



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.



Secretary Johnson Meets with Diverse Community Leaders

Secretary Jeh Johnson recently met with community leaders in Minneapolis and Los Angeles in continued efforts to engage with diverse communities and counter violent extremism. Secretary Johnson has participated in several community engagement roundtables and other events over the past year as part of his personal priority to build partnerships and trust among DHS and federal partners, law enforcement, and diverse communities that may be affected by DHS programs and activities.

In Minneapolis, the Secretary met with Somali American community leaders at CRCL's quarterly engagement roundtable, and also participated in a community resilience exercise designed to improve communication between law enforcement and communities and share best practices on building community resilience. The roundtable was covered by the [Minneapolis Star-Tribune](#) and [Minnesota Public Radio](#), among others.

In Los Angeles, the Secretary met with about 60 American Arab community leaders at the Islamic Center of the San Gabriel Valley, and participated in the quarterly roundtable there. Extensive news coverage of this event was included in the [Los Angeles Times](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), and several other media outlets.

In support of the Department's efforts CRCL convenes quarterly roundtables with diverse communities in 16 cities across the country. In addition to roundtables, CRCL regularly engages with these communities through local townhalls and other engagement events to address issues of concern, and gather information that can shape policy decisions and improve the effectiveness of programs.



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DHS Hosts Community Awareness Briefings on Syria

CRCL recently conducted community awareness briefings in Chicago and Denver to discuss Syria and foreign fighter threats. The briefing was held as part of its quarterly community engagement roundtable, which included diverse community stakeholders and representatives from the U.S. Attorney's Office, Federal Bureau of Investigations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Cook County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the Chicago Police Department.

CRCL hosted multiple community awareness briefings in Denver, one of which was held during their quarterly engagement roundtable where Transportation and Security Administrator John Pistole gave remarks. Another briefing was conducted during a local townhall at the Colorado Muslim Society, which included presentations from the Muslim Public Affairs Council on their "Safe Spaces Initiative" and a local school expert on Internet safety. U.S. Attorney John Walsh, District of Colorado, welcomed the approximately 90 diverse community leaders attending the townhall who represented seven mosques around Colorado. Additional briefings were also conducted for the Denver Joint Terrorism Task Force and for leadership of the Cherry Creek and Aurora school districts.

CRCL, in collaboration with the National Counter Terrorism Center, developed and implemented the community awareness briefing to share unclassified information with communities regarding the threat of violent extremism. The forum is designed to also assist communities and law enforcement in developing the necessary understanding of al-Qa'ida, al-Shabaab, and ISIS recruitment tactics and explore ways to collectively and holistically address these threats before they become a challenge at the local level. Community awareness briefings have been conducted in 13 U.S. cities over the past few years.

White House Releases Report on Women and Girls of Color

The White House Council on Women and Girls (CWG) recently released a report, "[Women and Girls of Color: Addressing Challenges and Expanding Opportunity](#)," which details the Administration's work over the last six years to reduce barriers to success for women and girls of color in every area of their lives. The report highlights tremendous progress while also noting the very real challenges and disparities that still persist. As well, the report specifically mentions DHS' commitment to ensuring the safety and security of individuals in custody, and measures to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual assault and abuse in confinement facilities.

President Obama created the CWG in the first months of his presidency to address these issues and challenges. The Council's mandate is to ensure that every agency, department, and office in the federal government considers the needs and aspirations of women and girls in every aspect of their work. CRCL Officer Megan Mack serves as the DHS representative for the CWG, and in this role has held listening sessions in multiple cities across the country to discuss issues affecting women and girls in diverse communities.

CRCL Hosts National Stakeholder Engagement Meeting on Language Access

CRCL recently hosted a national stakeholder engagement meeting to discuss the [draft DHS Component language access plans](#) that were released this past September. More than 150 stakeholders participated in the meeting including representatives from various national and local community, faith-based and advocacy organizations, schools, and professional translation and interpretation services.

CRCL Officer Megan Mack and other senior leaders from DHS spoke Department-wide language access goals and accomplishments. There also was a panel of advocacy and private sector stakeholders who shared their recommendations for expanding multilingual resources to customers and the public. Now that the public comment period has ended CRCL will continue to work with the DHS Language Access Working Group to review and integrate comments and feedback into the draft language access plans.

CRCL on the Road, November

November 4 – Houston, Texas

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

November 13 – Detroit, Michigan

CRCL held meetings with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations, federal partners, and other stakeholders.

November 13 – Aurora, Colorado

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

November 20 – Atlanta, Georgia

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

November 7 – Minneapolis, Minnesota

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

November 13 – Los Angeles, California

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

November 19 – Phoenix, Arizona

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 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.

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