



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.

DHS Leads Implementation of the 2010 Universal Periodic Review Immigration-related Recommendations

As mentioned in CRCL's April 2012 newsletter, the [UN Human Rights Council](#)'s Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process that involves review of the human rights records of all 192 UN Member States once every four years. The U.S. participated in this process and accepted in whole or in part [173 of the 228 recommendations](#) received from various States. These recommendations have been divided into [ten thematic areas](#), and working groups have been formed to oversee implementation efforts in each area. DHS is the lead agency for the immigration-related recommendations, and CRCL is co-chairing that working group. Organizations and individuals interested in engaging with the UPR Immigration Working Group, or more generally with CRCL on human rights issues, can do so by emailing: HumanRightsOfficer@hq.dhs.gov.

New Secure Communities Videos Released

CRCL, in partnership with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Equal Rights Office, has produced two additional Secure Communities video briefings for state and local law enforcement. A total of three video briefings, along with a range of supplemental materials, can be found on the [Secure Communities website](#).

Secure Communities uses fingerprint-based biometric technology to check fingerprint records taken by local law enforcement against FBI criminal history and DHS immigration records. ICE uses this information to determine if immigration enforcement action is warranted, prioritizing the removal of criminal aliens convicted of serious crimes.

The second video in the series, "[How to Respond to an Immigration Detainer](#)," briefs officers about the immigration detainer process, including the details of the new detainer form and the responsibilities of law enforcement agencies when they receive detainers issued by ICE. In particular, this module highlights how detainees who allege a violation of their civil rights or claim U.S. citizenship can receive assistance.

The third video, "[Consular Notification: Your Role when Detaining Foreign Nationals](#)," reiterates the importance of notifying foreign consulates when detaining non-U.S. citizens, a pre-existing obligation under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations that can be triggered by information received through Secure Communities. CRCL is currently developing additional videos for the Secure Communities series, all of which are scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.

For more information about Secure Communities and the video briefings for state and local law enforcement, please visit: www.ice.gov/secure_communities.

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ABA Releases “Know Your Rights” Video

The American Bar Association (ABA) [Commission on Immigration](#) has produced an updated version of “Know Your Rights,” an educational video for the more than 400,000 men and women held in immigration detention facilities across the country each year.

The 45-minute video replaces a decade-old version with new information that shows detainees how to navigate the court system and what to expect as they await their day in court. Through a series of vignettes with actors re-enacting typical scenarios, the video uses proven adult-education techniques to maximize comprehension and retention. It is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#). CRCL contributed to the production of this video by reviewing the script and providing feedback on content.

The ABA Commission on Immigration collaborated on the project with the American Immigration Lawyers Association, the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project, Detention Watch Network, and the National Immigrant Justice Center. The Commission is working with ICE to distribute the video to the 250 detention centers across the country.

2012 National Fusion Center Training Event

CRCL recently exhibited and participated in the 2012 National Fusion Center Training Event, which took place in Phoenix, Arizona. The annual four-day conference provides a key forum for fusion center representatives and subject matter experts to share information on projects, best practices, and useful resources.

Secretary Napolitano delivered a keynote address to conference participants, which underscored the importance of collaboration among federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial partners within fusion centers as a means to advance hometown security. “Homeland security begins with hometown security, and fusion centers play a vital role in keeping communities safe all across America,” said Secretary Napolitano. “Fusion centers enhance hometown security in many ways – as they are uniquely well-positioned to help local officials better protect their communities from all threats, whether it is terrorism or other criminal activities.”

As part of the strategic training plan, CRCL provides rigorous privacy and civil rights training to fusion center personnel at the 77 state and major urban area fusion centers. CRCL is planning a training event for fusion center privacy officers that will take place this summer, and is on track to provide training in an additional 12 states by the close of fiscal year 2012.

Read more information on [state and major urban area fusion centers](#).

Environmental Justice Interagency Working Group Leaders Meet

The Environmental Justice Interagency Working Group (EJIWG) was established in 1994 under [Executive Order \(EO\) 12898](#). The role of the EJIWG is to guide, support, and enhance federal environmental justice and community-based activities. The EJIWG includes 17 federal agencies and several White House offices.

In August 2011, federal agencies signed the "Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Justice and Executive Order 12898" (EJ MOU), which committed each agency to, among other things, finalizing an EJ strategy and releasing annual implementation reports. Links to the other federal EJ Strategies can be found on the [Environmental Justice Interagency Workgroup webpage](#).



Last month, senior leaders from the EJIWG convened a meeting to review and discuss agencies' environmental justice strategies and discuss action plans for promoting and implementing those strategies among the federal government.

Read the [DHS Environmental Justice Strategy](#), which addresses homeland security missions most applicable to environmental justice considerations, primarily in the context of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended.

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

This May, we celebrate the 20th year of observing [Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month](#). The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.



Over the past year, CRCL continued its outreach to Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities through its quarterly engagement roundtables and other activities.

Recently CRCL, along with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, facilitated a panel discussion during a conference sponsored by the [White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders](#). The panel provided strategies on how AAPI federal employees' skill sets, such as bilingual skills, can bring cultural awareness and other benefits to their agencies and offices.

Read more about [Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month](#) activities and events.

CRCL on the Road, May

May 1 – Amherst, New York

A CRCL representative spoke at a forum on community policing, hosted by the Muslim Public Affairs Council at the University of Buffalo.

May 3 – St. Paul, Minnesota

CRCL participated in the East Africa Women's Summit at the University of St. Thomas.

May 16 – Columbus, Ohio

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse communities and federal, state, and local partners.

May 24 – Boston, Massachusetts

CRCL will coordinate the monthly BRIDGES meeting with community leaders and local and federal partners.

May 31 – Atlanta, Georgia

CRCL will convene its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse communities and federal, state, and local partners.

May 3 – Minneapolis, Minnesota

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse communities and federal, state, and local partners.

May 6 – Boston, Massachusetts

CRCL participated in an interagency town hall with Muslim community leaders at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

May 23 – Hartford, Connecticut

CRCL will participate in a town hall and discussion with the Muslim American community.

May 30 – Ottawa, Canada

CRCL will speak at the Canada-U.S. Working Meeting on Countering Violent Extremism, hosted by Public Safety Canada.

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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This is the sixth issue in volume 2 of this newsletter; please visit our [website](#) for information from prior newsletters.

Prior newsletters:

Vol. 2 Issue 1 (Sept. 2011) Message from the Officer on the 10th Anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001 • DHS Remembers 9/11 • September is National Preparedness Month • CRCL Attends Iftar Dinners During Ramadan • Detroit Community Celebrates 10 Years of Building BRIDGES

Vol. 2 Issue 2 (Oct. 2011) Guest Message from Alice Hill • New Training Guidance on CVE • CRCL Expands Community Engagement in 2011 • CRCL Submits Annual and Quarterly Reports to Congress • Disability Employment Awareness Month • Hispanic Heritage Month

Vol. 2 Issue 3 (Jan. 2012) Farewell Message from Officer Margo Schlanger • DHS Issues Draft Environmental Justice Strategy for Public Comment • CRCL Participates in Civil Rights Listening Session • CRCL Launches a Facebook Page • ICE Announces New Hotline and Detainer Form for Immigrant Detainees • ICC Distributes Federal Survey Regarding 2011 East Coast Earthquake • White House Releases Strategic Implementation Plan to Prevent Violent Extremism • CRCL Engages with Somali-American Communities in the Twin Cities • CRCL Third Quarter Report • Fourth Periodic Report of the ICCPR • TSA Cares

Vol. 2 Issue 4 (Feb. 2012) Message from the Acting Officer • 2012 State of Homeland Security Address • Religious Accommodations Guidance • African American History Month

Vol. 2 Issue 5 (April 2012) DHS Publishes Language Access Plan • DHS Publishes Environmental Justice and Annual Implementation Report • DHS Works to Ensure Equality for LGBT Individuals • 2011 No FEAR Act Annual Report • ICE Releases PBNDS 2011 • International CVE Conferences • Universal Periodic Review • Women's History Month