



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

National Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism Announced

Today's threats are rapidly evolving, and they require our vigilance, as well as our willingness to learn and adapt. We know that violent extremism isn't constrained by international borders, or by any single ideology. The new strategy on [*Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States*](#)—announced last week—is the first U.S. Government strategy to address ideologically-inspired violent extremism in the homeland. The strategy elaborates on the federal government's existing efforts and emphasizes the need to work hand-in-hand with diverse communities to protect civil rights and civil liberties of all individuals—a key facet of the work DHS CRCL has undertaken since its inception.

Secretary Napolitano said in a recent [blog post](#) “Our approach to countering violent extremism emphasizes the *strength of local communities*. We begin with the premise that well-informed and -equipped families, communities, and local institutions represent the best defense against terrorist ideologies and violent extremists.” The Department's work on countering violent extremism (CVE) emphasizes that communities are the solution, not the problem. Diverse communities across American are best positioned to push back against violent extremists.

CRCL's role in the effort to counter violent extremism focuses on providing useful and accurate training to DHS and other law enforcement agencies and ensuring that DHS's CVE efforts, and work as a whole, respect civil rights and civil liberties.

Read the Secretary's entire blog post at <http://blog.dhs.gov> and read the [Fact Sheet](#) on DHS's approach to countering violent extremism.

President Obama Directs New Steps to Prevent Mass Atrocities and Impose Consequences on Serious Human Rights Violators

On August 4, 2011 President Obama, issued a [*Presidential Proclamation – Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons Who Participate in Serious Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Violations and Other Abuses*](#) (read the [Fact Sheet](#)). Through the proclamation, the President takes key steps to strengthen existing laws and better deter serious human rights violators. While existing U.S. law prohibits the admission of certain human rights violators, such as participants in genocide, torture, or extra-judicial killings into the United States, this proclamation expands the grounds for denial of entry to cover a broader array of recognized violations of international humanitarian law and international criminal law, such as war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The proclamation also creates a new tool to deter would-be organizers of atrocities, serious human rights violations, and related abuses—empowering the United States to warn groups that have carried out, may be about to carry out, or are complicit in organizing such abuses that their conduct falls within explicit, standing bans on admission to the United States.

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The President is issuing this proclamation pursuant to his authority under Section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which authorizes the President to suspend entry into the United States of aliens whose entry “would be detrimental to the interests of the United States.” There are currently seventeen 212(f) Proclamations in effect, including Proclamation 8342 (2009), which suspends entry to foreign government officials responsible for failing to combat human trafficking.

TSA Takes Next Steps to Further Enhance Passenger Privacy

In July, TSA Administrator John Pistole announced that TSA will begin installing new software on millimeter wave Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT) machines that will enhance privacy by eliminating passenger-specific images. [AIT](#) screens passengers for both metallic and non-metallic threats, including weapons and explosives, which may be concealed under a passenger’s clothing without physical contact to keep the traveling public secure.

The new software, called Automated Target Recognition (ATR), will detect items that could pose a potential threat using a generic outline of a person for all passengers. The generic outline will be identical for all passengers. If no potential threat items are detected, an "OK" will appear on the monitor and the passenger is cleared.



By eliminating the image of an actual passenger and replacing it with a generic outline of a person, passengers are able to view the same outline that the TSA officer sees. Further, a separate TSA officer will no longer be required to view the image in a remotely located viewing room.

Read more about the new [ATR software](#).

White House Holds First-Ever Hispanic Policy Conference

In July, the White House hosted a two-day policy conference bringing together 160 Hispanic leaders from 25 states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico. During the conference, more than 100 administration officials joined stakeholders to discuss the President’s agenda and its impact on the Hispanic community, as well as best practices improve outcomes and access for the Hispanic community.

Community leaders engaged with federal policy makers on a variety of issues including creating jobs and strengthening the economy, expanding access to affordable and quality health care, reforming the nation’s education system, protecting civil rights, and fixing the nation’s broken immigration system.



DHS leaders at the Hispanic Policy Conference

CRCL Officer Margo Schlanger participated in a panel discussion with USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas and Felicia Escobar, Senior Advisor for Immigration Policy at the White House Domestic Policy Council to highlight several administration immigration initiatives including the Dream Act and efforts to improve ICE’s Secure Communities and other enforcement programs.

Read more about the [Hispanic Policy Conference](#).

CRCL and Summer Conferences

CRCL has been very active this summer in several conferences throughout the country. At various conferences, CRCL staff members participated in panel discussions on topics ranging from effective community engagement efforts to employment verification and anti-discrimination measures; staff also engaged directly with conference attendees at the CRCL exhibition booth.



CRCL booth at a summer conference

Conferences included:

- American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) National Convention, in Washington, D.C.
- National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) Annual Conference, in San Antonio, Texas
- League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) National Convention, in Columbus, Ohio
- North American South Asian Bar Association (NASABA) Convention, in Los Angeles, California
- Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) Annual Convention, in Rosemont, Illinois
- National Council of La Raza (NCLR) Annual Conference, in Washington, D.C.

CRCL on the Road, July – August, 2011

July 1-4 – Rosemont, Illinois

CRCL representatives attended the Islamic Society of North America annual convention.

July 7 – Vienna, Virginia

A CRCL representative spoke about civil rights and civil liberties and U.S. domestic security to Arab American community members.

July 8 – San Francisco, California

CRCL representatives along with ICE Executive Associate Director Gary Mead discussed the Secure Communities program with community groups, state and local law enforcement, and government representatives.

July 12 – San Diego, California

CRCL representatives conducted a community engagement town hall with local Somali community members, law enforcement agencies, and local government representatives.

July 14 – Boston, Massachusetts

CRCL Officer Margo Schlanger and ICE Director John Morton discussed the Secure Communities program with community groups, state and local law

July 27 – Detroit, Michigan

A CRCL representative spoke on a panel at the USCIS Regional Community Relations conference.

July 27 – New York, New York

A CRCL representative attended a briefing on Ramadan with the New York Police Department

July 28 – Seattle, Washington

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

July 28 – Houston, Texas

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

July 28-30 – New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana

CRCL hosted engagement events with American Arab and Muslim communities.

August 1-2 – Washington, D.C.

A CRCL representative spoke on a panel at FEMA's 2011 African-American Leadership Summit.

enforcement, and government representatives.

July 14 – New York, New York

CRCL Officer Margo Schlanger and ICE Executive Associate Director Gary Mead discussed the Secure Communities program with community groups, state and local law enforcement, and government representatives.

August 2-3 – Columbus, Ohio

A CRCL representative spoke on a panel at the National Countering Violent Extremism Workshop.

August 4 – Minneapolis, Minnesota

CRCL hosted a regular community engagement roundtable with Somali community members.

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 make complaints; ongoing and upcoming projects; opportunities to offer comments and feedback; etc. We distribute our newsletters via an email list and make them available to community groups for redistribution. We also post information pulled from the newsletter on a webpage, [CRCL at Work](#). 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. If you are on this list, but no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send an email to the same address asking us to unsubscribe you. For more information, including on how to make a civil rights or civil liberties complaint about DHS activities, see www.dhs.gov/crcl.

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Prior newsletters:

Issue 1 (Sept. 2010) *About this Newsletter • Civil Rights Complaints • Anti-Discrimination Obligations for Recipients of DHS Financial Support • Expanded Community Engagement*

Issue 2 (Oct. 2010) *CRCL Leads Presentation on Children • Guidance to Travelers Carrying Religious Articles • New Environmental Justice Group • DHS and Hispanic Heritage Month • ITACG Impact Assessment Completed*

Issue 3 (Nov. 2010) *New Website Launched • CRCL Submits Annual Report to Congress • ICC Submits Annual Report to the President • Complaints Process Improved • Universal Periodic Review, Before the UN Human Rights Council • Human Rights Day, December 10 • CRCL Expands Community Outreach Roundtables • CRCL Leadership*

Issue 4 (Jan. 2011) *Message from the Officer • If You See Something, Say Something Listening Session • E-Verify Rights and Responsibilities Videos • Training of Trainers • EEO Complaints Backlog Reduced • Expanded Los Angeles Roundtable Kickoff*

Issue 5 (March 2011) *Message from the Officer • CRCL Convenes Somali Youth Summit • State and Major Urban Area Fusion Center Program Stakeholder Meeting • DHS and Wounded Warriors*

Issue 6 (April 2011) *DHS Announces New Guidance on Limited English Proficiency • DHS Secure Communities • CRCL Expands Community Outreach with Denver Roundtable • 2011 National Fusion Center Conference • CRCL Hosts Renowned Diversity and Immigration Scholars • DHS Honors Women's History Month*

Issue 7 (May 2011) *Secretary Napolitano Issues Statement on the Death of Osama Bin Laden • DHS Removes Designated Countries from NSEERS Registration • 2010 No FEAR Act • CRCL Engages with Somali Communities • CRCL Meets with Immigration NGOs on the East and West Coasts • DHS Honors Women's History Month • New CRCL Leadership*

Issue 8 (June 2011) *Guest Message by ICE Director John Morton • DHS Secure Communities • State Department Outreach Activities • CRCL Highlighted in State Department Publication • Fusion Center and CVE Trainings • ICE Announces Employment Authorization Eligibility for Certain Libyan Students • TSA Announces Airports Authorized to Build Animal Relief Areas Beyond Checkpoints*