



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.



DHS Commemorates the 15th Anniversary of the September 11th Attacks

Fifteen years ago, on September 11, 2001, we witnessed the worst attack in our nation’s history. As we look back and remember the day that changed our nation forever, we come together to remember and also to look forward.

In continuing to look forward, the Department commemorated the federal government’s return to One World Trade Center on Friday, September 9. CRCL Officer Megan Mack joined Secretary Jeh Johnson and other DHS leaders as well as federal, state, and local partners to commemorate the momentous day. During the event Secretary Johnson said, “It is a sign of our determination to move forward and to come back stronger than ever before. Literally out of the ashes, we have rebuilt stronger and taller.”

New York City Mayor Bill DeBlasio also spoke: “the federal government is back in strength here at the World Trade Center—a message to the entire world that we will never ever renounce our values or be afraid.” Apart from DHS, the General Services Administration is the only other federal tenant taking up residence inside the building. In all, over 900 federal employees will now come to work at One World Trade Center every day.

Michael Byrne, the deputy administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Region 2 also shared his experiences. Mike isn’t just a public servant—he is a lifelong New Yorker and a shining example of American resilience. He was part of the first fire company to respond in 1993 after the World Trade Center was bombed. On September 11, 2001, Mike, then working for FEMA, responded to Ground Zero to do what he could to help. In the aftermath of the attacks, Mike was part of the team that helped form DHS. Now, he comes to work every day at One World Trade Center.

Inside

[15th Anniversary of the September 11th Attacks](#)

[Statement on Explosions in New York and New Jersey](#)

[Statement on Establishing a Review of Privatized Immigration Detention](#)

[Inaugural EEO and Diversity Training Conference](#)

[ICE Policy on Identification and Monitoring of Pregnant Detainees](#)

[DOJ Releases New Training Video for Law Enforcement](#)

[Constitution Day and Citizenship Day](#)

[CRCL on the Road](#)

[Contact Us](#)



9/11 changed our nation forever, but it did not change fundamental American values. The dedicated men and women of DHS will continue to work with honor and integrity to safeguard the American people, our homeland, and our values.

Statement by Secretary Jeh C. Johnson on Explosions in New York and New Jersey

The Department of Homeland Security is actively monitoring and participating in the investigations of the explosions in New York and New Jersey yesterday.

As I do annually for this event, in preparation for the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York City this week, in June I designated the event a “National Special Security Event.” This means that thousands of DHS personnel, led by the Secret Service, are deployed to New York City for the security of UNGA.

DHS will provide this security for UNGA in partnership with the New York City Police Department, the Department of State Bureau of Diplomatic Security, and multiple other federal, state, and local agencies. Any area in New York City associated with UNGA will therefore be subject to an extraordinarily high level of surveillance and security.

I echo New York City officials in reminding the public in the New York City area that If You See Something, Say Something™, and contact the New York City tip line at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477). Nationwide, as always, the public is encouraged to report suspicious activity and to contact your local law enforcement agency. And, if there is an emergency, call 911.

Secretary Jeh C. Johnson on Establishing a Review of Privatized Immigration Detention

On August 18, the Department of Justice announced that the Bureau of Prisons will reduce and ultimately end its use of private prisons. On August 29, Secretary Johnson directed our Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC), chaired by Judge William Webster, to evaluate whether the immigration detention operations conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) should move in the same direction. Specifically, the Secretary asked that Judge Webster establish a Subcommittee of the Council to review our current policy and practices concerning the use of private immigration detention and evaluate whether this practice should be eliminated. He also asked that the Subcommittee consider all factors concerning ICE’s detention policy and practice, including fiscal considerations. A subcommittee of the HSAC will undertake this review, and the full HSAC will provide its written report of its evaluation to the Secretary and the ICE Director no later than November 30, 2016.

CRCL Hosts Inaugural EEO and Diversity Training Conference

In September, CRCL hosted the Department’s inaugural Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Diversity Training Conference, themed *Mission Focused, People Centered*. The two-day conference brought together nearly 300 EEO and diversity counselors, specialists, investigators, and practitioners from all DHS Components and offices across the country. The conference featured more than 20 cutting-edge seminars and workshops with dynamic speakers from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and other federal partners. The goal of the conference was to exchange strategies, ideas, and best practices that contribute to making DHS a model employer in the federal government.



EEOC Commissioner Chai Feldblum gave an inspiring keynote address during the opening plenary session. Commissioner Feldblum, who is the first openly lesbian Commissioner and the fourth with a disability to serve on the Commission, shared key priorities currently underway at the EEOC. CRCL Officer Megan Mack and Deputy Officer Veronica Venture also gave welcoming remarks.

The conference concluded with an awards ceremony where individuals and teams were recognized for their accomplishments in fostering a diverse and inclusive DHS. These awards included, among others:

- **DHS Component Award**, to **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service** for demonstrating exemplary performance and leadership that has a far-reaching impact on EEO and diversity matters at DHS;
- **Team Award**, to **CRCL’s Complaints Management and Adjudication Section** for their significant contributions and support of the DHS mission in a manner that is a model for others to follow;
- **Conciliator Award**, to the **U.S. Coast Guard’s Alternative Dispute Resolution Team** for their work to resolve issues and conflicts before they escalate to complaints;
- **Game Changer Award**, to the **Middle Eastern Law Enforcement Officers Association** for their work to build trust among law enforcement and Middle-Eastern communities across the country

ICE Issues Policy on Identification and Monitoring of Pregnant Detainees

ICE recently issued a policy memorandum entitled [Identification and Monitoring of Pregnant Detainees](#), which consolidates existing guidance and sets forth additional procedures to ensure that pregnant women detained in ICE custody are identified, monitored, and housed in the most appropriate facility to manage their care. This guidance complements ICE’s national detention standards and ICE Health Service Corps policies. It also outlines the relevant responsibilities of divisions within Enforcement and Removal Operations to identify and track pregnant detainees, ensure that they are receiving appropriate prenatal care, and re-evaluate their continued detention on an ongoing basis.

Department of Justice Releases New Training Video for Law Enforcement

The Justice Department’s Community Relations Service (CRS) released a [new training video for law enforcement](#) which provides information, tools, and techniques to help ensure that interactions with members of the transgender community are respectful, professional and safe for all involved.

The training uses three non-emergency and non-crisis situations to discuss ways for police officers to effectively and politely interact with transgender individuals. In promoting best practices, the video defines three important terms: assigned sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity. As the training outlines, understanding the terminology and the major issues facing the transgender community can help rebuild trust and ensure that encounters are safe for all parties. The video also emphasizes the importance of distinguishing between a threat and a stereotype, and notes that individuals who feel disrespected are less likely to have faith in or cooperate with law enforcement.

“Transgender Americans, like all Americans, deserve to be treated with courtesy and respect by law enforcement officers,” said Acting Director CRS Paul Monteiro. “The information provided in this video will help strengthen the relationship between police and the transgender community, allowing for more effective investigations and safer encounters for officers and citizens alike.” *Read more on the [training video](#).*

Constitution Day and Citizenship Day

Each year, Constitution Day and Citizenship Day is celebrated on September 17—the anniversary of the signing of the Constitution in 1787. Congress first highlighted the significance of U.S. citizenship in 1940 when it designated the third Sunday in May as “I Am an American Day.” In 1952, Congress shifted the date to September 17 and renamed it “Citizenship Day.” Congress changed the designation of this day to “Constitution Day and Citizenship Day” in 2004. On this special day, we commemorate the most revered document in our country’s history. The U.S. Constitution reflects our rights and liberties—the values and ideals we cherish as a society and the privileges we enjoy as citizens. This year, USCIS welcomed more than 38,000 new American citizens at 240 naturalization ceremonies across the country. As we welcome these new citizens, we pause to reflect on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and what it means to be a U.S. citizen.



To Protect Our Nation, Today DHS Will...

Ever wonder how the Department of Homeland Security keeps our nation safe every day? Here's what we'll do today, to protect the American people, our homeland, and our values. [Download the full image here.](#)

To protect our nation, today DHS will...



CRCL on the Road, September

September 2-5 – Chicago, Illinois

CRCL participated in the Islamic Society of North America's annual convention.

September 14-15 – Orlando/Tampa, Florida

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

September 27-28 – Portland, Oregon

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

September 7 – Chicago, Illinois

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

September 22 – Seattle, Washington

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

September 28 – Boston, Massachusetts

CRCL will participate in the BRIDGES National Security Conference.

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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