



*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.*



### **Secretary Johnson Announces New DHS Mission Statement**

I am pleased and proud to release to the public our new mission statement for the Department of Homeland Security:

*“With honor and integrity, we will safeguard the American people, our homeland, and our values.”*

This statement is intended to reflect the views and the values of our employees, and to be in their voice, not mine. Almost 3,000 of our people answered my call for ideas for our mission statement, and we received many thoughtful answers. Across all components, the three words most often invoked in the submissions were “honor,” “integrity,” and “safeguard.” These words are contained in the statement. The word “values” was included to reference, among other things, our missions to preserve and promote this Nation’s immigrant heritage and humanitarian spirit, as well as the freedoms and civil liberties we must balance and preserve in the pursuit of our security mission. We wanted to limit the statement to one sentence.

In the development of this statement, I was pleased to consult all three former Secretaries of Homeland Security. This statement is intended for all our components and all our approximately 226,000 personnel across the entire Department. My hope is that our people will see it as the capstone of our Unity of Effort initiative, and our unifying mission statement for now and long after I am Secretary of Homeland Security.

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Watch video of DHS employees telling why they are proud to serve the Department and the Nation: [https://www.dhs.gov/blog/2016/05/11/why-we-serve.](https://www.dhs.gov/blog/2016/05/11/why-we-serve)

## **CRCL Hosts Inaugural Roundtable in Portland**

This month, CRCL hosted its inaugural roundtable in Portland with an audience of nearly 50 community members, federal partners, and local stakeholders. The meeting, hosted by the Portland Police Department, involved regional leadership from DHS components including the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Oregon, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations. Representatives from the mayor's office, the state of Oregon, and the offices of Senator Jeff Merkley, Congressman Earl Blumenauer, and Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici also attended.

U.S. Attorney Billy J. Williams gave welcoming remarks and a brief overview of his office's role in public safety and affirmative civil rights cases. TSA Assistant Administrator Kimberly Walton presented on TSA's risk-based approach to screening, the enhanced DHS TRIP process, the Passenger Support program, and the TSA Cares helpline to assist travelers with disabilities. She addressed questions from the Somali-American community on the watchlisting process and allegations of profiling.

The regional civil rights director for the Department of Transportation delivered a presentation on school bullying and harassment and available resources. The Latino, Somali, and Jewish communities raised concerns about school bullying and cited the current national rhetoric promoted by high-profile personalities as a key cause in the perceived increase of these types of incidents in local schools. The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and Catholic Charities noted that this is causing minority students to fear speaking out, with several examples of students asking their parents whether they will be "picked up" and "deported" despite all members of the family being U.S. citizens. They also noted that a number of bilingual students are refusing to speak Spanish or participate in cultural activities allegedly because of the same reason. USCIS offered to help alleviate these concerns by inviting community groups and local schools to host naturalization ceremonies where local students can attend and learn more about the naturalization process.

## **CRCL Hosts Interagency Listening Session with the Syrian American Medical Society**

CRCL hosted a listening session with representatives from the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) and several federal partners from DHS, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Treasury, and the National Counter Terrorism Center. SAMS is a nonpolitical, nonprofit, professional and medical relief organization that represents hundreds of Syrian American medical professionals across the U.S. SAMS is working on the front lines of crisis relief in Syria and neighboring countries to alleviate suffering and save lives.

SAMS has been a key strategic community stakeholder group for the Department, hosting Secretary Johnson and other DHS leaders at a number of forums around the country. During the meeting SAMS representatives briefed participants on its ongoing work to provide medical relief in Syria and beyond. Later, participants discussed issues involving our federal and DHS partners, including: TSA's Traveler Redress Inquiry Program and religious headwear policies; travel concerns involving Syrian nationals returning to the U.S. from international travel; and Temporary Protected Status and asylum applications for certain Syrian nationals, among others. The listening session provided an opportunity for participants to provide updates on some of the ongoing work that may have an impact on mutual constituents and stakeholders.



## **CRCL Leads UNHRC Resolution 16/18 Training in Saudi Arabia**

This month, a CRCL representative traveled to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia to conduct a training workshop on best practices in community engagement in support of [UN Human Rights Council \(UNHRC\) Resolution 16/18](#). The Resolution focuses on concrete, positive alternative measures countries can take to combat religious bias and intolerance that can restrict speech. CRCL has participated in Resolution 16/18 trainings since 2012.

Workshop participants included members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and UNHRC representatives. During the workshop, a number of topics were discussed including how the U.S. Government engages with religious communities and enforces anti-discrimination laws; how the U.S. Government distinguishes between freedom of expression and hate speech; how the U.S. Government combats Islamophobia and works to build resilient communities; and how the U.S. handles refugees. CRCL presented [Secretary Johnson's video on refugee resettlement](#) which was well received by participants. While in Saudi Arabia, CRCL also met with the director general of the Saudi ministry of foreign affairs (Jeddah) and permanent representative to the OIC, members of civil society who will soon visit the U.S. through the [International Visitor Leadership Program](#), and young Saudi students who work on civil rights issues.



### **CRCL on the Road, May**

#### ***May 4 – Los Angeles, California***

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

#### ***May 17 – Portland, Oregon***

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

#### ***May 26 – Chicago, Illinois***

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

#### ***May 6 – Jeddah, Saudi Arabia***

CRCL participated in the UN Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18 Conference, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

#### ***May 18 – Seattle, Washington***

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

#### ***May 29-June 5 – Madrid and Barcelona, Spain***

CRCL will conduct a community engagement speaker tour, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

### **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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.dhs.gov/crcl).

CRCL Phone: 202-401-1474 • Toll Free: 866-644-8360 • TTY: 202-401-0470 • Toll Free TTY: 866-644-8361

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