



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

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Today, we are more interconnected than ever before. Not only do we use the Internet to stay connected, informed, and involved, but our nation's critical infrastructure also relies heavily on the Internet for regular operations.

Yet, for all of its advantages, increased connectivity brings increased risk of crime, making cybersecurity one of our country's most important national security priorities. Recognizing this significance, President Obama designated October as [National Cyber Security Awareness Month](#), a time to engage and educate public and private sector partners through events and initiatives with the goal of raising awareness about cybersecurity and increasing the resiliency of the nation in the event of a cyber incident.

Safeguarding and securing cyberspace is a critical DHS mission. Every day, DHS Components play a key role in securing the federal government's cyber networks and helping to secure the broader cyber ecosystem in a variety of ways. Being safe and secure online is a shared responsibility. Emerging cyber threats require engagement from the entire community—from government and law enforcement to the private sector and most importantly, members of the public—to create a safer cyber environment. That is why during the month of October and throughout the year the Department calls on you to *ACT* and join DHS in "Achieving Cybersecurity Together."

During National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, DHS asks everyone to take these basic steps to improve your online safety and to protect cyberspace:

- Use antivirus software.
- Be careful which websites you visit.
- Don't open emails or attachments that look suspicious.
- Set strong passwords, and don't share them with anyone.
- Keep your operating system, browser, and other critical software optimized by installing updates.
- Maintain an open dialogue with your family, friends, and community about Internet safety.
- Limit the amount of personal information you post online, and use privacy settings to avoid sharing information widely.
- Be cautious about what you receive or read online – if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

We hope you will help us continue to spread the word about cybersecurity. Read the [Secretary's blog post](#) and listen to her [video message](#) about National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

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CRCL Engages with Pakistani Leaders on Countering Violent Extremism

CRCL continues to support the Department's mission by implementing efforts to counter violent extremism both domestically and abroad. In support of these efforts, a CRCL policy advisor recently spent two weeks in Pakistan, where he met with civil society leaders, academics, politicians, artists, activists and businesspeople to discuss the strategies that DHS and the U.S. Government are using to combat intolerance and preserve civil rights and liberties. The goal of the trip was to encourage and educate Pakistanis about community participation, social activism, working with government, and ensuring that the protection of civil rights and liberties is an important part of a national discourse.



Through 48 meetings, discussions, and lectures in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi, CRCL discussed DHS programs and procedures as well as U.S. passenger and immigration screening. As a Pakistan-born American with native-level fluency in the Urdu language, our policy advisor was able to connect well with his audiences. The visit received extensive media coverage, both on television and radio.

The trip was sponsored by the Department of State's Community Engagement Office at Embassy Islamabad. Until recently, the Community Engagement Office in Islamabad was led by a policy advisor on detail from CRCL, who has since returned to the U.S. and his duties at CRCL.

CRCL Releases FY 2012 Third Quarter Report to Congress

CRCL recently submitted its [FY 2012 Third Quarter Report to Congress](#) as required by section 803 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, 42 U.S.C. § 2000ee-1(f). The Report provides statistical data analysis of civil rights and civil liberties investigations during the third quarter of FY 2012, and also includes information regarding impact assessments.

New USCIS Resources

USCIS Launches Spanish-language I-9 Central

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) launched a [Spanish-language version of I-9 Central](#), an online resource center designed to provide information and assistance related to the most frequently accessed form on USCIS.gov—Form I-9, Employee Eligibility Verification. This free, easy-to-use website provides employers and employees simple one-click access to resources, tips and guidance to properly complete Form I-9 and better understand the Form I-9 process.

The Employee Rights Toolkit

To increase awareness about employee rights during the employment eligibility process, USCIS has released a helpful new online [Employee Rights Toolkit](#) for workers, worker advocates, and other stakeholders. This toolkit contains a variety of attractive educational materials such as E-Verify employee rights videos, informative fliers, brochures, and posters that will help you help others. It also contains information about USCIS Multilingual Engagement opportunities and guidance on avoiding immigration scams, and creative videos, audios, and hand-outs about [Self Check](#). Most of the materials are available in English and Spanish. [Click here](#) to view and download the entire toolkit online.

National Hispanic Heritage Month

Each year, Americans observe [National Hispanic Heritage Month](#) from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for the Latin American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30-day period.



National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2012

President Obama proclaimed October 2012 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), a time to celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities and a time to promote the right to equal employment opportunity for all people.

"Employers who ensure that inclusive workplace policies and practices are woven into the fabric and culture of the organization create an environment that encourages all workers—including those of us with disabilities—to work to their full capacity and contribute fully to the organization's success," said Kathy Martinez, Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy at the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). ODEP leads National Disability Employment Awareness Month.



This year's NDEAM theme is "A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can YOU Do?" Employers and employees in all industries can learn more about how to participate in NDEAM and ways they can promote its messages—during October and throughout the year—by visiting the ODEP website at www.dol.gov/odep.

CRCL on the Road, October

October 1-2 – London, UK

CRCL participated in a CVE engagement workshop concerning Somali diaspora communities around the world.

October 14 – Redmond, Washington

CRCL participated in a Community Engagement CVE Workshop, hosted by Muslim Americans of Puget Sound.

October 24 – Minneapolis, Minnesota

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

October 2-7 – Madrid and Barcelona, Spain

CRCL participated in a State Department speaker tour highlighting the USG's efforts to protect civil rights and civil liberties and engage with Latino communities.

October 18 – Denver, Colorado

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

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. We also post information pulled from the newsletter on a webpage, [CRCL at Work](#). 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.

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