



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.

One Year Anniversary of the Boston Marathon Attacks

CRCL, along with a host of federal interagency and community partners, coordinated a stakeholder roundtable in view of the one-year anniversary of the Boston Marathon attacks that took place on April 16, 2013. CRCL Officer Megan Mack and other DHS leaders and federal principals participated.

In addition, DHS Deputy Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas participated in a recorded panel discussion hosted by the Kennedy School of Government's Institute of Politics, entitled "[Countering Violent Extremism and the Power of Community](#)." The discussion followed an address by Lisa Monaco, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security Counterterrorism, on community-based methods to reduce terrorism. Other panelists included Rev. Jeffrey Brown, local faith leader and activist; Haris Tarin, Director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council; and Farah Pandith, former Special Representative to Muslim Communities for the U.S. State Department.

CBP Issues New Use of Force Directive

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) recently reviewed its use of force policies, and also commissioned an independent third party to conduct a review of its use of force policies. CRCL subsequently reviewed both CBP's and the independent third party's reports, and made recommendations on three main issues: (1) shooting at vehicles, (2) shooting in response to rock throwing, and (3) use of electronic control device (or Taser) on subjects who are fleeing.

Following CRCL's review, [CBP released a Directive](#) encompassing CRCL's recommendations on shooting at vehicles and shooting in response to rock throwing, which instructs that:

- Agents should not discharge firearms at a moving vehicle unless the agent has a reasonable belief that deadly force is being used against the agent or another person, which includes a moving vehicle aimed at agents or others present but would not include a moving vehicle merely fleeing;
- Agents should not place themselves in the path of a moving vehicle or use their bodies to block a vehicle's path;
- Agents should continue, whenever possible, to avoid placing themselves in positions where they have no alternative to using deadly force;
- Agents should not discharge firearms in response to thrown or hurled projectiles unless the agent has a reasonable belief, based on the totality of the circumstances, to include the size and nature of the projectiles, that the subject of such force poses an imminent danger or death or serious injury.

Additionally, CRCL compliance staff recently observed use of force training and were briefed on training changes at the U.S. Border Patrol Academy in Artesia, New Mexico, the Field Operations Academy in Glynco, Georgia, and the Advanced Training Center for Excellence in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia.

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CRCL Participates in Human Rights Country-to-Country Program

This month, a CRCL representative traveled to Bosnia-Herzegovina to help conduct follow-up community engagement training in a unique “Country-to-Country” program designed to promote implementation of [UN Human Rights Council \(UNHRC\) Resolution 16/18](#), which was first adopted in March 2011 and since readopted by the UN General Assembly. CRCL and experts from the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division conducted an initial training in Sarajevo in June 2013. This year’s program was designed to follow-up with the same participants from government, law enforcement, faith-based institutions, and civil society, who provided updates on steps taken in the past year in Bosnia; and learn of additional tools implemented in the U.S. to help support UNHRC Resolution 16/18. Bosnian participants highlighted steps they’ve taken, such as enhanced police training on hate crimes, airport security cultural awareness efforts, and new faith-based and civil society data collection and complaint intake mechanisms related to discrimination and hate crimes not previously addressed.



The UNHRC Resolution 16/18 addresses “Combating Intolerance, Negative Stereotyping and Stigmatization of, and Discrimination, Incitement to Violence and Violence Against, Persons Based on Religion and Belief.” The Resolution focuses on concrete, positive measures countries can take to combat religious bias and intolerance rather than legal measures to restrict speech. For example, the Resolution calls on countries to take effective measures to prevent discrimination based on religion, to protect the ability of members of all religious communities to exercise their faith and participate fully in society, to speak out against religious hatred and intolerance, and to foster greater outreach by governments to diverse religious communities, among other recommendations.

CRCL Hosts Roundtables with Sikh CBP Officer

Recently, CRCL hosted roundtables in Seattle and Tampa which included a cultural awareness presentation from CBP Officer Harmit Gill, who is of the Sikh faith. At both roundtables, Officer Gill delivered an impactful presentation on cultural sensitivities and mitigating the risk associated with general stereotypes. He also shared his own perspective and personal experiences as a self-identified, practicing Sikh working as a CBP Officer.



During the Tampa roundtable, CRCL also delivered a community awareness briefing on homegrown violent extremism issues, and the predatory nature of extremist groups in their recruitment of American youth. The briefing has been conducted at roundtables in more than 12 cities thus far to help law enforcement and communities develop the necessary understanding and strategies to address extremist recruitment tactics. The local U.S. Attorney’s Office and several other federal partners participated in the briefing as well as a number of local law enforcement officials representing five jurisdictions.

CRCL Launches New Community Roundtable in Brooklyn

This month, CRCL launched a new roundtable in Brooklyn, New York. DHS Deputy Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas gave remarks at the inaugural roundtable, which was hosted by the Brooklyn Borough President's Office, and brought together federal, state and local government officials, law enforcement, and area community groups. This is the third roundtable CRCL now hosts in New York City, having established two roundtables serving Manhattan in 2012. CRCL has continued plans to establish multiple roundtables across the city's five boroughs. In addition to the Brooklyn roundtable, CRCL hosted a diverse interfaith meeting at the Albanian Islamic Center in Staten Island, which was well attended by CRCL leadership and faith leaders across the metropolitan area.



CRCL on the Road, May

May 8 – Tampa, Florida

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

May 19-23 – Sarajevo, Bosnia

CRCL delivered community engagement training for UN Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18.

May 21 – Minneapolis, Minnesota

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.

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.

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