



*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.*



### **CRCL Operations During COVID-19 Response**

Per guidance from the U.S. Office of Personnel Management in response to COVID-19, CRCL is operating under telework flexibilities while continuing to serve and support the public. As a result, mail operations may be impacted and our response to mailed letters may be delayed. If you wish to file a civil rights complaint, the best method of submission at this time is via email to: [CRCLCompliance@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:CRCLCompliance@hq.dhs.gov). CRCL staff will continue to monitor this email address, and our toll-free hotline for your questions at: 1-866-644-8360, TTY: 1-866-644-8361. For additional details on how to file a civil rights complaint, visit: <https://www.dhs.gov/file-civilrights-complaint>.

### **DHS Welcomes Deputy Secretary John Tien**



On June 24, 2021, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas delivered the Oath of Office to **John Tien**, the new Deputy Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

“John Tien is a retired U.S. Army Colonel whose distinguished military career spanned 24 years, and someone who knows what it means to truly safeguard our Nation,” said Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas. “I am proud to have John as a partner in leading the Department of Homeland Security, as we work together to support

our incredible colleagues and protect the Nation.

“I am deeply gratified to return to public service and honored to serve as Deputy Secretary for the Department of Homeland Security,” said Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security John Tien. “I look forward to the opportunity to serve our country again and working with Secretary Mayorkas to support our workforce and strengthen the Department.”

Prior to joining the Department of Homeland Security, Deputy Secretary Tien spent ten years serving in senior executive roles in the critical infrastructure financial services sector as a managing director at Citigroup. He previously served in the Obama Administration as the National Security Council Senior Director for Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Bush Administration as the National Security Council Director for Iraq, and the Clinton Administration as a White House Fellow in the Office of the United States Trade Representative. At the United States Military Academy at West Point, Tien was the first Asian American to ever serve as the First Captain and Brigade Commander, West Point’s top ranked cadet position. For the next 24 years, he served as a U.S. Army combat arms officer, retiring in 2011 at the rank of Colonel. His military decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Combat Action Badge, and the Valorous Unit Award.

Tien was confirmed by a bipartisan vote in the United States Senate on June 17. He is the first Asian American to serve as Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

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## **CRCL Mourns the Passing of Civil Rights Icon and Educator Bob Moses**

We recognize and celebrate the life of Bob Moses, a leader in the civil rights movement and an advocate of math literacy for minority students across the country. Known for his calm demeanor, he was a legend among civil rights organizers and praised for his relentless work to register thousands of voters in Mississippi in the 1960s. He later developed a philosophy of teaching that was adopted by institutions across the country to improve math literacy in urban and rural communities. Mr. Moses was a mentor and inspiration to generations of civil rights advocates. His memory and legacy will live on for generations to come.

## **DHS Statement on Safety and Immigration Enforcement During the 2021 Wildfire Season**

*Release Date: July 17, 2021*

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is concerned about the potential impact of the 2021 wildfire season to western and southwestern portions of the United States. Our highest priority remains the preservation of life and safety.

In consideration of these distressing circumstances, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) reminds the public that ICE focuses its limited resources on national security, border security, and public safety threats.

Absent exigent circumstances, immigration enforcement will not be conducted at locations where disaster and emergency response and relief is being provided, such as along evacuation routes, sites used for sheltering or the distribution of emergency supplies, food or water, or registration sites for disaster-related assistance or the reunification of families and loved ones.

DHS officials do not and will not pose as individuals providing fire-related information as part of any enforcement activities.

[Read this statement translated into Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese](#)

## **CRCL Leads Webinar on Combatting FGM/C**

This month, CRCL led a Department-wide webinar on “Combatting Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) in coordination with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The virtual training for DHS employees provided an overview of FGM/C and initiatives underway at DHS to combat this practice.

FGM/C refers to the cutting and other procedures that injure female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It is a serious violation of human rights, a form of gender-based violence, and if performed on children, a form of child abuse. It has no health benefits and can result in a range of physical, mental, and emotional health problems. DHS along with the U.S. Government opposes FGM/C in all forms and has taken steps to end this practice in the U.S. It is against U.S. law to perform FGM/C on a girl under the age of 18, or to send or attempt to send children outside of the U.S. so that FGM/C can be performed.

The training featured presenters from ICE, CBP, USCIS and CRCL and covered information about FGM/C and recent legislation aimed at addressing the issue and its prevalence around the world. DHS presenters also shared information about how DHS is combatting this practice including: running [Operation Limelight](#), a significant public awareness campaign run by ICE at international airports; adjudicating immigration benefits for victims of FGM/C such as asylum, U nonimmigrant status, and VAWA self-petitions; and organizing FGM/C outreach and education events for the Department.



## **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons**

July 30, 2021 is World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain labor or commercial sex acts. Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked worldwide – including right here in the United States.

In recognition of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, here are a few simple things you can do to prepare yourself and your community to recognize and report human trafficking:

- **Learn the [indicators](#) of human trafficking.** Recognizing key indicators of human trafficking is the first step in identifying victims. Keeping an eye out can help save a life.
- **Add the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Tip Line and National Human Trafficking Hotline numbers to your phone,** in case you are in a position to report suspected human trafficking. Call 1-866-347-2423 to report human trafficking activity to the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Tip Line 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year. For victim assistance, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline, call 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733).
- **[Download](#) or order our human trafficking awareness resources,** which includes posters, toolkits, and indicator cards. These resources can be used in your workplace or community to help raise awareness of how to recognize and report this crime.
- **Follow [@DHSBlueCampaign](#) on social media.** Share Blue Campaign posts on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) to share human trafficking awareness information with your followers.



## **“If You See Something, Say Something®” Campaign Materials Available in 10 Languages**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s [“If You See Something, Say Something®”](#) campaign is committed to educating the American public about how to recognize and report the signs of suspicious activity. We believe everyone has a role to play in keeping our communities safe and secure. To effectively meet that mission, the Campaign must be accessible to all the communities that we serve. To ensure equitable access to our campaign messages and materials, DHS expanded its public awareness campaign offerings. For the first time, “If You See Something, Say Something” materials are now available in 10 additional languages. These expanded offerings will help provide more equitable access to public safety information and promote an alert and informed American public.

The new materials are available in Arabic, Chinese (Simplified), French, Haitian, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Thai, and Vietnamese and can be downloaded by the public from the [translated outreach materials webpage](#). Each package of translated resources includes three sets of posters, two graphics for website or advertising use, and three social media graphics.

The Department encourages individuals, organizations, and local government and public safety agencies to take advantage of these new offerings and share them in their communities and on social media.

“If You See Something, Say Something®” is a national campaign that raises public awareness about the indicators of terrorism, terrorism-related crime, and domestic violent extremism, as well as the importance of reporting suspicious activity to state and local law enforcement. The Campaign regularly works with state, local, tribal and territorial partners across the country to distribute public awareness messaging throughout local communities, organizations, and on social media.

- [View and download the translated materials](#)
- [Learn more about the campaign](#)

## **CRCL on the Road, July\***

On July 29, 2021, CRCL Officer Katherine Culliton-González hosted a virtual roundtable meeting with national stakeholders regarding racial profiling.

\*Following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to exercise social distancing, our Community Engagement team will continue to carry out our mission using various virtual and telephonic tools during this national public health emergency. While our team maintains constant communication with federal, state, local, and civil society stakeholders across the country, we encourage anyone who needs to contact us to do so via email to: [CommunityEngagement@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:CommunityEngagement@hq.dhs.gov). Thank you for your flexibility and understanding during this time.

### **Additional information, and contacting us**

The goal of this periodic newsletter is to inform members of the public and other government partners 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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