



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



Statement by Acting Secretary Elaine Duke on the President's Proclamation on Enhanced Global Security Measures

“Today’s announcement by the President will protect Americans and allow DHS to better keep terrorists and criminals from entering our country. The [restrictions](#) announced are tough and tailored, and they send a message to foreign governments that they must work with us to enhance security.” For more information on the enhanced global security measures, view the [frequently asked questions](#) and [fact sheet](#).

CRCL Welcomes New Officer Cameron Quinn



CRCL’s new Officer, Cameron Quinn, was sworn in on September 20, 2017. In her role as Officer, Ms. Quinn will lead CRCL’s wide-ranging and critical mission to: promote respect for civil rights and civil liberties in DHS policy; communicate with individuals whose civil rights might be affected by DHS policies; investigate and resolve civil rights and civil liberties complaints; and promote workplace equality and diversity through the Department’s EEO programs and initiatives.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Quinn served in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She also served as a senior policy advisor in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice; as counsel to the Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board; and as an assistant attorney general for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Among other civil and community activity, Ms. Quinn served on the Virginia State Advisory Committee for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and spent much of the past 25 years on boards affiliated with Community Residences, Inc., which focuses on providing community-based alternatives to the institutionalization of people with mental health or intellectual disabilities.

Ms. Quinn spent a number of years specializing in election law and administration, including serving as chief state election official for Virginia, and chief local election official for Fairfax County, Virginia. She also served as the U.S. elections advisor for the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, and was with the Federal Voting Assistance Program at the U.S. Department of Defense. Further, Ms. Quinn taught election law for more than a decade at George Mason University’s Scalia Law School.

In addition to Ms. Quinn’s civil rights, employment, and elections experience, she spent several years in private practice at Winston & Strawn in Washington, D.C. Ms. Quinn earned both her law degree and a master’s degree in accounting from the University of Virginia, and a bachelor’s degree in marketing from the University of Florida.

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Rescission of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

Message from Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine C. Duke

This Administration's decision to terminate DACA was not taken lightly.

The Department of Justice has carefully evaluated the program's Constitutionality and determined it conflicts with our existing immigration laws. Given the Supreme Court's decision on Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA), they do not believe DACA is legally viable, and thus the program should be ended.

As a result of recent litigation, we were faced with two options: wind the program down in an orderly fashion that protects beneficiaries in the near-term while working with Congress to pass legislation; or allow the judiciary to potentially shut the program down completely and immediately. The Administration chose the least disruptive option.

I am very aware of the consequences of this action, and I sympathize with the DACA recipients whose futures may now be less certain. But I am also frustrated on their behalf. DACA was never more than deferred action—a bureaucratic delay—that never promised the rights of citizenship or legal status in this country. The program did not grant recipients a future, it was instead only a temporary delay until a day of likely expiration. And for that reason, DACA was fundamentally a lie.

I believe President Obama had genuine intentions for DACA, and was clearly frustrated by his inability to maneuver through the legislative process. But a Secretarial memo – even if intended to be temporary - is not a substitute for a law passed by Congress and signed by the President.

For several years before becoming the Acting Secretary, I taught civics to people who were going through the naturalization process. I taught them the principles of American democracy, like the three branches of government, the separation of powers, and how our system of checks and balances works.

I taught them that the Constitution was the supreme law of the land.

And I taught them the rule of law: How everyone in our country must follow the law, no matter who they are.

The DACA program violates those basic civics lessons that are fundamental to our country and our citizens.

It is a dangerous precedent to systematically ignore the law, regardless of one's intent or purpose. It is also dangerous to encourage and reward illegal immigration.

We must find a better way. And we must do so within the Constitution of the United States.

If our current laws do not reflect our country's values, then I urge Congress to use its Constitutional authority to write and pass legislation that does. I believe the President shares my confidence in the Congress.

DHS would be glad to provide Congress with data and information to help them consider the situation, and find a legislative solution. There is much wrong with our current immigration system—not just DACA—and this is an opportunity to make it better, fairer, and more beneficial for the nation.

What this decision makes clear is that we are overdue for real answers. No more stopgap measures, no more temporary options, and no more kicking the tough decisions down the road in the hope they become too painful to ignore for someone else.

We need to do this the right way. And we need to do this now.

Read more on [DHS actions and other information concerning DACA](#).

View [USCIS's chart on DACA benefits](#).

How to Help Disaster Survivors Impacted by Hurricanes Maria, Harvey, and Irma

The compassion and generosity of the American people is never more evident than during and after a disaster. It is through individuals, non-profits, faith and community-based organizations, private sector partners, and governmental agencies working together that will most effectively and efficiently help survivors cope with the cataclysmic impacts of Hurricanes Maria, Harvey, and Irma. Please follow a few important guidelines below to ensure your support can be most helpful for disaster survivors:

- The most effective way to support disaster survivors in their recovery is to **donate money and time to trusted and reputable organizations.**
- **Cash donations offer voluntary agencies and faith-based organizations the most flexibility to address urgently developing needs.** With cash in hand these organizations can obtain needed resources nearer to the disaster location. This inflow of cash also gives these organizations flexibility in determining what is most needed once on-scene after a natural disaster.
- **Please do not donate unsolicited goods such as used clothing, miscellaneous household items, medicine, or perishable foodstuffs at this time.** While donors have good intentions in providing these articles the helping agencies must redirect their staff away from providing direct services to survivors in order to sort, package, transport, warehouse, and distribute items that may not meet the needs of disaster survivors.
- **Donate through a trusted organization.** At the national level, many voluntary, faith and community-based organizations are active in disasters and are trusted ways to donate to disaster survivors. Individuals, corporations, and volunteers can learn more about how to help on the [National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster](#) (NVOAD) website. This can be the first step if you want to support relief efforts.

Learn more about [how to personally volunteer in the disaster areas.](#)

CRCL Hosts Townhalls with Diverse Communities

In addition to its quarterly roundtables, CRCL's Community Engagement team often hosts public townhalls to address issues of concern within diverse communities. This month, CRCL hosted public townhalls in Seattle, Chicago, and Yuma, Arizona.

Seattle: This event was hosted by the Somali Youth and Family Club. The featured speaker was Michelle Bernier-Toth, Deputy Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Overseas Citizens Services, who explained the services available for citizens while traveling overseas. She also discussed personal safety, human trafficking, and other challenges that can arise during overseas travel.



Chicago: This event was also webcast, and focused on good practices in community engagement, how to build trust with communities, and ways to address sensitive issues. Our meeting host, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, is a recipient of a DHS grant for the Targeted Violence Prevention Program.

Yuma: For the first time, CRCL met with diverse communities in Yuma, which included Campesinos Sin Fronteras and several other local groups. The discussion focused on concerns and questions about processing at nearby ports of entry. Also for the first time, CRCL met with members of the Tohono O'odham Nation in Sells, Arizona, where attendees discussed the role of U.S. Customs and Border Protection law enforcement in the community. CRCL is committed to building bridges with Southwest border communities, and will continue this dialogue in the near future.



CRCL Hosts Hispanic Heritage Month Program

This month, CRCL hosted an event to commemorate National Hispanic Heritage Month that focused on the 2017 theme, “Shaping the Bright Future of America.” CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn gave welcoming remarks, noting the importance of Hispanic Heritage Month and how the Department’s workforce is greatly enriched due to the talents and contributions of Hispanic American employees in every DHS component.



The featured guest speaker was Armando Irizarry, senior attorney with the U.S. Federal Trade Commission. In his

remarks, Mr. Irizarry stated, “This theme embodies the ideal that Hispanics shape the bright future of America through our contributions to all aspects of America’s daily life and national endeavors. Whether it be defending our nation or exploring the universe, conducting scientific research or providing services, in the law or in the arts, in community leadership, finance, sports, or in any other activity, Hispanics enrich the fabric of America making it brighter, more just, and stronger.”

Mr. Irizarry highlighted stories of several Hispanic American leaders who serve in all levels of government, and shared how their contributions in the workplace have provided opportunities for many to grow their careers and thrive. He noted the importance of diversity in every profession, and stated that government and businesses function better with participation and input from a diverse workforce. He encouraged attendees to explore different cultures and communities to better understand the world around us.

National Preparedness Month

Each September during National Preparedness Month, we focus on planning ahead for natural disasters and other emergencies. This year’s theme, “Disasters Don’t Plan Ahead. You Can.,” underscores that preparedness can counter our susceptibility to disasters.

The recent devastation from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma is a reminder that we should all take action to prepare. We are all able to help first responders in our community by training on what to do when disaster strikes—where we live, work, and visit. The goal of National Preparedness Month is to increase the overall number of individuals, families, and communities that engage in preparedness actions at home, work, business, school, and places of worship.



Learn more on [steps to make an emergency plan.](#)

CRCL on the Road, September

September 7 – Seattle, Washington

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

September 19-23 – Phoenix/Tucson, Arizona

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

September 14 – Chicago, Illinois

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

September 24-25 – Miami, Florida

CRCL held community engagement meetings with diverse stakeholders, including a public townhall.

September 26 – Atlanta, Georgia

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations, and other meetings.

September 26-27 – Tampa/Orlando, Florida
CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations, and other meetings.

For more information on community engagement events, email: 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@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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