



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.



NTAS Bulletin Updated and Extended

[National Terrorism Advisory System \(NTAS\) Bulletin – June 15, 2016](#). Last December, DHS described a new phase in the global threat environment, which has implications on the homeland. This basic assessment has not changed. In this environment, we are particularly concerned about homegrown violent extremists who could strike with little or no notices. The tragic events of Orlando several days ago reinforce this. Accordingly, increased public vigilance and awareness continue to be of utmost importance. This bulletin has a five-month duration and will expire just before the holiday season. We will reassess the threats of terrorism at that time. [Read this Bulletin translated into various languages](#)

CRCL Activates ICCT Following Orlando Shooting

CRCL activated the Incident Community Coordination Team (ICCT) call in response to the shooting in downtown Orlando on June 12, 2016. The shooting took place at a lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) nightclub during the city’s LGBT Pride festivities. Soon after the incident, CRCL heard from trusted community partners who expressed concerns and requested information and resources.

A total of 358 stakeholders participated on the call, which included a cross-section of interest-based groups, faith-based communities, and non-governmental organizations. Speakers included senior officials from DHS, the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Department of State, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Human Rights Campaign.

All speakers offered their sympathies to the victims, condemned the attack, and encouraged community members to utilize all available training and protection resources offered by federal agencies. Several community leaders asked how they could protect themselves and their communities. Agency officials offered the following guidance:

- DOJ Civil Rights Division encouraged communities to report all hate crimes, calling on people to contact the FBI and/or local law enforcement to report hate crimes.
- DHS National Protection and Programs Directorate announced its “Connect, Plan, Train, Report” initiative for communities to better protect facilities and the individuals that work within them. They highlighted available tools to keep communities and places of worship safe. They also encouraged community leaders to get in touch with their local [Protective Security Advisors](#) and build close relationships with local law enforcement.

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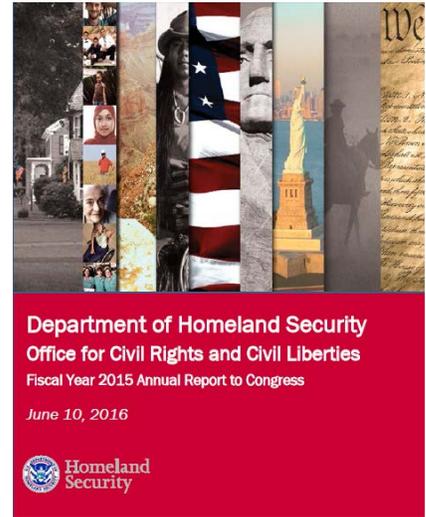
[Contact Us](#)

- FBI reported that the investigation into the attacks was ongoing and stated that they were working to be transparent with the affected communities. They also highlighted the “[If You See Something, Say Something](#)” campaign, and encouraged community members to report suspicious activity to them or local law enforcement.
- The Department of State announced the international 53 cities resilience and prevention program. They emphasized that cooperation between cities was necessary in order to disseminate best practices for countering hate crime and the prevention of violent extremism.

CRCL Releases FY 2015 Annual Report to Congress

CRCL is pleased to announce the release of its [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2015 Annual Report to Congress](#). In accordance with 6 U.S.C. § 345 and 42 U.S.C. § 2000ee-1, this report highlights the activities and accomplishments of the Office during FY 2015. Some of CRCL’s most significant initiatives and achievements over the reporting period include:

- Facilitating engagement with diverse communities for DHS senior leadership;
- Ensuring that recipients of DHS financial assistance comply with civil rights requirements;
- Working with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to improve care for transgender individuals in custody;
- Monitoring conditions at Family Detention Centers;
- Publishing a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking on nondiscrimination in matters pertaining to faith-based organizations; and
- Recognizing National Disability Employment Awareness Month.



These efforts continue to reflect the Department’s dedication to securing the country while protecting our freedoms, including core civil rights and civil liberties values of liberty, fairness, and equality under the law.

DHS Celebrates LGBT Pride Month

In June, DHS participated in a number of events celebrating LGBT Pride Month. Earlier this month, DHS Pride, the DHS employee association for LGBT personnel and their allies, hosted an event featuring a panel of LGBT DHS employees discussing the evolution of the LGBT experience in the workplace and in American society. During the meeting, Deputy Secretary Mayorkas received the DHS Pride Award for Service for his role in supporting LGBT couples as the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Director.



Later in June, CRCL hosted the first-ever LGBT Forum for DHS employees. CRCL Officer Megan H. Mack welcomed attendees, and Vincent Micone, DHS Presidential Transition Officer and Senior Counselor, Management Directorate, provided key note remarks about promoting LGBT rights at DHS and in his local community. DHS employees from USCIS, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) participated in a candid panel discussion about their experiences as LGBT employees at DHS. Panelists shared personal stories about the challenges and successes they have experienced in the workplace, at home, and in their communities, and offered advice and resources for DHS employees.

World Refugee Day 2016

In commemoration of World Refugee Day on June 20, Secretary Jeh Johnson delivered keynote remarks and swore in new citizens at a naturalization ceremony for 20 citizenship candidates, many of whom were former refugees or asylees, at the Delacorte Theater in New York City's Central Park. World Refugee Day is an international observance designed to raise awareness of issues affecting refugees across the globe.

USCIS works in close partnership with fellow DHS Components, the Department of State, and HHS to meet the [U.S. Refugee Admission Program's](#) mission of offering resettlement opportunities to eligible refugees while safeguarding the integrity of the program and our national security. CRCL also regularly works with HHS to address concerns regarding unaccompanied children, and has developed a strategic outreach plan to inform engagement with diverse communities with Syrian refugees.

Watch videos featuring Secretary Johnson and Deputy Secretary Mayorkas speaking with refugees at: DHS.gov/refugeeswelcome.



Hurricane Season 2016

June 1 marked the start of the 2016 Atlantic hurricane season, which continues until November 30. The FEMA app, available in both English and Spanish, is an essential tool to help your family weather the storm this hurricane season.

Through the FEMA app, you can receive weather alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five different locations anywhere in the U.S. You can also:

- Learn what to do before, during and after emergencies with safety tips.
- Share disaster damage photos on a verified photo-sharing platform.
- Prepare ahead of time with an emergency kit checklist and safety reminders.
- Get directions to open shelters and where to talk to FEMA in person.



Nearly half a million Americans already have the FEMA app. Be prepared and download free on the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#). Also, check out [video](#) on how the FEMA app can help your family weather the storm.

CRCL on the Road, June

May 29-June 5 – Madrid and Barcelona, Spain
CRCL participated in a Community Engagement Speaker Tour sponsored by the State Department.

June 15 – Seattle, Washington

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

June 2 – Boston, Massachusetts

CRCL attended the BRIDGES community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

June 21 – Houston, Texas

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

June 27-31 – Dusseldorf and Frankfurt, Germany

CRCL participated in a Community Engagement Speaker Tour sponsored by the State Department.

June 28 – Denver, Colorado

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.

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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