



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 Hosts Language Access Symposium

This month CRCL hosted its first-ever Language Access Symposium. The event provided training to DHS personnel on civil rights requirements related to language access, and resources and effective practices within the federal government for providing high quality language access services.

The symposium featured subject matter experts from across the federal government. Among them was Glenn Nordin, a national leading expert on foreign language learning and former principal language and area adviser at the Department of Defense. The sessions focused on the fundamentals of language access, foreign language competency and assessments, blanket purchase agreements for contracting language services, and innovative uses of technology.

CRCL leads the Department’s efforts to provide meaningful access for limited English proficient individuals in its programs and activities.

The Department and each component have published [formal plans](#) that address integrating language access in their collective and individual mission areas. For more information on language access at DHS, and resources and materials, visit <https://www.dhs.gov/language-access>.

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CRCL Meets with Sikh Student Interns

CRCL hosted a group of Sikh college and law school interns, coordinated by the advocacy group United Sikhs. The meeting was held to provide the students an overview of the Department’s work and its many mission areas.

CRCL shared how their robust community engagement program works to build trust with law enforcement and federal partners among diverse communities across the country. Our representative also explained how the community feedback they receive can inform and improve DHS policies.



Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) also gave presentations. TSA Assistant Administrator Kimberly Walton spoke on how the agency protects civil rights and civil liberties in their interactions with the traveling public. A representative from USCIS’ Public Engagement Division gave an overview of their public outreach programs and public education initiatives. Both agencies also provided information on career opportunities and encouraged the students to consider using their skills and talents to support the homeland security mission.

CRCL Participates in Latino-Jewish Leadership Council Advocacy Meetings

This month, CRCL participated in the Latino-Jewish Leadership Council's advocacy meetings in Washington, DC. The Council gathered for two days of meetings with White House advisors, Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice (DOJ) officials, and members of Congress.



CRCL's Community Engagement lead Kareem Shora sat on a panel with attorneys from DOJ's Civil Rights Division. He spoke on CRCL's role to safeguard civil rights and civil liberties and build trust with diverse communities as it relates to the Department's enforcement priorities and other matters. He also underscored how CRCL's engagement work has contributed to changes and improvements in certain DHS policies. The discussion aligned with the Council's priorities, which are foreign policy, immigration reform, and combating discrimination and bigotry.

The Council, established earlier this year and convened by the American Jewish Committee, is comprised of more than 35 prominent figures in the Latino and Jewish communities across the U.S. The bipartisan group aims to further strengthen Latino-Jewish cooperation in advocating for issues of shared concerns and values cherished by both communities.

DHS Launches "My DHS Idea" Campaign

DHS would like to hear from you about the homeland security issues that concern you and your community.

DHS is in the process of completing a major strategic review of the Department's programs and priorities, and will deliver its finished product—the 2018 Quadrennial Homeland Security Review—to Congress in December 2017. As part of the review DHS is inviting members of the public to participate in the online "My DHS Idea" campaign. These are some of the important missions staff of DHS perform every day:

- Counterterrorism
- Border security
- Immigration enforcement
- Trade enforcement and facilitation
- Drug interdiction
- Disaster preparedness and response, and
- Cyber security



What homeland security issues do you care about? What areas do you think should DHS prioritize? What do you think are the most pressing risks facing your community and the nation as a whole?

Using the IdeaScale platform, you can post your own ideas to address the homeland security challenges that are important to you and your community, comment on other people's ideas, and vote on the issues and approaches you think are the most important for DHS to consider. This interactive format allows everyone on the site to see the issues that are most important to other participants, and which ideas generate the most interest and support. The Department's Office of Policy staff will moderate and contribute to discussions on an occasional basis, and incorporate key ideas into the strategy review process as appropriate.

You can find the link to the DHS IdeaScale site at <https://homelandsecurity.ideascale.com>.

CRCL on the Road, July 2017

July 6-7 – Orlando, Florida

CRCL held community engagement meetings with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

July 6-7 – Houston, Texas

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

July 10-11 – El Paso, Texas

CRCL held community engagement meetings with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

July 26-27 – Los Angeles, California

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

July 31 – San Diego, California

CRCL held community engagement meetings with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

July 18 – Detroit, Michigan

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

July 27 – Minneapolis, Minnesota

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

CRCL on the Road Ahead, August 2017

Columbus, Ohio: Quarterly community engagement roundtable and meetings, August 22-26

New York City, New York: Quarterly community engagement roundtable and meetings, August 24

Denver, Colorado: Quarterly community engagement roundtable and meetings, August 29-30

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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