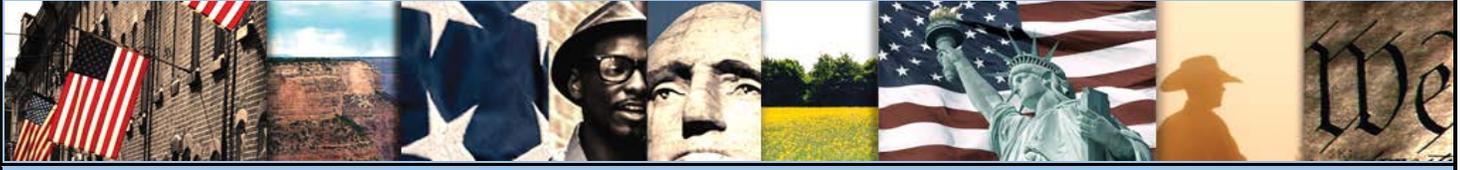




# Homeland Security

## Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Newsletter Vol. 10, #9 | June 2020

*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.*



### CRCL Operations During COVID-19 Response

Per guidance from the [U.S. Office of Personnel Management](#) in response to COVID-19, CRCL is operating under telework flexibilities while continuing to serve and support the public. As a result, mail operations may be impacted and our response to mailed letters may be delayed. If you wish to file a complaint, the best method of submission at this time is via email to: [CRCLCompliance@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:CRCLCompliance@hq.dhs.gov). CRCL staff will continue to monitor this email address, and our toll-free hotline for your questions at: 1-866-644-8360, TTY: 1-866-644-8361. For additional details on how to file a civil rights complaint, visit: <https://www.dhs.gov/file-civil-rights-complaint>.

### DHS Releases Implementation Plan for the U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security

The [Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017](#) recognizes the research-supported benefits derived from creating opportunities for women and girls to serve as agents of peace via political, economic, and social empowerment. After strong, bipartisan support that passed the Act in 2017, in June 2019, the White House published United States Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) to promote the meaningful inclusion of women in processes to prevent, mitigate, resolve, and recover from deadly conflict or disaster.

As a partner agency in this effort, DHS recently participated with the U.S. Departments of State and Defense, and the U.S. Agency for International Development in the U.S. government unveilings of the four [Implementation Plans for the United States Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security](#) to improve the lives and leadership training and opportunities overseas, particularly for women and girls in conflict and disaster-affected areas around the world. As part of the plan, the Department will work to identify additional training opportunities for more women from partner nations to take advantage of DHS training and other professional development opportunities, when such training is permitted by law. DHS negotiation of key international agreements ranging from border security to narcotics interdiction on behalf of the U.S., also will allow it to encourage commitment to WPS principles by partner nations.

CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn is the designated senior official to lead the Department's efforts to implement the WPS strategy. As part of the announcement this month, she took part in a [webinar sponsored by the American Enterprise Institute](#) with other agency leads to discuss how these plans will effect change. DHS looks forward to working with its partner agencies to develop initiatives that move the WPS forward.

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## **FEMA Preparedness in a Pandemic Exercise Starter Kit**

FEMA's [Preparedness in a Pandemic Exercise Starter Kit](#) helps whole community partners by providing sample documents that state, local, tribal and territorial governments can use to conduct their own workshops on preparedness in a pandemic. The starter kit includes a sample facilitator guide, slides, and fact sheet. The questions and considerations contained in the guide were developed from FEMA's [COVID-19 Pandemic Operational Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season](#).

**Read:** FEMA Administrator Pete Gaynor's [letter to the nation's emergency managers](#), and additional resources on [preparedness during COVID-19](#).

## **DHS and NOBLE Host National Conversation on Social Justice and Law Enforcement**

This month, CRCL was pleased to join the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) and the DHS Office of Partnership and Engagement (OPE) in hosting a national conference call with DHS leaders and federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement partners from across the country. The call was moderated by Brian Dorow, deputy assistant secretary, in OPE's Office for State and Local Law Enforcement (OSLLE).

Distinguished presenters included: Lynda R. Williams, national first vice president of NOBLE and deputy assistant director (Ret.), U.S. Secret Service (USSS); L. Eric Patterson, director, Federal Protective Service; Matthew Albence, acting director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and Leonza "Leon" Newsome, III, Deputy director, USSS. Other speakers on the call were Karinda L. Washington, chief of staff, DHS OPE; Veronica Venture, deputy officer, CRCL; and Dwayne Crawford, executive director, NOBLE.

As the greater social dialogue continues on race and law enforcement, more than 2,650 participants joined the national conversation where DHS officials spoke about the intersection of social justice and law enforcement, offering insights on the actions their organizations are taking, discussing short- and long-term priorities, and sharing resources available for the law enforcement community. Callers also had an opportunity to ask questions and hear personal insights from some of the Department's top law enforcement officials. Topics of discussion included the importance of training in areas such as de-escalation principles and diversity and inclusion; engaging the workforce and providing support for officers and their families; and resources available to state, local, tribal, territorial and campus law enforcement partners to build trust between communities and law enforcement personnel.

DHS OSLLE publishes the [DHS State and Local Law Enforcement Resource Catalog](#), a one-stop shop for non-federal law enforcement, which features training, publications, newsletters, programs, and services available from DHS offices and Components to our law enforcement partners.

Since 1976, [NOBLE](#) has served as the conscience of law enforcement by being committed to justice by action. NOBLE represents over 3,000 members internationally, who are primarily African American chief executive officers of law enforcement agencies at federal, state, county and municipal levels, other law enforcement administrators, and criminal justice practitioners. For more information, visit [www.NOBLENational.org](http://www.NOBLENational.org).



The poster features a blue and white color scheme with a wavy top border. At the top left are the logos for NOBLE and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The title "NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT" is prominently displayed in blue. Below the title, the date "June 12, 2020" and time "10:00 am - 11:30 am EDT" are listed, along with the teleconference line number "877-311-6681". Four circular headshots of the speakers are arranged in a 2x2 grid, each with a caption: Lynda R. Williams (National First Vice President, NOBLE; Deputy Assistant Director (Ret.), USSS), Matthew Albence (Acting Director, ICE), L. Eric Patterson (Director, FPS), and Leonza "Leon" Newsome, III (Deputy Director, USSS). At the bottom, it states "Presented by: The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office for State and Local Law Enforcement & Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties" and provides the contact email "Lori.Sims@hq.dhs.gov".

### **CRCL Disability Stakeholder Outreach**

CRCL will host a conference call with disability stakeholders on **July 22, 2020** from **2:00 – 3:30 PM ET**, to provide information on the Department's progress in implementing Directive 065-01, *Nondiscrimination for Individuals with Disabilities in DHS-Conducted Programs and Activities (Non-Employment)*. During the call, DHS will recognize the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, discuss the Department's commitment to disability access, give Components an opportunity to showcase their unique work to improve accessibility, and allow for information sharing between stakeholders and DHS disability access coordinators. For more information about this call, please email: [margaret.schaefer@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:margaret.schaefer@hq.dhs.gov).

### **CRCL Joins Department of Justice COVID-19 National Call with NAACP and LULAC**

Over the past several months, CRCL's Community Engagement Section has coordinated with diverse communities regarding the wide-ranging impacts of COVID-19. These virtual meetings have continued throughout June, and most recently CRCL representatives participated in two national phone calls convened by the U.S. Department of Justice, Community Relations Service with the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to discuss the effects of COVID-19 on their communities.

During the listening sessions, CRCL representatives joined other federal leaders from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights; the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Office of Equal Rights; and the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration to hear issues and concerns from communities across the country and to answer questions on a wide array of COVID-19-related topics. Issues raised included:

- *COVID-19 Testing* – Reports ranged from individuals not having access to testing due to cost or a lack of certain forms of identification, to possible health privacy violations as local health departments reportedly share tests results with local law enforcement entities.
- *Limited English Proficiency* – Reports that public guidance from federal entities was not provided in languages other than English and, as a result, nongovernmental organizations translated materials for their communities.
- *Detention Facilities* – Reports that individuals in detention are at a higher risk for contracting COVID-19 as there is no ability to social distance and there is a lack of personal protective equipment (PPE) for detainees and employees.
- *Housing* – Reports that individuals in public housing do not have access to PPE and appropriate healthcare.
- *Workplace* – Reports of inadequate PPE provided to essential workers and lack of ability to socially distance while at work.
- *Native American Reservations* – Reports of a lack of testing sites, PPE, and adequate healthcare, among other concerns.
- *Other Issues* – Reports include: lack of access to technology as a barrier to vital information and resources; law enforcement at or near food banks causing a chilling effect for undocumented individuals; rising vitriol against Asian American communities; and black and minority-owned businesses not receiving bank loans at a disproportionate rate, among other issues raised on the calls.

CRCL and other federal entities will continue to engage with diverse communities to address new and existing issues and concerns resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **CRCL Hosts Listening Session on Social and Racial Justice with Seattle Stakeholders**

In response to ongoing First Amendment activities over the past month, CRCL co-hosted a virtual listening session with the local U.S. Attorney's Office and diverse civil society organizations in the Seattle metropolitan area and parts of western Washington.

U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Washington Brian Moran and CRCL Deputy Officer Peter Mina provided brief opening remarks on their respective offices' commitment to racial justice, recognizing that this is a nationwide issue and emphasizing the need to listen to communities and address grievances. Representatives

from the Seattle Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Congressional offices, and other local government leaders were also on the call.

Community stakeholders expressed concerns with conflicting and contradictory messaging from the federal government, noted that local law enforcement has been slow to act in certain situations in comparison to other regions, and voiced fears of open carry laws. CRCL thanked callers for their courage in speaking up and providing government leaders with information of what is occurring in their neighborhoods, what they are seeing, and how they are feeling.

### **Department of Justice Announces Launch of Civil Rights Reporting Portal**

The Department of Justice [recently announced the launch of the Civil Rights Reporting Portal](#). This new online tool will make it easier for the public to report a civil rights violation.

The new Civil Rights Reporting Portal, located at: <http://civilrights.justice.gov>, will consolidate more than 30 unique reporting pathways. The portal will dramatically ease the burden on victims of civil rights violations to identify the proper reporting channel. The form is fully accessible to people with disabilities. It is also available in both English and Spanish, with more languages to be added over the next year.

Individuals who believe they may have been victims of civil rights violations can learn how to report violations by visiting <http://civilrights.justice.gov>. If you believe that you are a victim of criminal civil rights violations, such as misconduct by law enforcement officers, hate crimes, or human trafficking, please [contact your local FBI office](#).

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

*June 18 – Seattle, Washington*

CRCL convened a stakeholder listening session with the local U.S. Attorney's office.

\*Following guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) to exercise social distancing, our Community Engagement team will continue to carry out our mission using various virtual and telephonic tools during this national public health emergency. While our team maintains constant communication with federal, state, local, and civil society stakeholders across the country, we encourage anyone who needs to contact us to do so via email to: [CommunityEngagement@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:CommunityEngagement@hq.dhs.gov). Thank you for your flexibility and understanding during this time.

### **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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.dhs.gov/crcl).

CRCL Phone: 202-401-1474 • Toll Free: 866-644-8360 • TTY: 202-401-0470 • Toll Free TTY: 866-644-8361

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