



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



### **CRCL Activates ICCT Call in Response to Tree of Life Synagogue Attack in Pittsburgh**

On November 1, 2018 CRCL activated the Incident Community Coordination Team (ICCT) call following the tragic attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in response to its impact on Jewish communities across the country. More than 160 community partners and government agencies joined the ICCT, including senior leaders from DHS, U.S. Department of Justice, the Anti-Defamation League, and the Secure Community Network, which is the official national homeland security initiative for the Jewish community in the United States.

Speakers on the call offered their condolences and provided information and resources to help keep communities safe, which included:

**DHS Office of Infrastructure Protection:** provides action guides, instructional videos, and other resources through the Active Shooter Preparedness program; <https://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness>

**DHS Office of Terrorism Prevention and Partnerships:** offers training and educational opportunities, as well as grants to assist communities in preventing violent extremism; contact [communitypartnerships@dhs.gov](mailto:communitypartnerships@dhs.gov)

**Federal Emergency Management Agency:** the Nonprofit Security Grant Program provides funding to nonprofits for physical security enhancements; <https://www.fema.gov/nonprofit-security-grant-program>

**Department of Justice:** the Community Relations Service helps facilitate dialogue between communities, along with mediation and technical assistance; <https://www.justice.gov/crs>

Both the Anti-Defamation League and the Secure Community Network stated that this incident was believed to be the most deadly attack against the Jewish community in modern U.S. history, and noted a spike in anti-Semitic incidents across the country. All speakers reiterated the importance of immediately contacting local police or the Federal Bureau of Investigation if any community members have been or may be the targets of possible hate crimes.

The ICCT is a conference call mechanism for rapid communication with national community leaders when a particular incident calls for speedy engagement. These calls are used to inform community leaders on the Department's position and actions, and also to receive immediate feedback regarding civil rights and civil liberties concerns of community members. The ICCT nationwide call is the only tool of its kind available for rapid-incident communications between the federal government and diverse communities in the immediate aftermath of an incident of national significance.

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## **DHS Establishes the Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency**

On November 16, 2108 the [Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\)](https://www.dhs.gov/CISA) was established within DHS to lead the national effort to defend critical infrastructure against the threats of today, while working with partners across all levels of government and in the private sector to secure against the evolving risks of tomorrow. CISA is responsible for protecting the Nation's critical infrastructure from physical and cyber threats. This mission requires effective coordination and collaboration among a broad spectrum of government and private sector organizations. Read more about CISA here: <https://www.dhs.gov/CISA>.

## **National Vetting Center Releases Governance Charters and Privacy Impact Assessment**

The National Vetting Center (NVC) will coordinate the efforts of federal officials to vet individuals seeking to enter or remain within the country. The NVC's operations will be governed by the National Vetting Governance Board (NVGB), which has established a dedicated working group to ensure compliance with applicable law and protect individuals' privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties. CRCL co-leads the Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties (PCRCL) Working Group.

Earlier this month, the NVC released charters for the National Vetting Governance Board and for the Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties working group, which can be found in the FOIA sections of both DHS and CBP's websites, respectively: <https://www.dhs.gov/foia-library> and <https://foiarr.cbp.gov/>. All interested stakeholders are invited to review both Charters to better understand the ways in which the NVGB will provide oversight and governance to the NVC; and the ways in which the PCRCL working group will advise the NVGB and ensure the Center's activities are in compliance with all applicable privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties protections.

In efforts to provide a full transparent process for stakeholders, the PCRCL working group hosted a community engagement meeting to discuss the upcoming launch of the National Vetting Center. NVC staff gave an overview of the Center, and then addressed questions and concerns from a host of stakeholder and advocacy groups.

## **CRCL Participates in Federal Interagency Meeting with Diverse Communities**

Earlier this month, CRCL participated in the Department of Justice's quarterly interagency meeting with Muslim American, Sikh, South Asian, and Hindu communities (MASSAH). The meeting included government officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Department of Education, Department of State, Department of Transportation, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

National advocacy groups posed questions to officials on a wide range of topics; including hate crimes issues, TSA screening, and school bullying and related educational issues, among others. CRCL also shared information on resources available to communities through the Protective Security Advisor program, the Community Awareness briefing and ways to prevent violent extremism, and updates on civil rights allegations concerning medical care and other conditions at a detention center. Participating advocacy groups included: South Asian Americans Leading Together, Muslim Advocates, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, United Sikhs, Karamah, and the American Arab Institute.

## **CRCL Attends Symposium on Preventing Violent Extremism in Copenhagen**

A CRCL representative traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark to attend a symposium on "Best Practices on Preventing Violent Extremism – Nordic and European Approaches and American Perspectives" hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Denmark and the Danish Centre for Prevention of Extremism (PVE). The symposium brought together national and local level officials, as well as private practitioners involved in the prevention of radicalization. Attendees included alumni from the U.S. State Department's [International Visitor Leadership Program \(IVLP\)](#), a professional exchange program that connects current and emerging foreign leaders with their American counterparts through short-term programs.

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A pivotal objective of the two-day symposium focused on reviewing and dissecting the various prevention approaches, philosophies, models, and practices of government and nongovernmental entities in the home countries of the attendees. There were also an emphasis on the importance of developing frameworks and metrics for evaluating PVE efforts.

CRCL provided detailed presentations on community engagement and policing and the role of civil rights and civil liberties in building trust with communities and promoting good governances. CRCL also shared tips on building effective engagement and information sharing platforms.

### **New Award to Recognize Fusion Center Achievement in Privacy/CRCL Protections**

CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn recently attended the [National Fusion Center Association \(NFCA\)](#) annual conference where she announced a new joint CRCL and DHS Privacy Office national award recognizing excellence and innovation in protecting privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties in state and major urban area fusion centers. Fusion centers serve as primary focal points within the state and local environment for the receipt, analysis, gathering, and sharing of threat-related information among federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial partners.

The new Privacy/Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (P/CRCL) award will recognize fusion center P/CRCL officers, directors, or centers who demonstrate operational excellence or innovation in protecting individual rights, liberties, and privacy in the fusion center environment. Special consideration will be given to best practices, ideas, and innovative approaches that might be adopted by other centers. Nominations will be reviewed by CRCL, the Privacy Office, and the NFCA Board, and the award recipient will be recognized at the annual NFCA conference beginning in 2019.

More information about the award and nomination criteria will be provided to fusion center directors in the coming months. Officer Quinn also announced the renewal of CRCL/PRIV fusion center training and technical assistance support efforts, which the award will complement.

### **CRCL Participates in Annual Federal Privacy Summit**

CRCL recently attended the annual summit of the Federal Privacy Council (FPC) where a CRCL representative spoke on a panel titled “Federal Civil Liberties Practices.” The FPC comprises leadership from over 30 federal agencies and offices and works to ensure that agencies carry out the diverse missions of the federal government in a manner that honors and respects the personal information of the American public and other individuals.

During the panel discussion, speakers from various intelligence agencies, DHS, and the U.S. Department of Defense spoke about privacy and civil liberties practices in day-to-day operations throughout the government. CRCL’s representative provided an overview of the office’s privacy and civil liberties priorities in its programs and activities, from investigating and resolving complaints from the public to promoting respect for civil rights and civil liberties in policy development and implementation. Panelists also discussed new and emerging issues such as how to protect privacy in an age of increased data sharing across government and the potential impacts to civil rights and civil liberties. In response to increased interest, a half-day civil liberties event is in the planning stages to bring together federal partners to identify best practices to strengthen the privacy and civil liberties community of interest.

### **DHS National Risk Management Center**

In July 2018, DHS announced the launch of the [National Risk Management Center \(NRMC\)](#) housed within the Department’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) (formerly the National Protection and Programs Directorate). The NRMC creates an environment where government and industry can collaborate within and across sectors to develop plans and solutions for reducing cyber and other systemic risks to national and economic security. NRMC turns analysis into action by developing risk management solutions.

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Since its inception, the NRMC has focused on the following priorities:

- Protecting National Critical Functions
- Information and Communication Technologies Supply Chain Risk Management Taskforce
- Tri-Sector Executive Working Group Risk Management Activities
- Pipeline Cybersecurity Initiative
- Election Security and Resilience

The NRMC focuses on the long game of cybersecurity and infrastructure protection. In this capacity, it works with 24/7 operations centers like the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center and the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center. By providing a strategic, long-term outlook to complement the daily “blocking and tackling” already taking place, the NRMC is filling a critical risk management gap. With existing operations centers focused on our mission to defend today, the NRMC is focused primarily on securing tomorrow.

### **CRCL on the Road, November**

*November 8-13 – California cities*

*(Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco)*

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

*November 28-30 – New York, New York*

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

### **CRCL on the Road Ahead, December**

*Chicago, Illinois:* Quarterly roundtable

*Tucson, Arizona:* Quarterly roundtable

*Phoenix, Arizona:* Quarterly roundtable

*Houston, Texas:* Quarterly roundtable

For more information on engagement events, email: [communityengagement@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:communityengagement@hq.dhs.gov).

### **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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