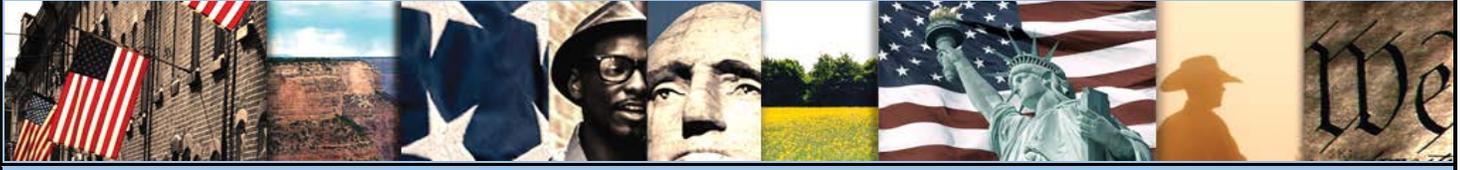




*The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) supports the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as it secures the nation while preserving individual liberty, fairness, and equality under the law.*



### CRCL Publishes Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report to Congress

CRCL is pleased to announce the release of its [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2018 Annual Report to Congress](#). In accordance with 6 U.S.C. § 345 and 42 U.S.C. § 2000ee-1, the report highlights CRCL’s activities and accomplishments, including:

- Responding to family separation at the Southern border;
- Enhancing language access across the Department;
- Improving CRCL cyber impact; and
- Launching the joint nationwide Law Enforcement Awareness Briefing.

These efforts continue to reflect the Department’s dedication to securing the country while protecting our freedoms and safeguarding our core civil rights and civil liberties values of liberty, fairness, and equality under the law. *Read the full report here:* <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/crcl-annual-reports>.

### CRCL Testifies Before House Homeland Security Committee



This month, CRCL Deputy Officer Peter Mina testified before the U.S. House of Representatives’ Homeland Security Committee, alongside senior leaders from U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The hearing, titled “About Face: Examining the Department of Homeland Security’s Use of Facial Recognition and other Biometric Technologies, Part II,”

focused on operational trends and potential impacts in using facial recognition technology at U.S. ports of entry.

During his testimony, Deputy Officer Mina gave an overview of CRCL’s role in the Department, and its efforts to safeguard civil rights and civil liberties in the use of facial recognition technology; reiterating these points:

- CRCL’s prior and continued engagement with DHS operational Components to ensure use of facial recognition technology is consistent with civil rights and civil liberties policy and law;
- Operators, researchers, and civil rights policymakers must work together to prevent algorithms from leading to racial, gender, or other impermissible biases in the use of facial recognition technology; and
- Facial recognition technology can serve as an important tool to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department’s public protection mission, as well as facilitating lawful travel.

[Watch video](#) of the full hearing.

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## **International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting**

DHS Components released statements recognizing the International Day of Zero Tolerance on February 6:

- **ICE recognizes International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM/C**  
<https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ice-recognizes-international-day-zero-tolerance-fgmc>
- **USCIS Supports Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation**  
<https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-supports-zero-tolerance-female-genital-mutilation>

## **DHS Announces Funding Opportunity for FY 2020 Preparedness Grants**

DHS Acting Secretary Chad F. Wolf recently [announced the release of FY 2020 Notices of Funding Opportunity for eight DHS preparedness grant programs totaling nearly \\$1.8 billion](#). The grant programs provide funding to state, local, tribal and territorial governments, as well as transportation authorities, nonprofit organizations and the private sector, to improve the nation's readiness in preventing, protecting against, responding to, recovering from and mitigating terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies. The grants reflect the Department's focus on funding for programs that address our nation's immediate security needs and ensure public safety in our communities.

The FY 2020 grant guidance continues to focus on the Nation's highest risk areas and national priorities. Grant recipients under the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) will be required to dedicate a minimum of 20 percent of awards to address four priority areas: cybersecurity (5 percent); soft target and crowded places (5 percent); information and intelligence sharing (5 percent); and emerging threats (5 percent).

Consistent with previous grant guidance, dedicated funding is provided for law enforcement and terrorism prevention throughout the country to prepare for, prevent and respond to pre-operational activity and other crimes that are precursors or indicators of terrorist activity.

**To allow enough time for FEMA to conduct an initial eligibility review of the application prior to the final submission deadline, applicants are strongly encouraged to initiate and complete the Standard Form 424 submission within Grants.gov no later than April 8, 2020, which is seven days prior to the end of the application period for all programs.**

### **Preparedness Grant Program Allocations for Fiscal Year 2020:**

**Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)**—provides more than **\$355 million** to assist state, local, tribal and territorial governments in enhancing and sustaining all-hazards emergency management capabilities.

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)**—provides more than **\$1 billion** for states and urban areas to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and recover from acts of terrorism and other threats.

- **State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)**—provides **\$415 million** to support the implementation of risk-driven, capabilities-based State Homeland Security Strategies to address capability targets. States are required to dedicate 25 percent of SHSP funds to law enforcement terrorism prevention activities.
- **Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)**—provides **\$615 million** to enhance regional preparedness and capabilities in 32 high-threat, high-density areas. States and Urban Areas are required to dedicate 25 percent of UASI funds to law enforcement terrorism prevention activities.
- **Operation Stonegarden (OPSG)**—provides **\$90 million** to enhance cooperation and coordination among local, tribal, territorial, state and federal law enforcement agencies to jointly enhance security along the United States land and water borders.

For additional information on the FY 2020 preparedness grants and guidance, visit: [www.fema.gov/grants](http://www.fema.gov/grants).

## **CRCL Hosts Roundtables and Stakeholder Meetings in Tampa, Miami, and Seattle**

In January, CRCL met with key stakeholders in Tampa and the central Florida region to discuss the community engagement process. We engaged with representatives from the U.S. Attorney's Office, National Trust for the Development of African-American Men, Tampa Refugee Task Force, Lutheran Services, Council on American-Islamic Relations, and the InterCultural Advocacy Institute. Community stakeholders were interested in continued engagement, which include alternative formats to our regular roundtables.

CRCL Deputy Officer Peter Mina and staff also traveled to Seattle for stakeholder engagement. Unfortunately, the regular roundtable was cancelled due to hazardous weather. However, CRCL was able to meet with representatives from CBP, USCIS, the U.S. Attorney's Office, FBI, ACLU, Council on American-Islamic Relations, Northwest Immigrant Rights, Anti-Defamation League Pacific Northwest, One America.

This month, CRCL met with federal partners and key community stakeholders in Miami to discuss establishing a regular roundtable there. CRCL met with representatives from the CBP, CISA, ICE, TSA, USCIS, the Coalition of South Florida Muslim Organizations, Radical Partners, and Catholic Charities. Federal and community stakeholders expressed their interest and enthusiasm to begin the roundtable process in the area.

## **DHS Steps Up REAL ID Awareness and Education Efforts**

DHS recently sent letters to the Governors of all states, the District of Columbia, and territories asking them to provide DHS with a monthly update of the number of REAL IDs issued by their jurisdictions. The states now report to DHS that they have collectively issued more than 95 million REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and ID cards (34%) out of 276 million total cards. While this is a noteworthy improvement over the 67 million REAL ID-compliant cards (27%) out of a total 249 million total cards previously reported in the fall, DHS urges the American public to get a REAL ID immediately and not wait until the deadline.

Importantly, [the Department has been increasing its overall education and awareness efforts](#) with national organizations, the travel industry, state governments, federal agencies, and Congress. For example, DHS recently met with both the National Governors Association and the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators to emphasize the importance of getting the American public prepared for the REAL ID deadline and to solicit their ideas for making it easier for Americans to obtain a REAL ID.

“Over 95 million Americans already have REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and the number is increasing every day. DHS continues doing everything it can to inform Americans on the requirement to obtain a REAL ID or acceptable alternative ID before the full enforcement deadline for domestic air travel,” said Acting Secretary Wolf. “The real work is still ahead because two-thirds of all licenses are presently not compliant with REAL ID. Americans should be mindful that their future preparations for flying and accessing certain federal facilities include getting a REAL ID or alternative, such as a passport.”

CRCL is working with the REAL ID team on outreach efforts to address language access, disability access, religious accommodations, and other topics. This work includes translating the [public FAQs](#) into the multiple languages spoken by individuals with limited English proficiency. Questions on religious headwear and other clarifications are also included in the FAQs to inform the public of their rights during this process.

Beginning October 1, 2020, every commercial air traveler must present a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, state-issued enhanced driver's license, or [other acceptable forms of identification](#), such as a valid passport or U.S. military ID, to fly within the United States. Individuals who are unable to verify their identity will not be permitted to enter the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) checkpoint and will not be allowed to fly.

DHS is committed to enforcing the REAL ID Act in accordance with regulatory timeframes. The traveling public should check with their driver's licensing agency for more information on how to apply for a REAL ID. *To learn more about REAL ID, visit: <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id-frequently-asked-questions>. For more information about flying with REAL ID, and to download the REAL ID toolkit, visit: [tsa.gov/real-id](https://tsa.gov/real-id).*

## **CRCL on the Road, February**

*February 10-14 – Miami, Florida*

CRCL held engagement meetings with federal partners and diverse community stakeholders.

*February 10-14 – Yuma, Arizona*

CRCL visited and reviewed operations at U.S. Border Patrol's Yuma Sector.

### **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).

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