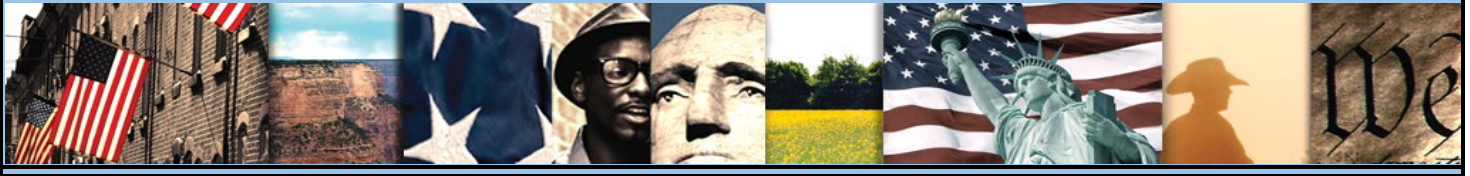




The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) supports the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as it secures the nation while preserving individual liberty, fairness, and equality under the law.



CRCL Celebrates 100th Newsletter Issue!

This month marks our 100th issue of the CRCL newsletter! Since 2010, we have been proud to share news, updates, and information about our office and our partners in our monthly newsletter. We thank you for your readership and look forward to continuing this tradition! As always, we would love to hear from you. If you have questions, comments, or recommendations regarding our newsletter, please share them with us at CRCLOutreach@hq.dhs.gov. Thank you!



DHS Celebrates 20th Anniversary of UN Resolution 1325 for Women, Peace, and Security

October 31, 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which reaffirms the critical role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response, and post-conflict reconstruction.

UN Resolution 1325 urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts. It also calls on all parties to commit to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict.

In support of observations outlined in UN Resolution 1325, in October 2017 the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Act was signed into law. The Act recognizes the benefits derived from creating opportunities for women and girls to serve as agents of peace via political, economic, and social empowerment. The [U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security](#) further responds to requirements of the WPS Act to promote the meaningful inclusion of women in processes to prevent, mitigate, resolve, and recover from deadly conflict or disaster. Earlier this year DHS, in coordination with federal partner agencies, released its [implementation plan to support the U.S. Strategy on WPS](#) which outlines the Department's efforts to advance for women in law enforcement and other initiatives to include training for women in global and national security sectors, where appropriate.

The Department is excited to celebrate this important moment in history. As the designated agency lead for WPS, CRCL Officer Patricia Nation and staff will participate in a host of high-level meetings and events with federal partners, national and global security thought leaders, and community stakeholders.

Read the [DHS Implementation Plan to Support the U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security](#)

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CRCL Participates in #SeeSay National Awareness Day

DHS designated September 25 as [National Awareness Day](#) for the “If You See Something, Say Something” campaign to highlight the importance of suspicious activity reporting and how communities play a critical role in keeping our nation safe. CRCL Deputy Officer Peter Mina, along with other DHS leaders, shared how CRCL’s work promotes the SeeSay campaign in this video message (view on the right): <https://www.dhs.gov/if-you-see-something-say-something/lets-talk-about-seesay>. View other SeeSay videos and resources at: <https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something>.



DHS Launches New Center for Countering Human Trafficking

DHS Acting Secretary Chad Wolf recently [announced the opening of the DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking](#), the U.S. government’s first-ever integrated law enforcement operations center directly supporting federal criminal investigations, victim assistance efforts, intelligence analysis, and outreach and training activities related to human trafficking and forced labor.

The center, which has been operational since early September, is based in Washington and led by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), a global leader of criminal investigations into human trafficking and sexual exploitation. The center will be staffed with law enforcement officials from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and across DHS, as well as subject matter experts and support staff from 16 DHS components—all focused on the “4 Ps” of the center’s mission: prevention, protection, prosecution and partnerships.

“Human trafficking is modern day slavery. There is no other way to say it,” said Acting Secretary Chad Wolf. “The words are strong because the actions are evil. The forms of exploitation, sex trafficking, forced labor, and domestic servitude that constitute human trafficking are antithetical in every way to the principles of human dignity that Americans hold dear. The launch of this Center for Countering Human Trafficking represents the investment of resources, attention, and time by President Trump to combat and dismantle all forms of human trafficking.” On January 15, Wolf signed and released the [DHS Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking, the Importation of Goods Produced with Forced Labor, and Child Sexual Exploitation](#) which pledged to bolster DHS efforts to combat human trafficking and forced labor.

ICE’s HSI has long been a global leader in investigating human trafficking and sexual exploitation cases and bringing offenders to justice. The Center will build on the agency’s “victims first” approach, which balances victim identification, rescue and support with prevention, investigation, and prosecution of traffickers. ICE HSI is uniquely positioned to utilize criminal, immigration, and trade-based authorities to proactively identify, disrupt and dismantle cross-border human trafficking organizations. In fiscal year 2019, ICE initiated 1,024 human trafficking and forced labor related cases which led to 2,197 criminal arrests. These effective actions resulted in nearly 700 convictions and the rescue of more than 400 victims.

CRCL is pleased to participate in this initiative by providing a co-located representative or off-site liaison to support the center in its victim protection efforts. For more information about the Department of Homeland Security’s overall efforts against human trafficking, visit <http://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>.

DHS Provides \$10 Million to Communities to Prevent Targeted Violence and Terrorism

DHS has [awarded \\$10 million to 29 select projects](#) to support the development of a nationwide Terrorism and Targeted Violence Prevention (TVTP) Framework. These awards were made through a competitive process under the Fiscal Year 2020 Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant Program.

“With these grants, DHS has prioritized programs aimed at improving communities’ ability to prevent individuals from mobilizing or radicalizing to violence. These programs will create or enhance locally-based prevention frameworks to address these emerging threats,” said Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad F. Wolf. “DHS stands in absolute opposition to violent extremism, no matter its motivation or form. We will continue our constant efforts to combat all forms of domestic terror.”

These projects address the wide range of violent ideologies and mobilization factors that lead to targeted violence. This Fiscal Year’s program prioritized countering domestic terrorism. The TVTP Grant Program builds on the promising practices in the field of prevention. It is the only federal grant program dedicated to enhancing prevention capabilities in local communities.

Projects selected under the TVTP Grant Program cover many aspects of prevention, including building resilience, intervention, recidivism prevention, and reintegration programs at the local level. The projects selected directly support the objectives of the September 2019 [DHS Strategic Framework for Countering Terrorism and Targeted Violence](#). Making these funds available for local prevention partners is a key milestone in the implementation of the Strategic Framework. (This September, DHS also [finalized its public action plan](#).)

DHS evaluated 95 eligible applicants based on selection criteria, prioritization of grant program objective, and diversity of applicant types, activities, and geographic distribution as outlined in the FY20 Notice of Funding Opportunity. TVTP Grant Program funds support the development of local prevention capabilities at a time when DHS is observing an uptick in online efforts for terrorism recruitment and radicalization from a variety of sectors. For more information on the TVTP Grant Program, including the full list of grant awardees, visit: <https://www.dhs.gov/tvtpgrants>.

2020 Privacy, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Virtual Forum

This month CRCL and the DHS Privacy Office piloted a new national training and networking conference for Civil Liberties and Privacy Officers (CLPO) from ten fusion centers across the country. The virtual forum was designed to re-launch our joint national training program required under the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007.

The weeklong event explored a range of issues at the intersection of privacy, civil liberties, and homeland security. Sessions covered foundational CLPO roles and responsibilities, such as reviewing intelligence products and conducting civil liberties and privacy audits, as well as new and emerging issues including: civil unrest and First Amendment protections, responding to the coronavirus pandemic, distinguishing between true threats and protected expression, and mitigating privacy risks.

With representation from the National Fusion Center Association (NFCA), this virtual forum included presentations led by subject matter experts from CRCL and the Privacy Office, as well as CLPO experts from government, industry, and academia. Additionally, the highly interactive forum offered small group breakout sessions, case studies and open discussion, a shared virtual lunch, and a library of downloadable materials for attendees. CLPOs also participated in virtual networking opportunities to build relationships and share best practices. If you would like more information on this pilot forum, please contact Ada Albright, ada.albright@hq.dhs.gov.



Tips for Generator Safety During Power Outages

In light of the especially active 2020 hurricane season, FEMA and Ready.gov offer tips and tools on how to safely use generators during power outages. Visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) for more info, and view FEMA's video in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).



DHS Celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Each October, DHS celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), which recognizes the talents and contributions of workers with disabilities across the nation. This year's theme, "Increasing Access and Opportunity," highlights the importance of ensuring all Americans have access to services and support that allow them to gain and succeed in competitive employment.

This year marks not only the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, but also the 75th observance of NDEAM. The history of NDEAM began in 1945 when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week of October each year as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the contributions, and employment needs of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed its name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

DHS is committed to ensuring equal opportunity, access, and inclusion for individuals with disabilities to realize a truly inclusive workforce. The Department offers a range of programs, tools, and resources to advance this effort, which include:

- the DHS Disability Mentoring Program Pilot, which provides career development and networking opportunities for DHS employees with disabilities;
- the DHS Accessibility Requirements Tool, which helps procurement officials get 508 accessibility requirements language for their solicitations;
- and resource guides on how to conduct accessible virtual meetings and how to create emergency communications.

CRCL further provides technical guidance and oversight to entities that receive DHS funding in meeting compliance requirements for federal disability civil rights laws and regulations. For more information on disability employment and access at DHS, visit: CRCL's [Disability Access webpage](#).

CRCL on the Road

*Following guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov) 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. 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 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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