



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 Recognized at 2019 DHS Secretary’s Awards

Each year, the [DHS Secretary’s Awards](#) honor the work, sacrifice, and professional excellence of employees from across the Department of Homeland Security. These colleagues have performed above and beyond the call of duty responding in extraordinary ways to the challenges of protecting the homeland. These individuals have also displayed a special dedication to the mission of homeland security, setting a sterling example for all DHS employees who share their commitment to the Department, and to the American public.

CRCL is especially proud of its 2019 awardees who were recognized with the Unity of Effort Award. This award recognizes outstanding efforts in coordination and unity of effort across the Department by significantly improving efficiency and effectiveness. The award acknowledges group efforts within the Department or with external partners who assist in meeting our commitment of unity of effort.

The following CRCL staff members received the Unity of Effort Award for these projects:

- *Miriam Moore*, as part of the Data Access Review Team for outstanding collaboration and dedicated work in reaching resolution on an information sharing agreement with an external intelligence community partner, enhancing DHS mission capabilities and national security interests of the United States.
- *Nicole Swann, James Allen, Kenneth Walton, Catherine Wood, Ed Weaver, Nancy Gianlorenzo, Greg Beatty, and Veronica Venture* as part of the DHS Anti-Harassment Working Group for outstanding collaboration in developing implementation procedures for the new DHS Anti-Harassment Policy, and standardized training curriculum improving working conditions for all DHS employees.

For more information on the 2019 DHS Secretary’s Awards visit: <https://www.dhs.gov/2019-secretarys-awards>.

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DHS Anti-Harassment Working Group awardees of Unity of Effort Award

CRCL and Privacy Office Present Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties Award at National Fusion Center Association Conference

This month CRCL and the DHS Privacy Office (PRIV) presented the first annual national awards recognizing excellence and innovation in protecting privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties in state and major urban area fusion center operations.

CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn and Privacy's Acting Deputy Director Jonathan Cantor presented the "Civil Liberties/Privacy Officer (CLPO) of the Year Award" to Dan Mahoney, the CLPO and deputy director at the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center for overseeing an exemplary program, contributing to the recent update of the national privacy/civil liberties policy template, initiating a new CLPO forum for the network, and working with community partners to demystify fusion center operations and privacy and civil liberties concerns.



DHS Privacy Office Acting Deputy Director Jonathan Cantor and CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn pictured with awardees

Additionally, this year a special joint award for "Fusion Center Excellence and Innovation in Civil Liberties and Privacy Protections" was presented to:

- Ohio's Statewide Terrorism Analysis & Crime Center
- The Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center
- The Western Pennsylvania All Hazards Fusion Center

These fusion centers undertook a model peer-to-peer policy review and assessment initiative to enhance their privacy/civil liberties policies and suspicious activity reporting processes.

The awards ceremony took place at the National Fusion Center Association's annual conference held in Alexandria, Virginia. Over 700 fusion center employees, federal, state, and local homeland security and intelligence partners came together to share innovative ideas and business practices on various topics related to public safety challenges and the domestic terrorism threat picture.

CRCL and PRIV have a unique and ongoing relationship with the national network of 80 state and major urban area fusion centers. The two offices provide training and technical assistance support on privacy and civil liberties protections to the national network of fusion centers.

Fusion centers are locally-owned and operated centers that serve as focal points in states and major urban areas for the receipt, analysis, gathering, and sharing of threat-related information among state, local, tribal, territorial, federal, and private sector partners. DHS supports the national network through grants, infrastructure and communications, and placement of DHS staff.

CRCL Engages with Communities in Texas to Enhance Civil Rights Efforts

This month CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn and staff traveled to Texas to hold meetings with diverse communities about DHS programs and operations.

The trip began with a community forum held at Empowerment Church in Port Arthur, among the hardest hit cities impacted by Hurricane Harvey in 2017. This forum was hosted by Rev. Randy G. Vaughn, senior pastor of Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church in Port Arthur and member of the DHS Homeland Security Advisory Council Subcommittee for the Prevention of Targeted Violence against Faith-based Communities, and Rev. Janice Milo, a leading faith leader in the city. The forum was convened as a follow-up to CRCL's listening session with Houston disability stakeholders held in February 2018. Officer Quinn was joined by leadership from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Office of Equal Rights, and Office of Disability

Integration and Coordination, as well as FEMA's federal coordinating officer leading federal assistance connected to Hurricane Harvey and Tropical Storm Imelda.

Following the community forum, Officer Quinn spoke at the monthly meeting of the Houston Commission on Disabilities on CRCL's role in ensuring that the civil rights of individuals with disabilities are protected before, during, and after disasters. This role includes CRCL's work to enforce Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act across the Department, engage with disability stakeholders, and provide technical assistance and resources to DHS recipients of financial assistance. As part of its mission to engage with disability stakeholders CRCL also held a series of listening sessions across the country following the 2017 hurricane season to hear from communities regarding disaster recovery and response efforts. Officer Quinn shared feedback from the Houston listening session including effective practices as well as noted areas for needed improvement. She further shared



CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn at the monthly meeting of the Houston Commission on Disabilities

[recommendations for emergency managers resulting from the listening sessions](#) focusing on the areas of preparedness, evacuation, effective communication and access, sheltering, and long-term recovery.

From there Officer Quinn and a group of about 20 nongovernmental organization (NGO) stakeholders took an hour-long guided tour of the newly constructed Joe Corley Detention Facility built to DHS specifications with input from CRCL. Attendees toured the facility's full grounds, including health clinics, sleeping quarters, recreation rooms and outdoor areas, cafeteria, gym, multipurpose space, chapel, and library.

The tour was followed by the CRCL Community Engagement Section regular roundtable also held at the facility. Discussion focused on immigration enforcement, detainee access to legal services, apprehension of parents with minor children, and the handling of visa overstays. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) personnel from the Houston Field Office, along with detention senior staff and local U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) representatives, addressed these questions and concerns. CRCL looks forward to continued engagement in the Houston community, and continued coordination with ICE and other DHS regional Components on these and other stakeholder concerns.

CRCL Meets with Belgian Delegation

As part of the U.S. State Department's City-Pair exchange program CRCL staff hosted a delegation from Liège, Belgium to discuss CRCL's programs to prevent targeted violence and terrorism through community partnerships. CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn greeted the delegation and was presented with tokens of friendship by the Mayor of Liège, Belgium Willy DeMeyer. Other delegation attendees included local law enforcement and NGOs working on efforts to counter violent extremism in Liège and nationwide.

The City-Pair program connects cities in the U.S. with cities in European countries, and each sends a delegation representing civil society and local government to exchange best practices on community engagement, and its benefits to preventing terrorism. This City-Pair exchange is between Liège, Belgium and Chattanooga, Tennessee.



Mayor of Liège, Belgium Willy DeMeyer and CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn

Staff from the CRCL Institute and the Community Engagement Section presented the Department’s Law Enforcement Awareness Briefing (developed for state and local law enforcement) and the Community Awareness Briefing (for community members) and discussed best practices on how to address and prevent targeted violence and terrorism. CRCL staff and the international visitors participated in a lively exchange of ideas including the differences and similarities of national approaches. The delegation participants also requested that CRCL continue the dialogue in the near future regarding these tools.

CRCL Hosts International Visitors Leadership Program with French Delegation

CRCL recently met with civil society members and Department of Education officials from France as part of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). The meeting focused on sharing community engagement best practices to diminish the disparate discriminatory impact of government programs on young people. The French delegation also shared their experiences working with diverse migrant communities and challenges providing language access to young people with limited language proficiency. In particular they expressed interest in replicating CRCL’s roundtable format to enhance trust and relationship-building in their own country.



CRCL representative meets with IVLP French Delegation

The IVLP program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and helps international visitors gain insight into how cities and governments organize themselves to promote peace and tolerance.

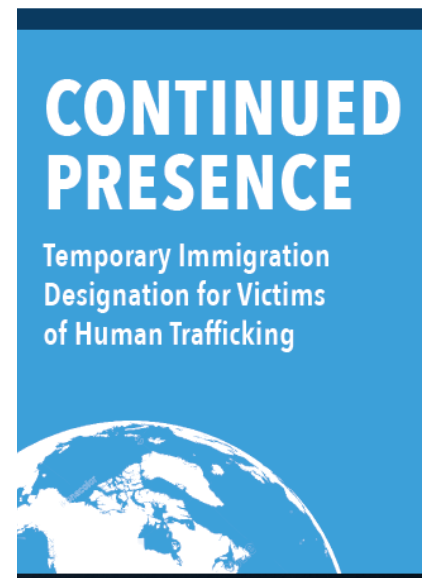
IVLP participants engage with U.S. academics, government officials, and community leaders on the role of school curricula and narratives in countering intolerance, and examine approaches that engage law enforcement, public health, and community service and NGO actors to combat violence.

New Continued Presence Resources Released

CRCL is excited to share new resources from ICE and the DHS Blue Campaign on Continued Presence (CP). Continued Presence is a temporary immigration status provided to individuals identified by law enforcement as victims of a “severe form of trafficking in persons” who may be potential witnesses. The status allows victims who are potential witnesses to remain in the U.S. temporarily during the ongoing investigation into the crimes committed against them.

The new resources include:

- An [updated Continued Presence brochure](#) including information on how to request CP, who authorizes it, useful facts, and eligibility requirements.
- A [Continued Presence video](#) (three modules) describing CP, who is eligible, and how to make a request. The video can be used for training purposes and task-force meetings.



These resources are available publicly, and DHS encourages their wide distribution through any mechanisms available, including websites and listservs, task-force meetings, trainings, and conferences.

CRCL Participates in Disaster Symposium in San Juan

Earlier this month, a CRCL representative traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico to participate in a symposium on “Shelter Accessibility: Two Years After Hurricane Maria” at the University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus. The symposium was hosted by the Puerto Rico University Center for Excellence in Education, Research, and Service on Developmental Disabilities and *Movimiento para el Alcance de Vida Independiente*, the largest independent living center in the Caribbean.

Symposium attendees included representatives from federal, territorial, and municipal agencies, as well as NGOs and emergency management personnel among others.



Panelists at the Disaster Symposium in San Juan, Puerto Rico

CRCL’s representative delivered a plenary presentation that covered several of the civil rights laws that apply to sheltering activities, the consequences of failing to comply with these authorities, and recommendations for achieving inclusive and accessible sheltering. Recommendations include planning for rapid deployment of replacement durable medical supplies to general population shelters in emergencies and embedding staff or other community resource individuals with disability-related expertise in each shelter. CRCL’s webpage [Civil Rights in Emergencies and Disasters](#) features a full list of recommendations to improve disaster services for persons with disabilities. These recommendations were the result of listening sessions CRCL conducted with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in areas of the country that were heavily impacted by the 2017-2018 natural disasters. The webpage also includes other federal resources for ensuring nondiscrimination in all phases of disaster management.

DHS Commemorates National Native American Indian Heritage Month

Each November DHS joins the nation in celebrating National Native American Indian Heritage Month. This year’s theme, “Honoring Our Nations: Building Strength Through Understanding,” presents an opportunity to educate the public about the proud history of Native people in America and celebrate the diverse tribal cultures that continue to thrive across our country.

We honor the heritage and the accomplishments of Native Americans and Alaska Natives and the pivotal significance their culture has to the foundation of American history. We also recognize the contributions of our DHS employees who identify as American Indian and Alaska Native. The stories of these Native people are interlaced in America’s rich history.



CRCL on the Road, November

November 4-8 – Nashville, Tennessee

CRCL supported a U.S. Department of State City-pair community engagement exchange program by coordinating meetings with local law enforcement and diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

November 15 – Houston, Texas

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

November 19-21 – Miami, Florida

CRCL coordinated engagement meetings with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations and supported the US Attorney's Office and U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service in conducting a community townhall on immigration issues.

November 27-28 – Detroit, Michigan

CRCL coordinated engagement meetings 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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