



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.

President Obama Announces New CRCL Officer

CRCL is pleased to report that President Obama recently appointed Megan H. Mack as the new Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties at the Department of Homeland Security. Look for more information about the new Officer in the October issue of the CRCL newsletter.

Secretary Napolitano Bids DHS Farewell

On Friday, September 6, 2013, Secretary Janet Napolitano* bid farewell to DHS at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Vice President Joe Biden, Attorney General Eric Holder and Acting Deputy Secretary Rand Beers delivered remarks and thanked the Secretary for her service to DHS and to our Nation. Rand Beers is now serving as Acting Secretary of Homeland Security.

In attendance at the farewell event were employees from across DHS; federal, state, local, and private sector partners; law enforcement colleagues; and international friends and partners. Among these guests were former Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff, members of the Cabinet and members of the President’s National Security Team. Seven DHS employees -- representing the more than 240,000 DHS employees serving across the country and around the world -- presented Secretary Napolitano with United States and DHS flags as a token of appreciation.

Secretary Napolitano reflected on her time with DHS and shared some of her memories from the past four and a half years during her remarks. Secretary Napolitano said: “The men and women of DHS have performed their jobs bravely these past four-and-a-half years. Every day, seeing your dedication and commitment – and that of your families – has been a great source of inspiration to me. And I know after I leave, you will still be committed to the mission, you will still continue to perform, and you will still serve this country with the tireless dedication you’ve had during my time here. I hope you will accept my sincere gratitude for your efforts. It has been an honor and privilege to serve with you, and call you my colleagues. I thank you from the bottom of my heart, and I wish all of you the very best in the future.”



Secretary Napolitano at her farewell ceremony at the Ronald Reagan Building

**Secretary Napolitano announced her departure from the Department in July 2013.*

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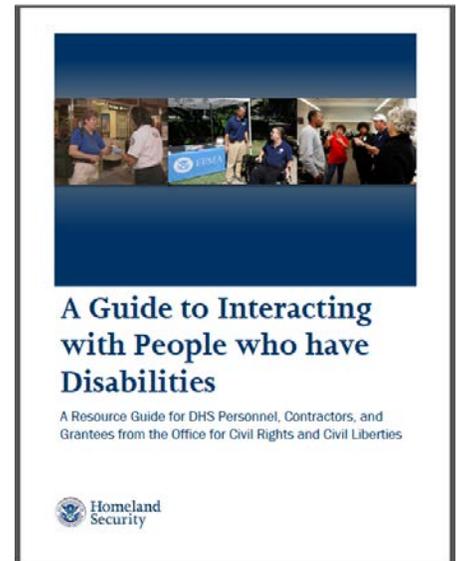
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DHS Commemorates the 40th Anniversary of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

On September 26, 2013, DHS commemorated the 40th anniversary of the passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – a foundational piece of civil rights legislation that commits the Federal government to ending discrimination against persons with disabilities in federal employment and in federally-conducted and federally-assisted programs and activities.

At DHS, we are committed to continued progress in providing full inclusion and equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities. Whether a person with a disability is traveling through an airport, crossing into our country at a border, becoming a naturalized citizen, or rebuilding their life following a disaster, DHS has an obligation to ensure nondiscrimination and equal opportunity under the Rehabilitation Act. Our efforts to meet this obligation are led by CRCL, which coordinates the Department's compliance with and enforcement of the Rehabilitation Act. To commemorate the anniversary of the law's passage, CRCL has collaborated across the Department to develop and release a number of products to build on prior achievements:

- A new [Management Directive](#) that establishes policy and implementing mechanisms in DHS for ensuring nondiscrimination for individuals with disabilities served by DHS-conducted programs under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- A [video](#) that looks back at the importance of the Rehabilitation Act and looks forward to reinforce the Department's commitment to strengthening implementation of the Rehabilitation Act throughout DHS.
- A [Guide to Interacting with People Who Have Disabilities](#) to assist DHS personnel, contractors and grantees in their interactions with individuals with disabilities.
- A [dedicated webpage](#) with disability-related information and resources for providing equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in DHS programs and activities.



Earlier this year, CRCL established the DHS Disability Access Working Group to further the Department's commitment to the principles of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Through this Working Group, DHS components are working together to share strategies for effective communication, program and physical accessibility, and reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities.

You can learn more about the Department's efforts to provide equal opportunity and full inclusion for individuals with disabilities by visiting our [Disability Policy webpage](#).

CRCL Hosts DHS Blue Campaign Stakeholder Event

Recently, CRCL hosted a stakeholder event led by the DHS Blue Campaign and the Council on Combating Violence Against Women. The Blue Campaign is the unified voice for DHS's efforts to combat human trafficking. Working in collaboration with law enforcement, government, non-governmental and private organizations, the Blue Campaign strives to protect the basic right of freedom and to bring those who exploit human lives to justice.



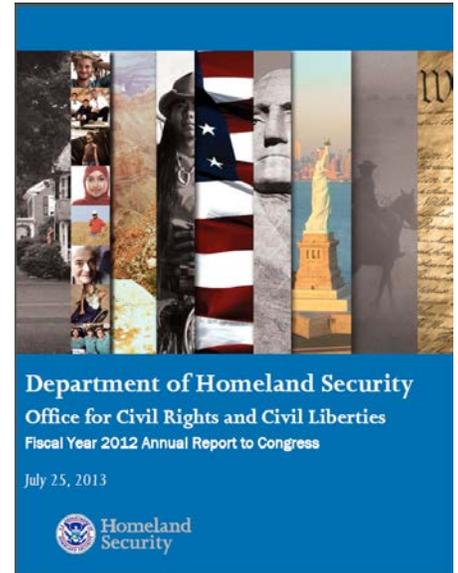
During the meeting, leadership from the Blue Campaign and the Council on Combating Violence Against Women shared information about the creation of the Council and its current initiatives, as well as the recent Blue Campaign re-launch and new public awareness materials, including posters, a PSA entitled "Out of the Shadows," and informational guides tailored for the general public and our stakeholders. By increasing awareness of human trafficking and training individuals to recognize the indicators of such heinous crimes, everyone can do their part to help law enforcement rescue victims.

For more information about the Blue Campaign, visit the [DHS Blue Campaign on Facebook](#) and visit the website: www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign.

CRCL Releases 2012 Annual Report and 2013 First and Second Quarter Reports

CRCL is pleased to announce the release of its [Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Report to Congress](#). In response to Congressional requirements, this Annual Report details CRCL's priorities and activities in Fiscal Year (FY) 2012. Highlights of CRCL's key accomplishments include:

- *Working with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to develop an additional three video briefings (of a total of eight) for law enforcement on Secure Communities*
- *Participating alongside representatives of several other federal agencies in the U.S. Government's 2010 Universal Periodic Review before the United Nations Human Rights Council, in which our human rights record was comprehensively reviewed for the first time;*
- *Leading the development and release of the Department's first-ever Language Access Plan to provide meaningful access to homeland security programs and activities to people with limited English proficiency;*
- *Launching a social media presence through Facebook to broaden engagement efforts;*
- *Promoting diversity throughout the Department by creating a DHS Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan;*
- *Conducting a survey of the experience of Federal employees with disabilities during and following the 2011 Mid-Atlantic earthquake;*
- *Helping to draft the Department's ground-breaking draft regulations under the Prison Rape Elimination Act and working with ICE on other significant reforms to address the threat of sexual assault in immigration detention; and*
- *Completing two civil rights and civil liberties impact assessments, one on the Future Attribute Screening Technology and another on ICE and CBP policies governing border searches of electronic devices.*



CRCL also submitted its [FY 2013 First and Second Quarterly Report to Congress](#) as required by Section 803 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, 42 U.S.C. § 2000ee-1(f). The Reports provide statistical data analysis of civil rights and civil liberties investigations during the first and second quarters of FY 2013, along with information regarding impact assessments.

ICE Releases New Segregation Policy

The safety and security of detainees is a primary consideration for ICE. As such, the agency recently issued a [new directive on use of segregation in ICE detention](#), which complements the requirements of the Performance-Based National Detention Standards.

Placement of detainees in segregated housing is a serious step that requires careful consideration of alternatives. The new policy sets forth that placement in segregation should occur only when necessary and in compliance with applicable detention standards. In particular, placement in administrative segregation due to a special vulnerability should be used only as a last resort and when no other viable housing options exist.

ICE shall ensure the safety, health, and welfare of detainees in segregated housing in its immigration detention facilities. Consistent with the agency's detention standards and relevant special housing policies, ICE shall take additional steps to ensure appropriate review and oversight of decisions to retain detainees in segregated housing for over 14 days, or placements in segregation for any length of time in the case of detainees for whom heightened concerns exist based on known special vulnerabilities and other factors related to the detainee's health or the risk of victimization.

National Preparedness Month 2013

September is National Preparedness Month (NPM), a time to refocus our efforts on readying ourselves, our families, our neighborhoods, and our Nation for any crisis we may face. This year's NPM theme, "You Can Be the Hero," asks the public to ready themselves to assist in case of emergency. As the month comes to a close, visit www.ready.gov to learn more about what you can do to prepare all year long.



CRCL on the Road, July – September

July 11 – New York, New York

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

September 6 – Atlanta, Georgia

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

September 19 – Seattle, Washington

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

September 26 – New York, New York

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

August 22 – Denver, Colorado

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

September 17 – Chicago, Illinois

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

September 26 – Tampa, Florida

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

September 30 – Detroit, Michigan

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 make 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](http://CRCLatWork). 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 this 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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