



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.



Promoting Dialogue and Protecting Religious Freedoms

CRCL Officer Megan Mack participated in a [special event](#) hosted by the White House and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), which brought together a diverse group of federal government officials, community and faith-based leaders, and advocacy groups to talk about an issue that impacts far too many people in our nation: religious discrimination.

From March to June of this year, DHS collaborated with DOJ and other federal agencies in their efforts to combat religious discrimination through a series of roundtables held across the country with community stakeholders. At this event, DOJ released a [report on these roundtables](#) and, along with other federal agencies, announced new steps they are taking to address this issue.

Building safe and resilient communities is a fundamental part of the Department’s mission. On behalf of DHS, the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) works closely with communities to combat intolerance and ensure safety at houses of worship.

- CRCL holds quarterly roundtables with demographically and religiously diverse communities in 17 cities across the country. These roundtables provide an open forum for communities to discuss religious intolerance that can result in hate crimes or bias-motivated threats at the local level. CRCL also provides resources for these communities to develop emergency plans and enhance security measures at their houses of worship.
- In addition to our roundtables, CRCL also works with international partners through the UN Human Rights Council to train countries on how to combat religious intolerance through implementation of Resolution 16/18. Since 2013, CRCL has delivered training to officials in Bosnia, Indonesia, Greece, and Spain.

Read [Officer Mack’s full message](#) on the DHS Blog for more on this event and the Department’s commitment to protecting religious freedoms.

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DHS Announces CVE Grant Program for Communities

Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson announced the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Grant Program, with \$10 million in available funds. This is the first federal assistance program devoted exclusively to providing local communities with the resources to counter violent extremism in the homeland.

“As I have said before, given the nature of the evolving terrorist threat, building bridges to local communities is as important as any of our other homeland security missions,” said Secretary Johnson. “This new grant program is an important step forward in these efforts and reflects the Department’s continued commitment to protect the homeland and uphold our values.”

In addition to state, local and tribal governments, non-profit organizations and institutions of higher education are eligible to apply. These grants will help scale community-led initiatives across the country to address the evolving terrorist threat, including international and domestic terrorism. Specifically, funding will support training, community engagements, and activities that challenge violent extremist narratives used to recruit and radicalize individuals to violence.

The Department’s efforts to partner with local communities are a central part of its CVE mission. These grants will empower local communities to provide resources to friends, families and peers who may know someone on the path toward violent extremism, encouraging community-based solutions to deter an individual well before criminal or terrorist action, which would require the attention of law enforcement.

This grant program was developed by the DHS Office for Community Partnerships in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Office for Community Partnerships builds relationships with local communities and leads the Department’s CVE mission, focusing efforts to find innovative ways to discourage violent extremism and undercut terrorist narratives.



For more information on the FY16 CVE Grant Program, visit www.dhs.gov and www.grants.gov.

CRCL Conducts International Speaking Tours in Spain and Germany

This summer, CRCL representatives traveled to Munich, Frankfurt, Dusseldorf, and Berlin, Germany, as well as Barcelona and Madrid, Spain to participate in a speakers’ tour on best practices in community engagement organized by the U.S. Department of State. The purpose of the visit was to promote constructive dialogue between government and civil society focusing on the protection of civil rights, civil liberties, and human rights as a means to building more resilient societies.

In Germany and Spain, CRCL provided multiple trainings on good practices in community engagement for diverse audiences, including local government officials, local and national-level law enforcement, civil society, academia, local media, and members of the intelligence community. CRCL also presented its community awareness briefing, which is designed to empower communities to address the threat of recruitment of young adults and others by terrorist actors while developing a trusted network of law enforcement in local communities.



New REAL ID Requirements

In 2005, Congress passed the REAL ID Act in accordance with the 9/11 Commission's recommendation that the Federal Government "set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver's licenses." This past January, Secretary Jeh Johnson announced the schedule for the final phase of implementation of the REAL ID Act. The Secretary's statement set the final deadlines for the Phased Enforcement Schedule for REAL ID originally announced on December 20, 2013.

Beginning January 22, 2018, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) security checkpoints at airports will no longer accept driver's licenses and identification cards issued by REAL ID non-compliant jurisdictions that have not been granted DHS extensions to the compliance deadline. DHS websites and TSA checkpoints will prominently post up-to-date lists of states whose credentials may not be accepted. Please note that REAL ID enforcement by TSA will *only* affect designated state-issued credentials and will *not* affect TSA acceptance of other identity documents such as passports, military IDs, and Trusted Traveler cards.

Beginning October 1, 2020, TSA will no longer accept any state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards that are not REAL ID compliant. As before, individuals may still use alternative identity documents accepted by TSA.

The DHS and TSA websites contain additional information about the [Department's implementation of REAL ID](#), including [the list of documents TSA accepts at airport checkpoints](#) and [up-to-date compliance for each state](#). The guidance also addresses religious head coverings, and provides that such coverings should not obscure an applicants' facial features or generate a shadow. CRCL also developed [training posters for Department personnel on common Muslim and Sikh head coverings](#), which have been available since 2005.

For guidance and recommendations, see the [REAL ID factsheet](#). If you need further information, call the TSA Contact Center: 1-866-289-9673.

Common Muslim American Head Coverings

Followers of the Islamic faith are called Muslims. Some Muslim women cover their heads based on religious belief and the Islamic requirement to dress modestly. They may wear a full head covering called a hijab or a scarf over their hair. The scarf may be plain or decorated. Some Muslim men wear a skullcap called a kufi based on religious tradition.

Points to keep in mind when searching someone wearing a Muslim head covering:

- Show RESPECT
- Explain why you need to conduct search
- Offer private room for search if available
- Searches should be conducted by a screener of the same gender as the passenger being searched

Transportation Security Administration

Produced by the Department of Homeland Security Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties in consultation with the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, 10/05. Photo design and descriptions of Muslim head coverings provided by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Coalition (AADC).

CBP Requests Stakeholder Input on Language Assistance Policy for Law Enforcement

As part of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)'s efforts to increase transparency, Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske held a conference call with stakeholders in June to discuss a forthcoming policy authorizing CBP personnel to respond to partner law enforcement requests for emergency language assistance in urgent public safety situations. Under the policy, CBP officers and agents would not be authorized to routinely respond to requests for language assistance, as partner law enforcement agencies may not use CBP assistance as a substitute for their own obligation to provide language services consistent with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Title VI prohibits recipients of federal financial assistance, such as state and local law enforcement agencies, from discriminating on the basis of race, color, or national origin, including limited English proficiency. The Supreme Court has held that failing to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access for limited English persons is a form of national origin discrimination prohibited by Title VI regulations.

CRCL provided guidance to CBP during the development of the new policy. For more information about language access at DHS, visit <https://www.dhs.gov/language-access>.



Guidance on Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and CBP have made available [Frequently Asked Questions](#) to supplement existing guidance concerning enforcement actions at or focused on sensitive locations and clarify what types of locations are covered by these policies. ICE and CBP conduct their enforcement actions consistent with the Department's November 2014 memorandum prioritizing the removal of national security, border security, and public safety threats.

The ICE and CBP sensitive locations policies, which remain in effect, provide that enforcement actions at sensitive locations should generally be avoided, and require either prior approval from an appropriate supervisory official or exigent circumstances necessitating immediate action. DHS is committed to ensuring that people seeking to participate in activities or utilize services provided at any sensitive location are free to do so without fear or hesitation. ([en Español](#))

Salam Neighbor

CRCL and the U.S. Agency for International Development recently co-hosted a special viewing of the documentary *Salam Neighbor* at the National Press Club. *Salam Neighbor* was created by two American filmmakers, Zach Ingrasci and Chris Temple, who lived among 85,000 refugees in Jordan's Za'atari camp, just seven miles from the Syrian border. The film uncovers overwhelming trauma, but also inspiring stories of individuals rallying, against all odds, to rebuild their lives and those of their neighbors.



The screening occurred in June in recognition of World Refugee Day. CRCL Officer Megan Mack gave welcoming remarks stating, “*Salam Neighbor* shows us human suffering, but also the power of the human spirit, and our ability to work together to make things better for those in need. When we help others, we ourselves grow.”

Following the screening, the audience had an opportunity to speak with the filmmakers during a moderated Q&A discussion. Learn more about [Salam Neighbor](#) and view the film, which is available on [Vimeo](#), [iTunes](#), and [Netflix](#).

CRCL on the Road, July

July 9 – Columbus, Ohio

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

July 18 – Madison, New Jersey

CRCL conducted a youth campus engagement event with the West African community at Drew University.

July 26 – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

CRCL will deliver the community awareness briefing at CBP's Office of Chief Counsel Leadership Conference.

July 12 – Phoenix, Arizona

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

July 19 – New York City, New York

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

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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