



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.



Statement from DHS Secretary Kirstjen M. Nielsen on the Pittsburgh Shooting

October 27, 2018 – “My heart goes out to all those affected by the tragic shooting in Pittsburgh, PA. @DHSgov is working closely with our federal partners and local law enforcement to assist in every way possible.”

Statement from DHS Secretary Kirstjen M. Nielsen on Recent Mail Bombs

October 25, 2018 - “DHS and the U.S. Secret Service are closely coordinating with the FBI on the active investigation and are working with state and local law enforcement to provide updates on the evolving situation. The Department has heightened the security posture at federal facilities around the country and is actively communicating with our National Network of Fusion Centers. I condemn these cowardly acts in the strongest possible terms. Americans will not tolerate these types of threats, and we will not be intimidated.”

CBP Commissioner and CRCL Officer Lead Local Stakeholder Town Hall

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner Kevin McAleenan, CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn, and CRCL Deputy Officer Veronica Venture recently participated in a town hall meeting with diverse community and religious leaders at the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) Center in Sterling, Virginia.

The town hall provided an opportunity for community leaders to engage directly with Commissioner McAleenan, Officer Quinn, and Deputy Officer Venture and discuss issues and concerns related to DHS



activities affecting local communities. Commissioner McAleenan and Officer Quinn thanked leadership from the ADAMS Center and meeting participants for their continued partnership, and reiterated the importance of the strong relationships between DHS and community members at the ADAMS Center, as well as diverse communities throughout the country.

Attendees shared updates on their efforts in promoting partnerships with law enforcement through programs like the Exploring Post sponsored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Exploring program is affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America and provides educational training, leadership opportunities, and community service activities to teenagers who are interested in learning more about careers in law enforcement.

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Community members raised a number of issues during the session including questions about Transportation Security Administration (TSA) airport screenings and secondary checks at points of entry. DHS leadership provided information on travel policies and procedures. Both Officer Quinn and Commissioner McAleenan discussed redress processes stating that all complaints are reviewed and taken seriously. Attendees recommended continued engagement opportunities with leadership at CBP, TSA, and other DHS components.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2018

Celebrating Disability Inclusion for More than 70 Years

Reflecting a commitment to a robust and competitive American labor force, the 2018 National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) theme is “America’s Workforce: Empowering All.” Observed each October NDEAM celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities and educates about the value of a workforce inclusive of their skills and talents. Read more about [NDEAM](#), access materials, locate observances, and more.

CRCL and Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division Joint Letter on Complying with Civil Rights Laws in Disaster Planning

Prior to, during, and following a disaster, CRCL engages with impacted communities and governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to ensure the protection of individuals with disabilities and racially and ethnically diverse communities, including those with limited English proficiency. To accomplish this, CRCL works in close collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other federal agency partners to support state and local frontline efforts to ensure nondiscrimination.

This month, CRCL and the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division (CRD), issued a [joint letter to state and local emergency management agencies](#) reiterating the importance of incorporating the needs of diverse populations, people with disabilities, and those with limited English proficiency into all phases of disaster planning. In the letter, CRCL and CRD offer support to emergency managers by providing technical assistance, outreach, and training to help meet their responsibilities under federal civil rights laws.

CRCL recently created a web page focused on [Civil Rights in Emergencies and Disasters](#) which features information and resources to assist state, local, territorial and tribal officials with meeting their civil rights obligations in planning for and responding to disasters. The joint letter as well as a variety of training materials and guidance can be found on the [new web page](#).

Whole Community Response Effort for Hurricane Michael Survivors

Thousands of first responders and volunteers continue working together to save lives, restore power, and help survivors affected by Hurricane Michael. By mid-October, more than 16,000 federal employees, including over 8,000 military personnel, have been deployed to support Hurricane Michael response efforts. Since Michael’s landfall earlier this month, search and rescue teams from FEMA, the U.S. Coast Guard, National Guard and others, working alongside state responders and volunteers, have completed 110 evacuations, 4,193 rescues/assists, 15,287 shelter in place checks, and 128 animal assists.



FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance teams are helping survivors register for assistance. More than 28,000 individuals and households registered for disaster assistance and are being referred to federal, state or voluntary agencies for assistance. In Florida, FEMA provided 715,000 meals and 1.5 million liters of water per day.

FEMA transferred more than 350,000 meals to Georgia for feeding operations. (On October 15, [Georgia received a major disaster declaration](#), making federal assistance available to individuals and households.)

The federal government is supporting more than 30 distribution sites to provide meals, water and other items in areas where stores are not open, or supplies are limited. These points of distribution are further supported by voluntary and faith-based field kitchens and mobile feeding units.

Read for more information on the [federal response to Hurricane Michael](#), and how you can help disaster survivors.

CRCL Officer Meets with Stakeholders in California

Last month CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn traveled to California to attend community engagement meetings with stakeholders in the Bay Area and in Fresno. During the first leg of her trip Officer Quinn met with students and faculty at Menlo College. Officer Quinn provided an overview of CRCL's mission, roles, and responsibilities, and students had an opportunity to ask questions, many involving the Department's immigration policies. Other questions involved language access concerns at ports of entry and in detention facilities in Northern California, as well as the provision of health care and mental health services at area detention facilities.

Officer Quinn later met with Sikh American community members at the San Jose National Gurdwara, the largest Sikh Temple in North America. Discussion covered improved interaction with TSA personnel in airports, and questions regarding dietary accommodations and headwear policies in local detention facilities.

In Fresno, Officer Quinn met with students at Reedley College, and spoke about CRCL's engagement work, highlighting our current training portfolio with state and local law enforcement, and our partnership with the DHS Office of Terrorism Prevention Partnerships in their ongoing work.

CRCL Attends International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference

Earlier this month, CRCL joined over 12,000 law enforcement and related professionals from around the world at the [125th Annual International Association of Chiefs of Police \(IACP\) conference](#) in Orlando, Florida. President Donald J. Trump delivered the keynote address, and DHS Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen met with the IACP Board of Directors to congratulate them on 125 years of service, and noted her commitment to building partnerships with state and local law enforcement agencies.

CRCL participated on a panel of DHS officials from the Office of Public Engagement, Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, U.S. Secret Service, Science and Technology Directorate, and the Federal Protective Service. During this panel CRCL announced the launch of the Law Enforcement Awareness Briefing on Terrorism Prevention Partnerships. The new customizable briefing is designed to inform state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies on their role in the national terrorism prevention strategy, while also protecting civil rights and civil liberties of all persons. The briefing was developed with input from law enforcement representatives from 61 jurisdictions including tribal law enforcement and fusion centers.

Local law enforcement officers are trained and supported by DHS to deliver the briefing in their home jurisdictions thereby increasing its impact. The research-driven briefing includes case studies, videos, and relevant intelligence products. Technical assistance and support includes access to a password-protected website of materials and resources for instructors and participants.

The new briefing is part of a suite of products in this subject area, and complements the Community Awareness Briefing. For more information on the new law enforcement briefing email CRCL at LAB-CABTraining@hq.dhs.gov.



CRCL Participates in UN Resolution 16/18 Workshop in South Africa

CRCL recently participated in a Social Cohesion Workshop hosted by the U.S. Consulate in Durban, South Africa, in partnership with the Department of Justice. The workshop was held to implement United Nations General Assembly Resolution 16/18, which focuses on concrete, positive measures that countries can take to combat religious bias and intolerance rather than legal measures to restrict speech.



Workshop presenters emphasized that respecting and embracing diversity makes

a stronger nation. CRCL, along with a representative from the Sikh Coalition, gave multiple examples of “community policing,” where minority community leaders in the U.S. work collaboratively with law enforcement to ensure places of worship, among others, are protected.

As a direct result of the workshop, a local faith-based organization has made plans to engage and strengthen ties with the Durban Police Department. And, multiple South African law enforcement organizations have expressed interest in receiving additional training from U.S. officials on religious and cultural awareness, as well as community policing.

Since the adoption of Resolution 16/18 in 2011, CRCL has held a series of country-to-country workshops in partnership with the U.S. Departments of Justice and State in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Indonesia, Greece, Malaysia, Spain, Macedonia, and Bulgaria. In these sessions, the U.S. agencies bring together diverse groups of government officials from the countries representing multiple ministries at the national and local levels, law enforcement, along with some representatives of civil society organizations and faith-based organizations. The participants explore different approaches to preventing religious discrimination and violence, the protection of religious freedom, and community engagement with faith-based communities. CRCL also shares best practices and case studies of how government may engage with diverse communities.

DHS Office of Accessible Systems and Technology Launches New Pilot Training System

Every DHS employee and customer must be able to readily access information and data relevant to their job or needs including those with disabilities. [Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#) (as amended) requires all federal departments and agencies to ensure that their electronic information and technology is accessible to people with disabilities. To meet these requirements, the Offices of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and CRCL jointly lead the Office of Accessible Systems & Technology (OAST).

Part of OAST’s mission is to provide training to ensure all users have equal access to electronic information. Most recently OAST has implemented a new pilot training system and courses which support the revised [Section 508](#) standards. In the upcoming months OAST will be releasing new online trainings for IT managers and other users in the federal government. These new trainings will enhance IT managers’ knowledge of capabilities resulting from the revised 508 standards. For more information about the new training offerings visit <https://training.section508testing.net/> or contact OAST at accessibility@hq.dhs.gov.

National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

This October, National Cybersecurity Awareness Month is commemorating its 15th year as an annual initiative to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity. NCSAM 2018 is a collaborative effort between government and industry to ensure the American public has the resources they need to stay safer and more secure online, while increasing the resiliency of the Nation during cyber-threats.

The [NCSAM 2018 Toolkit](#) is a comprehensive guide with a wealth of resources to make it easy for you and your organization, regardless of size or industry, to engage and promote NCSAM. Use the table of contents to easily find tips, use social media posts, participate in twitter chats, etc. We also have resources to help you engage many different types of audiences.

Secretary Nielsen Statement on President Trump’s Counterterrorism Strategy

Release Date: October 5, 2018 - “Since 9/11, the threats to our homeland—and our enemies—continue to evolve. It’s time for our counterterrorism posture to do the same. [President Trump’s National Counterterrorism Strategy](#) is the bold framework we need to confront a new age of terror, in which the ‘away game’ and ‘home game’ are now one in the same.

Today our country is fighting terrorists groups, such as ISIS and al-Qaeda, on physical and virtual battlefields. Our enemies are crowd-sourcing their violence and spreading their hate to all corners of the globe, including into our own communities. And they are pursuing sophisticated plots using emerging technologies, as well as simple do-it-yourself tactics, in order to cause fear and destruction and to undermine our open society.

The President’s strategy puts terrorists on notice that their time is up. We are hardening our defenses at home and abroad, shutting down their plots and obstructing their operations, crushing their networks wherever we find them, and working to prevail over their hateful ideology. In cooperation with our many partners across the country and around the world, DHS is committed to supporting the President’s strategy and implementing his vision for a forward-leaning defense of the homeland.”

CRCL on the Road, October

October 10 – Sterling, Virginia

CBP and CRCL leadership participated in a community engagement town hall with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

October 22 – Orlando, Florida

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

October 23-24 – Copenhagen, Denmark

CRCL will participate in a conference on Best Practices on Preventing Violent Extremism: Nordic and European approaches and American perspectives.

CRCL on the Road Ahead, November

Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego, California:

Quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

Denver, Colorado: Quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

New York, New York: Quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

For more information on engagement events, email: 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.

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. For more information, including how to make a civil rights or civil liberties complaint about DHS activities, visit: www.dhs.gov/crcl.

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