churches, and listening sessions.

Since the 2010 earthquake, the number of displaced people in Haiti has decreased by 97 percent. Significant steps have been taken to improve the stability and quality of life for Haitian citizens, and Haiti is able to safely receive traditional levels of returned citizens. Haiti has also demonstrated a commitment to adequately prepare for when the country's TPS designation is terminated.

In May 2017, then-Secretary Kelly announced a limited extension for Haiti's TPS designation, stating that he believed there were indications that Haiti – if its recovery from the 2010 earthquake continued at pace – may not warrant further TPS extension past January 2018. At the time, then-Secretary Kelly stated that his six-month extension should give Haitian TPS recipients living in the United States time to attain travel documents and make other necessary arrangements for their ultimate departure from the United States, and should also provide the Haitian government with the time it needs to prepare for the future repatriation of all current TPS recipients.

To allow for an orderly transition, the effective date of the termination of TPS for Haiti will be delayed 18 months. This will provide time for individuals with TPS to arrange for their departure or to seek an alternative lawful immigration status in the United States, if eligible. It will also provide time for Haiti to prepare for the return and reintegration of their citizens. During this timeframe, USCIS will work with the State Department, other DHS components and the Government of Haiti to help educate relevant stakeholders and facilitate an orderly transition.

Haitians with TPS will be required to reapply for Employment Authorization Documents in order to legally work in the United States until the end of the respective termination or extension periods. Further details about this termination for TPS will appear in a Federal Register notice.

Statement from Attorney General Jeff Sessions on the FBI's 2016 Hate Crimes Statistics

The FBI recently released [Hate Crime Statistics, 2016](#), its latest annual compilation of bias-motivated incidents reported throughout the U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions released the following statement:

“No person should have to fear being violently attacked because of who they are, what they believe, or how they worship. In June, the Hate Crimes Subcommittee of the Justice Department's Task Force on Crime Reduction and Public Safety met with representatives from affected communities. The subcommittee continues to explore ways to expand and improve training for federal, state, and local prosecutors and investigators; improve data collection of hate crimes; and to create even better partnerships with local law enforcement and affected communities.

The full report of the Task Force is due in January, but there are actions we can take now, like continuing to aggressively prosecute those who violate an individuals' civil rights. Most recently, the Justice Department cross-designated a Civil Rights Division prosecutor to assist in the trial of an Iowa man accused of murdering Kedarie Johnson, a transgender teenager. I was pleased to learn on November 3, 2017, that the trial resulted in a conviction, and the man now faces life in prison. The Department of Justice is committed to ensuring that individuals can live without fear of being a victim of violent crime based on who they are, what they believe, or how they worship.”

CRCL on the Road, November

November 1-3 – Minneapolis/St. Paul Minnesota

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

November 7-9 – Seattle, Washington

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

November 21-23 – Boston, Massachusetts

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

CRCL on the Road Ahead, December

New York, New York: Quarterly roundtable and community engagement meetings

Denver, Colorado: Quarterly roundtable and community engagement meetings

Houston and El Paso, Texas: Community engagement meetings

November 5-10 – Macedonia

CRCL conducted a Community Resilience Exercise Training in coordination with State Department partners.

November 13-14 – San Francisco and Los Angeles, California

CRCL conducted a series of youth and academic engagement events.

November 27 – Kansas City, Missouri

CRCL conducted a community engagement townhall with diverse stakeholders.

Tampa and Orlando, Florida: Quarterly roundtable and community engagement meetings

Phoenix/Tucson/Nogales, Arizona: Quarterly roundtable, community engagement meetings, and townhall

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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