



*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.*



### **ICE and CBP Issue Joint Statement Regarding Hurricane Matthew**

On October 6, 2016, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) [issued a joint statement](#) concerning immigration enforcement during evacuations. Consistent with statements that DHS has issued for other disasters (most recently this summer’s Louisiana floods and the Flint, Michigan water crisis), the statement reinforces that ICE’s and CBP’s highest priorities are to promote life-saving and life-sustaining activities and safe evacuation, and therefore will not conduct immigration enforcement initiatives associated with evacuations or sheltering. The statement is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Haitian Creole](#), [Chinese](#), [Korean](#), and [Vietnamese](#).

Additionally, CRCL, and FEMA’s [Office of Disability Integration and Coordination](#), held daily calls of the [Interagency Coordinating Council on Individuals with Disabilities \(ICC\)](#) to share information and resources with interagency partners on any issues impacting individuals with disabilities in the affected states. CRCL and FEMA also issued a notice to recipients of federal financial assistance that are engaged in emergency management. The notice reminded grant recipients of their obligations under the Rehabilitation Act and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act not to discriminate against individuals and communities affected by disasters.

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### **DHS Celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

October is [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#)—a time to celebrate the many contributions and accomplishments of American workers with disabilities.

This year’s theme, “#InclusionWorks,” reflects the effort that DHS is making to build a diverse and inclusive workforce for all. These efforts are outlined in the DHS Disability Recruitment and Retention Strategic Goals, which describe the Department’s priorities to achieve full inclusion and equal rights for employees with disabilities. Department goals include ensuring DHS leadership is committed to hiring and retaining individuals with disabilities; cultivating a culture that encourages collaboration, flexibility, and fairness to enable all employees to reach their highest performance potential; and recruiting individuals with disabilities to drive inclusive diversity efforts.



## **CRCL Convenes Quarterly Community Engagement Roundtable in Seattle**

CRCL recently convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable in Seattle, where stakeholders' concerns focused on employment discrimination against undocumented individuals, including seasonal workers in the Skagit Valley and eastern Washington. CRCL Deputy Officer for EEO/Diversity Programs Veronica Venture led a presentation on diversity efforts in the federal work environment, available resources and tools to help protect rights and the integrity of the work environment, and what law enforcement and other agencies can do to help promote an environment that is respectful of individual rights and liberties. A trial attorney from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) also delivered a presentation on their jurisdiction, various areas of employment discrimination, the investigation and litigation process, and how to file an employment discrimination complaint.



Attendees also discussed issues with the application of U and T visas, community concerns related to DHS's role in countering violent extremism, and related concerns about the increase of Islamophobic acts of violence nationally. The roundtable was attended by approximately 45 community stakeholders and federal, state, and local partners, including representatives from CBP, ICE, and the offices of Senator Maria Cantwell and Congresswoman Suzan Delbene.

## **CRCL Employees Recognized at the 2016 Secretary's Awards**

The annual [Secretary's Awards](#) honor the work, sacrifice, and professional excellence of employees from components all across the Department. These individuals have displayed a special dedication to the mission of homeland security—setting a sterling example for all 225,000 DHS employees who share their commitment to the Department and to the American people.

Several CRCL employees were selected to receive the 2016 Secretary's Award for Excellence, which recognizes outstanding individual achievement or innovation by an employee engaged in work to advance the DHS mission. This work may have resulted in superior performance, significant operational improvements, or notable innovation in support of DHS missions.

For their work on the DHS Data Framework, congratulations to Jennifer Brand, Miriam Moore, Jim McNeely, Bonni Berge, and Johann Knudsen. The DHS Data Framework is the DHS solution to increase data access and information sharing, while improving protections and safeguarding data.

For their work on the Disclosure of 1367 Information Team, congratulations to Amy Cucinella and Miriam Moore. Their team issued Department-wide guidance on how and when Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Section 1367 information may be used by the Components.

## **U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention Visits the U.S.**

By invitation of the U.S. Government, the [United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention conducted a country visit from October 11–24, 2016](#). While in the U.S., the Working Group met with DHS officials at a meeting hosted by CRCL Officer Mack, as well as visited facilities operated by ICE and CBP in Texas and California. At the conclusion of their visit, the [Working Group released their preliminary findings](#), and will present its final report to the U.N. Human Rights Council in September 2017. The Department of State coordinated the Working Group's visit to the U.S., with CRCL assisting the group's visit with DHS officials and facilities.

## **CRCL on the Road, October**

### ***October 5-8 – Columbus, Ohio***

CRCL provided a Community Awareness Briefing (CAB) presentation to diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

### ***October 24-26 – Denver, Colorado***

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

### ***October 21-22 – Houston, Texas***

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

### ***October 25-26 – Los Angeles, California***

CRCL led a campus youth engagement event with local colleges and universities.

## **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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.dhs.gov/crcl).

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