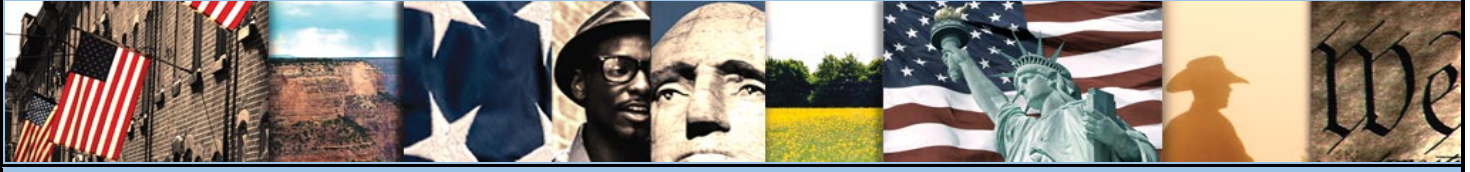




*The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) supports the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as it secures the nation while preserving individual liberty, fairness, and equality under the law.*



### Acting Secretary Wolf Issues Homeland Security NTAS Bulletin

Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad F. Wolf issued a new [National Terrorism Advisory System \(NTAS\) Bulletin](#) addressing the changing threat landscape following the successful U.S.-led airstrike in Iraq that eliminated Qassem Soleimani, the head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps-Quds Force, a U.S.-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization.

“At this time there is no specific, credible threat against the homeland. The Department issued this bulletin to inform, share protective measures, and reassure the American public, state and local governments, and private sector partners that the Department of Homeland Security is actively monitoring and preparing for any specific, credible threat, should one arise,” said Acting Secretary Wolf. “The Department is operating with an enhanced posture and various operational Components are taking protective measures where prudent and necessary. We have been in constant communication with Congress and interagency partners. The American people should feel assured the entire Department is working for them to keep them safe.”

Read the [new NTAS Bulletin here](#), which is also [available here in multiple languages](#).

### Final HSAC Report on Preventing Targeted Violence Against Faith-Based Communities

The right to practice our respective religions free of interference or fear is one of our nation’s most fundamental and indelible rights. As such, the targeting of houses of worship by violent extremists of any ideology is particularly abhorrent and must be prevented. Houses of worship and faith-based nonprofit organizations dedicate resources to local communities and often serve as the social and moral beacons people rely on in times of trouble.

In light of recent attacks against synagogues, churches, temples and mosques DHS Acting Secretary Wolf tasked the [Homeland Security Advisory Council \(HSAC\) with creating a subcommittee focused on the security of faith-based organizations across the country](#). In response, the HSAC formed the Subcommittee for the Prevention of Targeted Violence Against Faith-Based Communities.

The HSAC Subcommittee provides findings and recommendations to assist DHS in identifying additional lines of effort needed, validating the Department’s prevention framework under development, and examining whether the Department’s capabilities need to be adjusted to keep houses of worship safe, secure, and resilient from the threat posed by domestic violent extremists. *Read the [Subcommittee’s final report](#) on preventing targeted violence against faith-based communities.*

#### Inside

[Final HSAC Report on Preventing Targeted Violence Against Faith-Based Communities](#)

[National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month](#)

[CRCL Hosts First-Ever DHS Disability Access Forum](#)

[CRCL Prepares to Establish Regular Roundtable in El Paso](#)

[CRCL Hosts Community Stakeholder Meetings in Miami](#)

[DOJ Launches National Strategy to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons](#)

[CRCL on the Road](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## **DHS Issues Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking, the Importation of Goods Produced with Forced Labor, and Child Sexual Exploitation**

On January 15, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published its first [Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking, the Importation of Goods Produced with Forced Labor, and Child Sexual Exploitation](#).

“After years of work and close coordination within the Administration, I’m pleased to announce that the Department of Homeland Security has developed a first-of-its-kind strategy to leverage all our authorities and resources in this fight,” said Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad F. Wolf. “Let me be clear: this strategy isn’t just about leveraging resources, it’s about ending human trafficking. DHS’s *Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking, the Importation of Goods Produced with Forced Labor, and Child Sexual Exploitation* is our formal recognition of this issue as a Departmental priority. This strategy is a framework to communicate the Department’s priorities, ensure resources are allocated, and to monitor progress, so that we can save more lives and bring criminals to justice.”

The Strategy articulates the Department’s priorities over the next five years to combat the growing threat of human trafficking, the importation of goods produced with forced labor, and child sexual exploitation by focusing on:

- Preventing exploitative crimes;
- Protecting victims;
- Investigating and prosecuting perpetrators;
- Partnering with the homeland security enterprise; and
- Enabling DHS through organizational improvements to combat these illicit activities.

Developing this strategy involved assessing the Department’s initiatives and aims to harmonize efforts and leverage the Department’s authorities and resources in a comprehensive and cohesive manner to more effectively combat human trafficking, the importation of goods produced with forced labor, and child sexual exploitation. *Read more:* <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/01/15/dhs-issues-strategy-combat-human-trafficking-importation-goods-produced-forced-labor>.

## **National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month**

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month – a time dedicated to raising awareness, providing education, and taking action to combat human trafficking. Department of Homeland Security Components play a key role in addressing this heinous crime every day, but in the month of January participation by DHS employees, offices, and Components will highlight our Department’s commitment to combatting this crime. Here are some ways DHS and CRCL will be involved, and ways YOU can also participate:

- **Learn the indicators:** Do you know the [indicators](#) of human trafficking? Learning the signs of this crime is the first step to recognizing a potential victim.
- **Follow the Blue Campaign** on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) in January where we will be sharing content that encourages the public to #TalkAboutTrafficking. Retweet and share our posts from relevant DHS social media accounts, and use the hashtag #TalkAboutTrafficking in January to raise awareness.
- **Check out the Blue Campaign website** to view events and download [free resources](#). To order Blue Campaign resources, please email [BlueCampaign@HQ.DHS.GOV](mailto:BlueCampaign@HQ.DHS.GOV).
- **National Human Trafficking Awareness Day** (Saturday, January 11) is the [Blue Campaign’s](#) largest awareness initiative of the year. Search the hashtag #WearBlueDay on social media to see photos and videos of our interagency partners and stakeholders wearing blue to spread awareness of human trafficking.

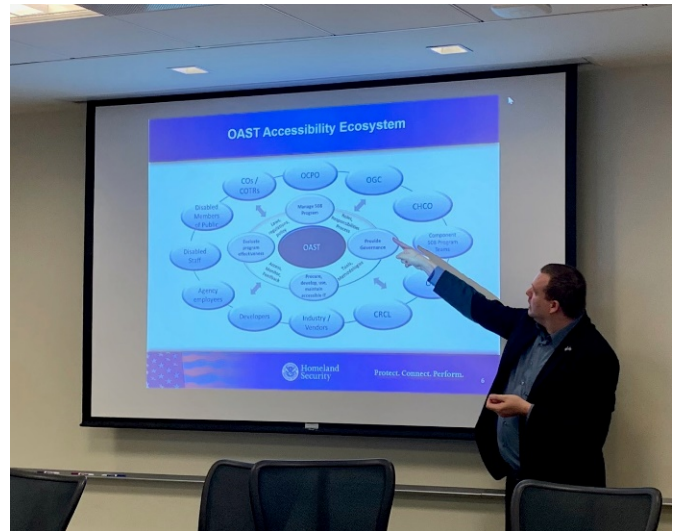
## **CRCL Attends International Emergency Management Conference**

CRCL recently participated in the 2019 International Emergency Management Conference in Savannah, Georgia. The annual conference brought together homeland security, law enforcement, fire and emergency management professionals, business owners, federal and nonprofit agencies, and others. CRCL engaged with many of the Department's grant recipients about compliance with civil rights in their federally assisted activities and distributed resources to help support these entities in meeting their civil rights obligations. These resources are available on the Department's [Disability Access](#) and [Language Access](#) webpages, and [Civil Rights in Emergencies and Disasters webpage](#).

## **CRCL Hosts First-Ever DHS Disability Access Forum**

On December 3, CRCL hosted its first-ever DHS Disability Access Forum at its offices in Washington, DC. The audience consisted of approximately 60 attendees from across the Department, which included Component disability access coordinators responsible for strengthening compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, DHS personnel responsible for ensuring access for members of the public with disabilities, and key Component program managers.

Attendees learned about promising practices for strengthening disability access across customer service, security, and custody management settings at DHS. The event provided opportunities for exchanging ideas and forging new partnerships across the Department.



The occasion also recognized the completion of key evaluation and planning accomplishments under DHS Directive 065-01. Under the Directive, Components designated disability access coordinators, conducted a self-evaluation, and prepared individual plans to address gaps and barriers to equal access for individuals with disabilities. The finalized Component plans and a host of related resources may be found on the Department's Disability Access webpage at [www.dhs.gov/disability-access-department-homeland-security](http://www.dhs.gov/disability-access-department-homeland-security).

In keynote remarks to the forum, CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn noted that "...these achievements resonate with the themes associated with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities observed around the world each year on today, December 3."

Officer Quinn further noted what the Directive will fulfill as it matures the Department's programs and activities, "Members of the public will consistently receive accessible information about the program. They will experience full participation within the program, and benefit from effective forms of communication. They will be treated in a respectful and nondiscriminatory manner. And they will be notified of their right to program accessibility, their right to request a reasonable accommodation, and how to file a complaint under Section 504."

Officer Quinn concluded, "For our Component program managers, and for our front-line personnel interacting with people who have disabilities, this requires a change in mindset. Ensuring accessibility in all aspects of a program must go into the thinking up front, not as an afterthought."

## **CRCL Prepares to Establish Community Engagement Roundtable in El Paso**

CRCL recently held stakeholder meetings in El Paso as part of its continued efforts to establish a regular roundtable there in early 2020. CRCL met with several nongovernmental representatives to discuss immigration policy and advocacy issues. Stakeholders expressed their interest in having regular engagement and communication with DHS leadership and local law enforcement.

In addition, CRCL met with Border Patrol to tour its facilities, and learn more about implementation of new programs for the expeditious processing of asylum seekers including prompt asylum claim review and humanitarian asylum review as well as the new removal process, and the electronic nationality verification and the migrant protection protocols process.

## **CRCL Hosts Community Stakeholder Meetings in Miami-Dade**

Last month CRCL Deputy Officer Peter Mina met with local stakeholders to discuss concerns with the Homestead temporary shelter for unaccompanied children in Miami. In attendance were U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida Ariana Farjado Orshan, and senior officials from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of Refugee Resettlement and Unaccompanied Children's Operations.

CRCL also met with a diverse group of stakeholders to discuss the potential for establishing a standing regular roundtable in the Miami-Dade metropolitan area. These groups were Americans for Immigrant Justice Reform, the Children's Trust, South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice, Haitian Emergency Relief Committee, Islamic School of Miami, and United Way of Miami-Dade, along with representatives from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Community Relations Service among others. Topics discussed included migrant children "aging out" of HHS custody into ICE detention facilities, medical and mental health care for detainees, immigration enforcement, Violence Against Women Act applications and related matters, traffic stops, screening at ports of entry and airports, and interactions with law enforcement and vulnerable migrant populations in the area among other topics.

The event was well received, and the community expressed interest in continued engagement on these topics. CRCL plans to meet again with stakeholders and law enforcement in the area early next year.

## **DOJ Launches National Strategy to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons**

Attorney General William P. Barr has launched a national strategy to address missing and murdered Native Americans. The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Initiative places MMIP coordinators in 11 U.S. Attorney's offices who will develop protocols for a more coordinated law enforcement response to missing cases. The plan also calls for the deployment when needed of the FBI's most advanced response capabilities, improved data collection and analysis, and training to support local response efforts.

Attorney General Barr made the announcement during a visit to the Flathead Reservation in Montana, home of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT). In addition, the Attorney General met with the CSKT MMIP working group and the CSKT Tribal Council. He was joined by U.S. Attorney Kurt Alme, vice chair of the Attorney General's Native American Issues Subcommittee, whose office has been at the forefront of this issue.

"American Indian and Alaska Native people suffer from unacceptable and disproportionately high levels of violence, which can have lasting impacts on families and communities. Native American women face particularly high rates of violence, with at least half suffering sexual or intimate-partner violence in their lifetime. Too many of these families have experienced the loss of loved ones who went missing or were murdered," said Attorney General Barr. "This important initiative will further strengthen the federal, state, and tribal law enforcement response to these continuing problems." *Read the [full release](#).*

## **Notice of Funding Opportunities from the U.S. Department of State**

The U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) announces an open competition for organizations interested in submitting applications for projects that support religious freedom globally. “Religious freedom” refers to the right set out in Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including the freedom to adopt a religion or beliefs, change your beliefs, practice and teach your beliefs (which may include through publications, public and private speech, and the display of religious attire or symbols), gather in community with others to worship and observe your beliefs, and teach your beliefs to your children. Proposed programming must be responsive to restrictions on religious freedom, and must be in line with the U.S. Government’s religious freedom, democracy, governance, and human rights goals.

Helpful resources for applicants include the annual country-specific International Religious Freedom Reports available at: <https://www.state.gov/international-religious-freedom-reports>, and annual country-specific Human Rights Reports found at: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2018-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices>.

### ***Promoting Religious Freedom and Combatting Anti-Semitism***

DRL’s goal, in partnership with the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, is to counter the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe as manifested through hate crimes such as acts of physical violence, desecration of religious community sites, and religion-based discrimination. Combatting anti-Semitism is part of promoting religious freedom globally. For more information, please visit: <https://www.state.gov/notice-of-funding-opportunity-nofo-drl-irf-fy19-promoting-religious-freedom-and-combatting-anti-semitism>.

### ***Promoting Religious Freedom in Western Hemisphere Affairs***

For more information, go to: <https://www.state.gov/notice-of-funding-opportunity-nofo-drl-fy19-promoting-religious-freedom-in-wha>.

## **CRCL on the Road, December – January**

### ***December 9-11 – El Paso, Texas***

CRCL participated in engagement meetings with diverse community stakeholders.

### ***December 18-20 – Phoenix/Tucson/Nogales, Arizona***

CRCL convened its regular community engagement roundtables with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

### ***January 22-24 – Columbus, Ohio***

CRCL participated in engagement meetings with diverse community stakeholders.

### ***January 29-31 – Dearborn, Michigan***

CRCL participated in engagement meetings with diverse community stakeholders.

### ***December 9-13 – Chicago, Illinois***

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

### ***January 15-17 – Seattle, Washington***

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

### ***January 27-30 – Orlando/Tampa, Florida***

CRCL participated in engagement meetings with diverse community stakeholders.

## **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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.dhs.gov/crcl).

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