



*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 Speaks to Diverse Communities in Illinois**

Recently, Secretary Johnson traveled to Illinois where he conducted a site visit at the regional U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility in Broadview, participated in a community engagement meeting in Willowbrook, and met with groups dedicated to immigration reform. He was joined by U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and U.S. Representatives Luis Gutierrez and Bill Foster.

Secretary Johnson participated in a roundtable discussion with local Syrian and Muslim-American community leaders—including representatives from the Coalition for a Democratic Syria, the American Relief Coalition for Syria, and the Muslim Public Affairs Council—hosted by the Syrian American Medical Society. During the meeting, Secretary Johnson underscored the important role community leaders play in working with government and local officials, and engaging with chiefs of police and other local civic leaders to understand the many challenges facing their communities.

Over the past several months, DHS, through CRCL’s community engagement efforts, has worked closely with key leaders and officials of Syrian-American organizations around the country to help address the joint concern of foreign fighter travel to and from Syria. Several of these community leaders have since partnered with DHS and facilitated community engagement work focused on preventing violent extremism, intervening before someone commits an act of violence, and taking the appropriate measures to ensure community safety. The Secretary reiterated that this issue is not an isolated one, and partnership and inclusion is key to our collective goal of ensuring the safety and security of the American people.

Later, Secretary Johnson, joined by Senator Durbin and Representatives Gutierrez and Foster, met with critical immigration stakeholders to discuss a variety of immigration issues, including the need for commonsense immigration reform. During the meeting, Secretary Johnson solicited views on the review of potential reforms to DHS’s removal priorities that he is conducting. He also discussed the ongoing government-wide response to address the influx of unaccompanied children entering the U.S. across the Southwest border.

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## Surge of Unaccompanied Children at the Southwest Border

The rising flow of unaccompanied children crossing the Southwest border is a priority of the Administration and DHS. At the direction of President Barack Obama, Secretary Johnson established an interagency Unified Coordination Group to leverage federal resources to provide humanitarian assistance to children at the Southwest border. This effort includes DHS and all its Components, the Departments of Defense, Justice, Health and Human Services (HHS), State, and the General Services Administration. Secretary Johnson appointed Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Craig Fugate to serve as the Federal Coordinating Official for this effort.



Pursuant to the law, DHS, through U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is mandated to transport unaccompanied children into the hands of HHS within 72 hours. As part of federal response efforts, additional facilities are being used, medical teams have deployed, and transportation is being coordinated to achieve the goal of transferring children within the required timeframe. CBP will maintain primary responsibility for border security operations and, working with ICE, provide for the proper care of unaccompanied children when they are in temporary DHS custody. The Department has released an [infographic](#) (above), both in English and Spanish, illustrating the interagency effort to address this situation.

## DHS Anti-Discrimination Policy Statement

On June 12, Secretary Johnson issued the [DHS Anti-discrimination Policy Statement](#). The Statement was recently revised to add gender identity discrimination to the list of prohibited forms of discrimination. The list already included protections against the following types of discrimination: race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age, disability, genetic information, marital status, political affiliation, whistleblower activity, sexual orientation, parental status, and military service (past, present, or future), and against retaliation for participation in EEO activity or opposition to discrimination. DHS is one of many executive agencies that has added gender identity to their policies, as a form of sex discrimination.

## CBP Releases Revised Use of Force Handbook

Following the recent release of a [Directive](#) on use of safe tactic and techniques, CBP has also [revised its use of force policy handbook](#) that incorporates law enforcement best practices and reflects CBP's commitment to ensure the safety of the public and its law enforcement personnel. The revised handbook was reviewed by the Police Executive Research Forum and DHS Office of Inspector General.



Changes to the handbook include: requiring additional training in the use of safe tactics and instituting the requirement to carry less-lethal devices, based on operational needs and requirements. In addition, CBP is undertaking a comprehensive review and redesign of its basic training curriculum; establishing a center of excellence to continuously evaluate use of force policy and procedures; and installing border fence training venues and purchasing use of force training simulator systems designed to provide officers and agents with a more realistic and job-specific training experience.

## **Nominations for 2014 Rick Rescorla National Award for Resilience**

DHS is seeking nominations for the 2014 [Rick Rescorla National Award for Resilience](#) that will recognize leadership in fostering resilience during 2013. The Rick Rescorla Award is DHS's national resilience award for superior leadership and innovation by a private sector individual or organization who exemplifies the qualities and achievements of Rick Rescorla. While the award is for individuals and organizations in the private sector, volunteer responders—firefighters, emergency medical providers, and law enforcement personnel—are also eligible. In addition, local government officials, including first responders, are encouraged to nominate individuals or organizations in their communities. This year, there will be two separate awards for organizations, one for for-profit and the other for not-for-profit.

Rick Rescorla served as Vice President of Security for Morgan Stanley in its World Trade Center headquarters. Following the 1993 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, Rescorla regularly drilled his Morgan Stanley employees in disaster preparedness and response, especially evacuation. On 9/11, Rescorla led a massive evacuation of Morgan Stanley's 2,700-person workforce located in the South Tower. Rick Rescorla died on 9/11 as he returned to the South Tower in order to assist others.

Candidates may be nominated until **July 17, 2014, 11:59 p.m. (EDT)**. All nominations must be submitted by email to: [rescorlaaward@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:rescorlaaward@hq.dhs.gov). For further information, including the nomination form, please visit: [www.dhs.gov/rick-rescorla-national-award-resilience](http://www.dhs.gov/rick-rescorla-national-award-resilience).

## **DHS Pride**

Secretary Johnson accepted the 2014 Award of Service at DHS Pride's annual event to commemorate LGBT Pride Month. He received the award for his leadership in efforts that led to the repeal of the Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT) policy in 2011.

During his tenure as General Counsel for the Department of Defense, Secretary Johnson led the Comprehensive Review Working Group's risk assessment of the potential repeal of DADT. In these efforts, the working group held 95 information exchange forums with servicemen at 51 military bases, and conducted a comprehensive survey of attitudes towards working with open LGBT servicemen. He expressed the repeal has gone much smoother than he had predicted. "It was an idea whose time had come and I believe that the military is stronger as a result," he said.



[DHS Pride](#), one of the Department's largest recognized employee organizations, works to eliminate prejudice and discrimination and educate policymakers, managers, and other employees concerning LGBT issues. Watch [video of DHS Pride's 2014 Award of Service ceremony](#).

***Correction**—Please note that the photo on page 3 of the May 2014 newsletter, which included Deputy Secretary Mayorkas, was erroneously cited as having been taken at the launch of CRCL's new community engagement roundtable in Brooklyn. The photo was actually taken at CRCL's quarterly Manhattan roundtable.*

## **CRCL on the Road, June**

### ***June 2-6 – Copenhagen, Denmark***

CRCL delivered CVE-focused presentations and convened a roundtable with the Somali community in Denmark.

### ***June 4-6 – Ottawa, Canada***

CRCL participated in the Five Country Ministerial CVE Working Group meeting, chaired by the Canadian government.

***June 12 – Atlanta, Georgia***

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

***June 13 – Chicago, Illinois***

CRCL hosted a community engagement with Secretary Johnson on Syria and CVE.

***June 17 – New York City, New York***

CRCL Officer Megan Mack convened a listening session on issues affecting women and girls.

***June 20-23 – Los Angeles, California***

CRCL convened CVE-focused community engagement meetings concerning Syria and World Refugee Day.

***June 12 – Houston, Texas***

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

***June 14 – Houston, Texas***

CRCL participated in a CVE Community Resilience tabletop exercise.

***June 16-20 – Volvoorde, Belgium***

CRCL participated in a CVE exchange program with U.S. and Belgian stakeholders.

***June 24 – Chicago, Illinois***

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 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](mailto:crcloutreach@dhs.gov).

If you are on this list, but no longer wish to receive the 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](http://www.dhs.gov/crcl).

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