



*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.*



### How to Contact CRCL



If you have a question about CRCL or would like information about how to file a civil rights and civil liberties complaint, you may contact us in a few, easy ways.



**For general inquires**, you may visit our website at [www.dhs.gov/crcl](http://www.dhs.gov/crcl), email [CRCL@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:CRCL@hq.dhs.gov) or call 202-401-1474 | 1-866-644-8360 (toll free)  
TTY: 202-401-0470 | 1-866-644-8361 (toll free).

**For information about our complaints process and how to file a civil rights and civil liberties complaint**, you may visit our website at [www.dhs.gov/file-civil-rights-complaint](http://www.dhs.gov/file-civil-rights-complaint), email [CRCLCompliance@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:CRCLCompliance@hq.dhs.gov), or call 202-401-1474 | 1-866-644-8360 (toll free) TTY: 202-401-0470 | 1-866-644-8361 (toll free).

### CRCL Hosts ICCT Call in Response to Shootings in El Paso and Dayton

In response to this month's shooting incidents in El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio, CRCL activated the Incident Community Coordination Team (ICCT) national conference call to discuss hate crimes and incidents of domestic terrorism. Nearly 200 community and faith-based leaders, law enforcement, advocacy groups, and members of civil society participated in the call. Senior officials from DHS and other federal agencies on the call shared information and resources for communities and civil society partners to protect their institutions, which included the following:

**DHS Office for Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention:** shared information on the Community Awareness Briefing and Law Enforcement Awareness Briefing for communities and organizations, and an upcoming digital forum on September 11 on the role of technology in terrorism prevention.

**Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency:** discussed their training and technical assistance on mass shootings for communities, soft target hardening, and identifying infrastructure security concerns.

**Federal Emergency Management Agency:** shared information on the Non-Profit Security Grant program which provides more than \$70 million in grants annually to non-profit and faith-based institutions to protect infrastructure and houses of worship.

**U.S. Secret Service, National Threat Assessment Center:** discussed the research and resources they provide to communities on mass shootings and preventing violent extremism.

**Federal Bureau of Investigations:** spoke on their investigative efforts in partnership with the U.S. Attorney's office in the Western District of Texas, and stressed the need for communities to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

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**Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division:** spoke on their work and resources to support communities in preventing and responding to violent hate crimes.

**Department of Justice, Community Relations Service:** shared information about their mediation, training, and consultation services for communities in conflict, as well as their work with state and local officials, law enforcement, and faith-based organizations.

CRCL also shared a list of DHS resources and training from communities which can be found at [www.dhs.gov/community-outreach-and-training](http://www.dhs.gov/community-outreach-and-training). For additional information and resources please contact CRCL's Community Engagement staff at: [CommunityEngagement@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:CommunityEngagement@hq.dhs.gov).

### **CRCL Participates in HSAC Subcommittee Public Forum on Violence Prevention**

CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn and staff participated in the first public forum of the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) subcommittee for the Prevention of Targeted Violence Against Faith Communities. The subcommittee heard testimonies from Acting Secretary McAleenan, House Homeland Security Committee Chair Bennie Thompson, and congressional members Michael Guest and Sheila Jackson Lee. The forum also included a panel of religious leaders and law enforcement officials who discussed information flow between community stakeholders and law enforcement, preparedness and response, the role of faith communities in protecting against domestic terrorism, and legislation to combat domestic terrorism.



After delivering remarks Acting Secretary McAleenan also met with civic leaders. CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn and other DHS officials attended, along with Chairman Thompson and Congresswoman Lee, and representatives from the National Baptist Convention, Mississippi Baptist Convention, NAACP and Southern Poverty Law Center. This listening session focused on DHS outreach to faith-based communities and rural area churches, racial profiling, domestic violent extremist groups, hate crimes and racial tensions, and the impact of recent immigration enforcement activities on local churches.

Officer Quinn and staff also attended a town hall meeting hosted by the HSAC and the Christian Emergency Network (CEN) which include more than 100 local church leaders and law enforcement partners. During the meeting church leaders highlighted positive aspects of their relations with local law enforcement, but also expressed concerns with reports of hate groups infiltrating police departments. The CEN collected security surveys from the participants that will eventually be shared with the HSAC subcommittee.

As part of its continued coordination, CRCL will have FEMA present non-profit security grant information at future roundtables. CRCL will also invite HSAC members to be briefed on CRCL's mission, programs, and current activities.

### **Hometown Security Resources**

As part of DHS' ongoing efforts to provide communities nationwide with crucial safety and security information, DHS is offering a number of [resources to mitigate risk, and enhance security and resilience](#) of public gathering sites and special events. These tools and resources are available to the public as DHS recognizes that communities are the first line of defense in maintaining public safety and security.

**Securing Soft Targets and Crowded Places.** [Soft targets and crowded places](#) are increasingly appealing to terrorists and other extremist actors because of their relative accessibility and the large number of potential targets. View a number of risk mitigation resources such as [“Tools and Resources to Help Businesses Plan, Prepare, and Protect from an Attack,”](#) [“Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Private Sector Security Training,”](#) and [“At-a-Glance Guide for Protecting Faith-Based Venues.”](#)



**School Safety and Security.** Recent tragic shootings at schools across the country demonstrate the need to continue enhancing schools safety and security. View a number of [tools and resources](#) such as [“Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model: An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence,”](#) [“K-12 School Security Guide \(2<sup>nd</sup> Edition\) and School Safety Survey,”](#) and [“The Campus Resiliency Program Resource Library.”](#)

**Connect, Plan, Train, Report.** DHS encourages businesses to [Connect, Plan, Train, and Report](#). Applying these four steps in advance of an incident or attack can help better prepare businesses and their employees to proactively think about the role they play in safety and security:

- **Connect:** Reach out and develop relationships in your community including local law enforcement. Having these relationships established before an incident occurs can help speed up the response when something happens.
- **Plan:** Take the time now to plan how you will handle a security event should one occur. Learn from other events to inform your plans.
- **Train:** Provide your employees with training resources, and exercise your plans often. The best plans must be exercised in order to be effective.
- **Report:** “If You See Something, Say Something™” is more than just a slogan. If you see suspicious activity report it to local law enforcement.

### **CRCL Participates in State Department Training Workshop in Amman, Jordan**

Earlier this month, a CRCL representative served as a practitioner trainer for the U.S. Department of State in Amman, Jordan, where CRCL supported the U.S. Department of State-funded Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development in its “Partners for Dialogue” training workshops. This national effort included 152 local civil society activists working on enhancing their community engagement skills to build effective partnerships focused on countering hate speech and promoting racial, ethnic, gender, and faith equality. These Jordanian efforts are designed to build capacity in civil society to promote accountability, public participation, and community cohesion across the region and within the framework of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.



During the workshop CRCL’s representative discussed CRCL’s community engagement program, highlighting its outreach efforts to engage diverse communities across the U.S., and deepening channels of communication between community groups and federal officials to facilitate solutions to problems.

## **CRCL Leads Central American Indigenous Languages Roundtable**

This month, CRCL hosted the Central American Indigenous Languages Roundtable, which brought together DHS Components and other federal agencies all working on language access for individuals who interact with DHS personnel across the country, including at the U.S. southern border.

DHS recognizes the importance of being able to communicate effectively with individuals, including those with limited English proficiency across our many missions and functions. With the influx of migrants arriving at the U.S./Mexico border there is a critical need to provide meaningful language access to individuals seeking entrance into the U.S. Many of these individuals come from indigenous regions throughout Central America and many do not speak or read English or Spanish well. As such there is a great need to provide language access to assist individuals who speak Central American indigenous languages.

During the day-long roundtable meeting indigenous language subject matter experts and DHS language access representatives offered a number of presentations on the following topics: “Central American Indigenous Languages: History and Culture,” “Immigration Data and Trends,” “DHS Challenges/Solutions/Effective Practices,” “Job Aids and Identifying Speakers of Indigenous Languages,” and “Increasing the Pipeline of Qualified Speakers.” Attendees raised a number of questions about language interpreters and Department-wide language contracts, as well as shared information and resources aimed to improve the Department’s language services for the widest audience possible.



For information and resources about Language Access at DHS, please visit: <https://www.dhs.gov/language-access>.

## **A Look Ahead to National Preparedness Month**

National Preparedness Month (NPM) is recognized each September to promote family and community disaster and emergency planning now and throughout the year. The 2019 theme is **Prepared, Not Scared. Be Ready for Disasters.**



Throughout September Ready.gov has lined up weekly themes to encourage the public to prepare for emergencies and disasters. Visit <https://www.ready.gov/september> to access resources and materials tailored to each weekly theme.

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Week 1:</b> Sept 1-7   | <b>Save Early for Disaster Costs</b>                 |
| <b>Week 2:</b> Sept 8-14  | <b>Make a Plan to Prepare for Disasters</b>          |
| <b>Week 3:</b> Sept 15-21 | <b>Teach Youth to Prepare for Disasters</b>          |
| <b>Week 4:</b> Sept 22-30 | <b>Get Involved in Your Community’s Preparedness</b> |

Ready.gov also has several disaster preparedness resources available in multiple languages on the [Ready.gov multilingual page](https://www.ready.gov/multilingual). The site features content in 12 languages including flyers, brochures, tri-folds, press releases, and public service announcements to provide disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation information for a wide audience.

## **CRCL on the Road, August 2019**

### ***August 1-7 – Los Angeles and Orange County, California***

CRCL conducted a series of meetings with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

### ***August 28 – Atlanta, Georgia***

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 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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