



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



DHS Strategy for Combating Terrorism and Targeted Violence

Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Kevin K. McAleenan announced the new DHS Strategic Framework for Combating Terrorism and Targeted Violence at the Brookings Institution during an event cohosted by the Heritage Foundation.

“Today, the United States faces an evolving threat environment, and a threat of terrorism and targeted violence within our borders that is more diverse than at any time since the 9/11 attacks,” said Acting Secretary McAleenan. “While the threat posed by foreign terrorist organizations like the Islamic State and al-Qaeda persists, we are acutely aware of the growing threat from enemies, both foreign and domestic, who seek to incite violence in our nation’s youth, disenfranchised, and disaffected, in order to attack their fellow citizens and fray at the seams of our diverse social fabric. This awareness, coupled with the history of recent tragedies, has galvanized the Department of Homeland Security to expand its counterterrorism mission focus beyond terrorists operating abroad, to include those radicalized to violence within our borders by violent extremists of any ideology.” [Read the DHS Strategic Framework for Countering Terrorism and Targeted Violence.](#)

“In our modern age, the continuation of racially based violent extremism, particularly violent white supremacy, is an abhorrent affront to the nation.” -- Acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan

CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn Speaks at National Conferences

CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn spoke at two major conferences this month: ISNACON, sponsored by the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), and the Middle Eastern Law Enforcement Officers Association (MELOA) Annual National Diversity Training Conference.

During ISNACON in Houston, Officer Quinn spoke to ISNA’s leadership along with other invited federal, state, and local government officials. She gave an overview of CRCL’s engagement work with diverse communities in Houston and across the country. She also shared information on CRCL’s work in leading efforts to improve cultural competency among Department personnel through training and resources focused on impacted communities.

Following that, Officer Quinn traveled to Detroit for MELOA’s fourth annual diversity training conference, “Beyond our Borders,” focused on partnering, protecting, and strengthening communication across our boundaries to protect our communities. Officer Quinn reaffirmed CRCL’s commitment to building and fostering relationships between communities and law enforcement. She also shared how CRCL is introducing initiatives to improve diversity for DHS law enforcement including launching a mentoring program for women in law enforcement this past year.

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DHS Remembers the September 11th Attacks

Acting Secretary Kevin K. McAleenan paid tribute to the nearly 3,000 victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks at two ceremonies in New York City on 9/11, then returned to Washington, D.C. where he hosted a ceremony at DHS headquarters.

That morning, the Acting Secretary honored Master Special Officer Craig J. Miller of the U.S. Secret Service with special recognition by placing an American flag by his name on the 9/11 Memorial and Museum. Miller's life was taken in the attacks while heroically trying to rescue victims.

The Acting Secretary then attended the September 11th Commemoration Ceremony in Memorial Plaza, along with New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and former New York City Mayors Rudy Giuliani and Michael Bloomberg. The Acting Secretary and fellow leaders observed the reading of the names of victims which paused for moments of silence when the airplanes crashed and towers fell at the same times on this day 18 years ago. [Read the full story and watch video of the day's activities.](#)

CRCL Visits CBP Law Enforcement Safety and Compliance Directorate

CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn and staff recently traveled to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia to visit the U.S.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Law Enforcement Safety and Compliance (LESC) Directorate. The trip allowed CRCL to learn more about the LESC mission, discuss CBP's Use of Force program and policies, and learn about CBP's comprehensive use of force training at LESC, which is located at the Advance Training Center (ATC) in Harpers Ferry. At the LESC, CBP agents and officers receive refresher and advanced instruction on proper use of force techniques and tactics and how to assess risk and mitigate situations to prevent the need for use of force. The success rate of the training is evident in the [significant reduction in use of force incidents in recent years](#).

For example, use of force involving firearms has dropped from a high of 55 incidents in FY 2012 to a low of 15 incidents in FY 2018, a 73 percent decrease. The LESC's mission is to optimize the safety, readiness, accountability, and operational performance of CBP law enforcement personnel by articulating use of force policy; establishing appropriate controls and standards; and supplying the highest quality education and training, weapons, or other tactical equipment.

During the visit, CRCL and LESC representatives discussed DHS's review of use of force incidents and how CBP has increased transparency through public reporting on its [use of force statistics](#). Within the agency, CBP trains and employs officers and agents to join investigators with CBP's Office of Professional Responsibility to respond to and investigate use of force incidents. Cases involving a firearm, death, or serious injury are referred to the National Use of Force Review Board which includes senior officials from CBP, CRCL, the DHS Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Based on a review, the board recommends changes in policy, training, tactics, or equipment to CBP leadership. CRCL staff also had an opportunity to tour the LESC facilities and view the many use of force tools and training areas for CBP agents and officers.



CRCL Officer Quinn tours CBP's use of force simulator

CRCL Participates in 2019 National HBCU Week Conference

This month CRCL participated in events to recognize historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). DHS Equal Employment and Special Emphasis Program Manager Michelle McGriff moderated a panel at the 2019 National HBCU Week Conference, sponsored by the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The panel, titled "Is Your Campus Safe? Building and Resilience," delivered information and best practices on contemporary safety and security concerns on HBCU campuses. The panel included experts in the areas of policy, emergency management, law enforcement, and planning. These experts were senior officials from DHS, DOJ, Howard University, and Florida A&M University.

Recent Community Engagement Updates

CRCL representatives traveled to Atlanta, Georgia; Los Angeles and Northern California; and Seattle, Washington to conduct regular community engagement roundtable meetings and other events with diverse community stakeholders. In Atlanta, CRCL conducted its regular community engagement roundtable meeting with a speaker from the DHS Office for Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP). TVTP presented on its Domestic Terrorism Community Awareness Briefing. Discussion included the difference between international and domestic terrorism prosecution, hate crimes, the influence of the media, the role of social media in terrorism recruitment, and first amendment protections.



A DOJ representative presents at the Seattle Community Roundtable

Later, CRCL met with religious leaders in the Atlanta area to discuss several issues raised by community members involving immigration applications and reported visa rejections, hate crimes and threats of violence, and workplace and housing discrimination.

In Los Angeles and in the Bay Area, CRCL led academic engagement events with university students. During the events, students raised several questions involving the following topics: delays in visa applications, reported denials of visas for religious minorities, available internships at DHS and other federal agencies, active shooter trainings available on campus, immigration detention rules and the status of DACA recipients, Global Entry Enrollment Centers at local airports, and touring Transportation Security Administration screening facilities.

Finally, in Seattle, CRCL conducted its regular community engagement roundtable meeting with diverse stakeholders, including community leaders, nongovernmental organizations, representatives from several DHS components, other federal partners, and staff from Congressional offices. Local government and law enforcement representatives were also in attendance. A representative from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Civil Rights Division (CRT) presented on the federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, and DOJ's enforcement authority including efforts to protect the rights of religious communities to have places to worship. Later, participants raised questions involving reported CBP questioning of individuals regarding their immigration status, and perceived naturalization delays in the area.

Later, CRCL partnered with the DOJ Community Relations Service (CRS), and the DOJ CRT to host a three-hour town hall for the Sikh community where discussion focused on what constitutes hate crimes; differences between federal, state, and local hate crime laws; and federal tools and resources available to protect communities.

FEMA Launches Updated Ready.gov for Kids

September is recognized as National Preparedness Month, a time to prepare ourselves, our families, and communities for the disasters and emergencies that could happen where we live, work and visit. This year's campaign emphasizes the importance of teaching young people about disasters and how to be better prepared.

“Imagine you are at work or at home and your child is at school or on a playdate when a disaster strikes. Do they know what to do if you are not around?” asked Acting FEMA Administrator Pete Gaynor. “It is important to have these conversations now and prepare ahead of time to be ready for the unexpected.”



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FEMA’s Ready Campaign recently launched [Ready.gov/kids](https://www.ready.gov/kids), the youth preparedness platform for Ready.gov. The site is updated and has a new look and interactive search features. It provides tools to teach young people about being prepared for disasters and helpful skills to have in an emergency. You can find information, programs, curricula, games, and activities that engage and teach youth and their families to be prepared.

[Ready.gov/kids](https://www.ready.gov/kids) also has resources to support the integration and implementation of children’s disaster-related needs into preparedness, planning, response and recovery efforts initiated by state, local, territorial and tribal governments, and stakeholders responsible for the temporary care of children. Visit [Ready.gov/kids](https://www.ready.gov/kids) for tools to create a family communications plan, a checklist to build an emergency preparedness kit, and resources to talk with your children and teens about disasters that may occur where you live. Please share this information with your family and friends.

Webinar: U Visa Law Enforcement Resource Guide, October 1

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) invites you to participate in a webinar on **Tuesday, October 1**, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern to discuss the recently published U Visa Law Enforcement Resource Guide. This webinar is intended for federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, including police departments and prosecuting offices.

On July 31, USCIS published the [U Visa Law Enforcement Resource Guide](#) to provide law enforcement and other certifying agencies with helpful information and best practices for the U visa certification process. This guide will assist law enforcement and other certifying agencies, who play a critical role in the U visa adjudication process and ensure that they have the resources needed to provide a properly completed certification for immigrant victims of crime. This webinar will include:

- Brief presentation of the U visa certification process; and
- Overview of the resource guide.

To register, please follow these steps:

- Visit the [registration page](#) to confirm your participation
- Enter your email address and select “Submit”
- Select “Subscriber Preferences”
- Select the “Event Registration” tab
- Complete the questions and select “Submit”

Once your registration is processed, you will receive a confirmation email with additional details. If you have questions about the registration process, or if you have not received a confirmation email within two business days, please email USCIS at T_U_VAWATraining@uscis.dhs.gov.

DHS Celebrates Constitution Day and Citizenship Day

Each year our nation celebrates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787. It is our country’s most influential and enduring document which is the supreme law of the land and protects the fundamental rights and liberties of individuals here in the United States.

DHS commemorated Constitution Day and Citizenship Day by welcoming nearly 34,300 new U.S. citizens during 316 naturalization ceremonies across the country, and by encouraging employees to take the Department’s annual Constitution Day training. The training reminds all DHS employees of the historical context in which the Constitution was written, the basic framework of the Constitution, a description of the Bill of Rights, and inspiring quotes from significant American leaders on the importance of the Constitution.



CRCL Presents at ADA Update Conference on Civil Rights Management in Disasters

CRCL delivered presentations along with FEMA's Office of Equal Rights at the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Update Conference in San Francisco and in Los Angeles, California. Participants had an opportunity to hear about federal civil rights requirements in emergency management and CRCL's recent recommendations to emergency managers on meeting these obligations as they pertain to equal access for persons with disabilities. CRCL's recommendations are a result of listening sessions held across the United States, with FEMA after the 2017 and 2018 natural disasters in which participants discussed gaps in achieving equal access as well as effective practices for meeting the needs of persons with disabilities in disaster preparedness, response and recovery. FEMA's Office of Equal Rights presented on FEMA's efforts to enhance inclusion of people with disabilities in FEMA program delivery. More information, including the CRCL recommendations, resources, and how state and local agencies can request technical assistance from CRCL and FEMA on meeting their civil rights obligations in disasters can be found on the Civil Rights in Emergencies and Disasters webpage at: <https://www.dhs.gov/civil-rights-emergencies-and-disasters>.

CRCL on the Road, September

September 4-5 – Dearborn, Michigan

CRCL participated in the Middle Eastern Law Enforcement Association's annual National Diversity Training Conference.

September 13 – Columbus, Ohio

CRCL participated in engagement meetings with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

September 11 – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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

September 16-17 – New York City, New York

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtables 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 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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