



*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>.

### CRCL Continues Monthly Webinar Series on DHS Civil Rights Evaluation Tool

DHS announced [grant allocations for FY 2020](#) totaling nearly \$1.8 billion in competitive and non-competitive grants to assist states, local areas, tribal and territorial governments, nonprofit agencies, and the private sector with their preparedness efforts. When an organization receives a grant or other type of financial assistance from DHS, those recipient organizations cannot discriminate in their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin (including language), disability, age, sex, or religion. CRCL is responsible for ensuring recipient compliance with federal civil rights laws, and in carrying out that responsibility, collects information from recipients via the DHS Civil Rights Evaluation Tool.

This past summer, CRCL kicked off a monthly webinar series to provide technical assistance to recipients on understanding and meeting their requirements related to this tool. The webinars have focused on topics such as developing a nondiscrimination policy, a complaints process, a disability policy and reasonable accommodation process, and a language access plan. Most recently, CRCL hosted a webinar in November on “Complaints, Compliance Reviews, and Designated Staff.” CRCL will hold its next webinar on “Subrecipient Monitoring” on January 28, 2021. For more information or to register for the monthly series, please email: [CivilRightsEvaluation@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:CivilRightsEvaluation@hq.dhs.gov).

For more information on recipient civil rights requirements, please visit: [www.dhs.gov/resources-recipients-dhs-financial-assistance](http://www.dhs.gov/resources-recipients-dhs-financial-assistance).

### CRCL Participates in FEMA Civil Rights Stakeholder Summits

This month, CRCL representatives participated in two virtual Civil Rights Stakeholder Summits hosted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Office of Equal Rights, External Division. The summits were designed to foster a collaborative dialogue and civil rights-oriented partnerships through direct engagement with FEMA. Presentations covered FEMA programs and services with a special emphasis on creating an inclusive, whole community-based approach while improving equity in emergency management.

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The summits offered the public an opportunity to provide input regarding access to FEMA’s programs and services. These perspectives and feedback from the public are critical to ensure more equitable response and recovery, helping FEMA effectively prepare and serve all communities before, during, and after disasters.

CRCL representatives participated in panel discussions during the November summits. The first, “Multi-Cultural: Equity Throughout Disasters,” was designed to strengthen agency communication with members of underserved and historically marginalized communities, such as those with low income, ethnically diverse groups, and those with limited English proficiency. The second, “Disability: Accessibility Throughout Disasters,” focused on inclusive emergency management and disaster preparedness strategies for individuals with disabilities. A CRCL representative will also speak on a panel during the third and final summit, “Environmental Justice: Implementation Throughout Disasters,” which will take place on December 3, 2020, and is now [open for registration](#).

For more information about FEMA's Office of Equal Rights, please visit [FEMA’s website](#).

## **10 Years of Blue Campaign**



The DHS Blue Campaign recently hosted a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary virtual panel event to discuss collaborative efforts with stakeholders over the last 10 years. The Blue Campaign works with private and public sector organizations to raise public awareness of human trafficking, educate frontline employees on how to recognize and report on the job, and train law enforcement on a victim-centered approach to trafficking crimes. The panel discussed these efforts and more. Watch now on the [Blue Campaign’s Facebook](#) page.

The Blue Campaign also recently released a series of new training and awareness resources for campus law enforcement officials, front-line convenience industry employees, and individuals who work with and care for youth. These materials are [available here](#).

For more information, please visit the [Blue Campaign](#). To report suspected human trafficking, call: 1-866-347-2423. To get help from the National Human Trafficking Hotline, call: 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733).

## **DHS Celebrates National American Indian Heritage Month**

Each November, DHS celebrates National American Indian Heritage Month also referred to as American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. This is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people. This year’s theme is “Sovereignty is Sacred: Sharing Our Rights and Cultures.”

During this centennial year celebrating women’s constitutional right to vote, we also acknowledge the contributions of Native Americans and American Indians to the women’s suffrage movement. Iroquois women of the Six Nations Confederacy and the matrilineal culture of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) exerted a profound influence on early feminists, shaping the vision of women as equals. Native women were asked to speak at conferences, join parades, and submit articles to suffragist publications. Their activism for voting rights ultimately helped to achieve the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924, which granted citizenship to all Native-Americans born in the United States.

At DHS, we recognize and value our American Indian and Alaska Native employees who work tirelessly to protect the American people and our homeland. In celebration of National American Indian Heritage Month, CRCL will hold a virtual commemorative program for DHS employees honoring American Indian and Alaska Native employees across government.

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

### ***Portland, Oregon***

CRCL convened a series of teleconference calls with diverse ethnic and community-based stakeholders and organizations.

### ***Southern California***

CRCL convened a series of teleconference calls with diverse ethnic and community-based stakeholders and organizations.

### ***Boston, Massachusetts***

CRCL convened a series of teleconference calls with diverse ethnic and community-based stakeholders and organizations.

## **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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 **Follow the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties on Facebook at: [facebook.com/CivilRightsandCivilLiberties](https://facebook.com/CivilRightsandCivilLiberties).**

\*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.