



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



Farewell Message from CRCL Officer Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia



It has been an honor of a lifetime to serve as the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties for the past 20 months. I am grateful to the Secretary for his extraordinary leadership and to the CRCL workforce: mission focused, passionate, and skilled. Serving as CRCL Officer has been a full circle experience for me. I am indebted to the partnerships built across DHS, the interagency and the White House. I am proud of what we have built together:

1. Creation of core values for CRCL;
2. Development of an updated Language Access Plan and the Department's first ever Indigenous Language Plan;
3. Critical oversight through investigations and collaboration in response to Equal Employment Opportunity and civil rights complaints pursuant to our statutory obligations;
4. Leadership in the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by providing guidance, risk assessment, mitigation strategies, and oversight for the protection of individual rights;
5. Implementation of several executive orders to advance equity;
6. Deployment of a transformative alternatives to detention program focused on trauma-informed case management and services;
7. Headship before human rights bodies and civil society as the Chief Human Rights Officer for DHS;
8. Policy advice on counterterrorism, border security, aviation security, and more;
9. Meaningful engagement with civil society members of all faiths, backgrounds, and interests and growth to over 20 metropolitan cities across the country; and,
10. An updated website and revamped annual report.

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I will return to my family and university home at Penn State with a full heart.

Best wishes,

Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia

CRCL Releases FY 2023 Annual Report to Congress

CRCL is pleased to announce the release of its [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2023 Annual Report to Congress](#). In accordance with 6 U.S.C. § 345 and 42 U.S.C. § 2000ee-1, the report highlights CRCL's activities and accomplishments, which include:

- *Reviewing DHS Intelligence Product*
- *Growing the CRCL Community Engagement Program*
- *Compliance Branch Investigation: Operation Vigilant Sentry*
- *Launching New Online Complaint Portal*
- *Providing Recipient Oversight*
- *Developing the Worksite Deferred Action Centralized Process*
- *Artificial Intelligence*
- *Advancing Equity at DHS*
- *Hosting EEOC Conference*
- *Developing the DHS Implementation Plan to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally*
- *Implementing the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act at DHS*
- *Issuing New DOJ Racial Profiling Guidance*

These efforts continue to reflect the Department's dedication to securing the country while protecting our freedoms and safeguarding our core civil rights and civil liberties values of liberty, fairness, and equality under the law. *Read the full report here:* [CRCL Annual Reports | Homeland Security](#)

DHS Celebrates National Native American Heritage Month

This month, CRCL, in partnership with the Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) DHS employee association, held the 2024 Departmental Native American Heritage Month commemorative observance. This year's theme, "Affirming Native Voices: Visibility-Leadership-Service," emphasizes the importance of the voices of the Native American community and their outstanding commitment to service. The program featured a panel of distinguished members of the DHS Native American Community.

During the discussion, panelists shared their inspiring stories of strength and leadership, underscoring the importance of family and community. During Native American Heritage Month, we celebrate and honor the immeasurable contributions of the Native American community; the influence they have had on the advancement of our Nation, and the recommitment to upholding principles of fair and equal treatment, equal dignity, and equal opportunity for all American citizens.



CRCL Hosts Series of Virtual Community Engagements

This month, CRCL's Community Engagement Section hosted a series of virtual engagements with new community stakeholders in North Carolina, Michigan, Colorado, and Utah. CRCL conducts regular outreach to communities across the country to provide information about DHS programs and activities and to hear feedback and concerns regarding on-the-ground impacts of DHS activities.

In North Carolina, CRCL representatives met with new stakeholders and provided an overview of CRCL's mission and the work the office including how CRCL reviews and investigates allegations of civil rights and civil liberties violations, as well as how the public may submit complaints to CRCL. Attendees raised a number of questions involving immigration enforcement during disasters, deferred action, and asylum requests, among others.

In Michigan, CRCL conducted an introductory meeting with an immigration legal resources organization where CRCL representatives provided an overview of the office and took questions about CRCL's public complaint process, disability accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and how CRCL and DHS OIDO coordinate in their mission areas.

In Colorado and Utah, CRCL representatives met with new stakeholders and provided an overview of the office. Discussion topics included CRCL's complaint process and transnational suppression.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about CRCL's community engagement efforts, please contact CommunityEngagement@hq.dhs.gov.

CRCL on the Road, November*

North Carolina

On November 8, CRCL conducted a virtual engagement with diverse stakeholders in North Carolina.

Colorado

On November 14, 20, and 25, CRCL conducted virtual engagements with diverse stakeholders in Colorado.

Michigan

On November 12, CRCL conducted a virtual engagement with diverse stakeholders in Michigan.

Utah

On November 12-14 and 25, CRCL conducted virtual engagements with diverse stakeholders in Utah.

*CRCL's Community Engagement team conducts in-person, virtual, and hybrid engagements with federal, state, local, and civil society stakeholders across the country. We remain available to respond to any stakeholder questions or concerns via email at: 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@hq.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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