



*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.*

### **CRCL Training Guidance on Countering Violent Extremism**

This month, CRCL provided new guidance to federal, state, and local government and law enforcement officials sponsoring CVE, cultural awareness, or counterterrorism training. The document, *Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Training and Best Practices*, was developed by DHS, in partnership with many inter-agency partners, to bring together best practices in CVE training. [Read the CVE Guidance.](#)

### **Guest Message from Alice Hill, Chair of the DHS Blue Campaign**

In July 2010, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) launched



***Alice Hill, Senior Counselor to the Secretary and Chair of the DHS Blue Campaign***

the [Blue Campaign](#) – a first-of-its-kind campaign to coordinate and enhance the Department’s anti-human trafficking efforts. The Blue Campaign leverages the varied authorities and resources of the Department to deter human trafficking by increasing awareness, protecting victims, and contributing to a robust criminal justice response. The campaign is led by a cross-component steering committee, which I chair; it brings together representatives from seventeen operational and support components across DHS.

The Blue Campaign has accomplished a great deal, including enhancing public awareness through public service announcements and advertising across the U.S. and South America; creating training for DHS personnel and state and local law enforcement to help in the detection of potential victims of human trafficking; and assisting victims by addressing urgent needs, providing immigration relief, and connecting them to crisis support and social services.

The Blue Campaign embraces collaboration with other federal agencies and non-governmental organizations; combating trafficking will take our combined efforts. We hold stakeholder meetings regularly to inform the NGO community of our efforts and collaborate with them on how we can better reach potential victims and make our programs even better. We also participate in the Senior Policy Operating Group, a cross-departmental group that implements U.S. Government anti-trafficking policies and guidelines.

I am very proud of what this campaign has accomplished in a short period of time, and I look forward to what we will accomplish over the next few months. You can visit our website, [www.dhs.gov/humantrafficking](http://www.dhs.gov/humantrafficking), and our [Facebook](#) page to learn more about our upcoming activities and access resources.

*- - Alice Hill, 10/20/2011*

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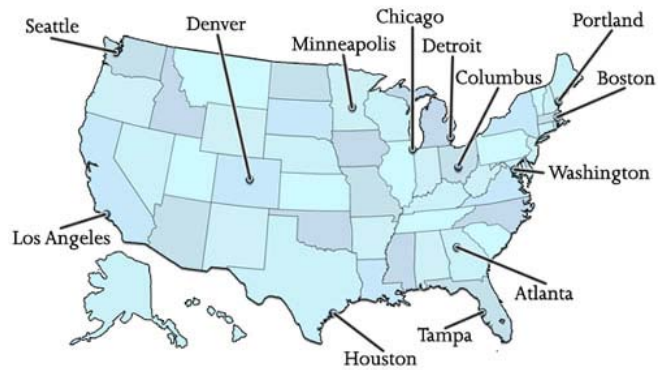
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## **CRCL Expands Community Engagement in 2011**

One of CRCL's key roles is to engage with communities whose civil rights and civil liberties may be affected by Department activities. Through its engagement efforts, CRCL works to inform communities about Department policies and avenues of redress, while also relaying community concerns back to the Department.

CRCL accomplishes this work by hosting community engagement roundtables with diverse communities in multiple cities across the country. In 2011, CRCL expanded its reach by establishing new roundtables in eight cities: Atlanta, Denver, Houston, Minneapolis, Portland (Maine), Seattle, Tampa, and Washington, DC; this brings our total to 13 cities.



Community engagement roundtables give community leaders an opportunity to interface routinely and directly with DHS on the issues most important to them. Roundtables are held quarterly in each city, and usually hosted by federal agencies and community organizations on an alternating basis. Attendees can submit questions beforehand so that officials are prepared to respond, and the topics of discussion focus on concerns specific to each city's participants. These open forums bring all the relevant DHS Components to the table; other federal agencies and leaders also regularly attend, including the local FBI Special Agent-in-Charge, Community Relations Service, and U.S. Attorney's Offices.

Information gathered at roundtables can play a vital role in helping to inform policy decisions and improve the effectiveness of policies and programs. For example, discussion and feedback from recent roundtables have resulted in improvements to CRCL's complaints process and in training improvements in several DHS components.

CRCL's engagement activities are far from limited to the quarterly roundtables. For example, we often convene town hall meetings to address local issues and concerns; unlike roundtables, which are generally attended by community leaders, town halls are hosted by faith-based or community organizations and are then more widely open. In addition, we host "Incident Communication Coordination Team" calls, a conference call mechanism for rapid communication with national community leaders when some particular incident calls for speedy engagement of this type. These calls are used to inform leaders on the Department's position and actions, and also to receive feedback regarding community concerns. Finally, we convene groups, both live and on the phone, to discuss particular issues as they arise—ranging from religious modesty concerns about TSA screening to immigration detention issues and [Secure Communities](#).

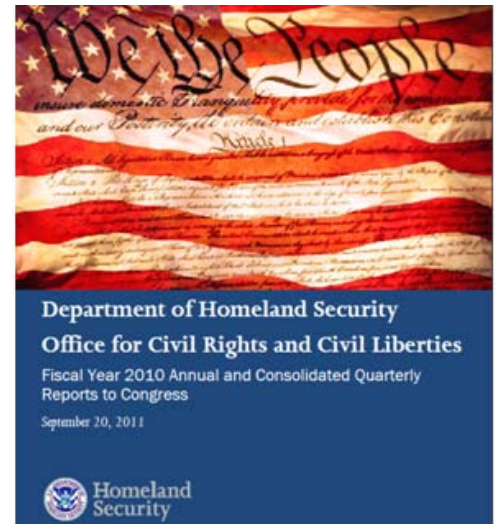
CRCL also meets with immigration advocacy organizations to hear their concerns regarding the civil and human rights and civil liberties implications of Department immigration programs, policies, procedures, and operations. We also hosts a regular quarterly meeting with immigration advocacy organizations—the Civil Rights/Civil Liberties Committee—to discuss a variety of immigration matters including civil and human rights protections of immigrant detainees; verification databases and programs like [E-Verify](#) and [Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements \(SAVE\)](#); and state and local enforcement programs, among many other topics. In fact, just this past year, CRCL convened the first West Coast meeting of the Civil Rights/Civil Liberties Committee in Los Angeles, CA, in order to hear the thoughts and concerns of West Coast-based organizations on issues at the nexus of civil rights, civil liberties, immigration, and homeland security.

To learn more about CRCL's community engagement efforts, visit our [website](#), or email [communityengagement@dhs.gov](mailto:communityengagement@dhs.gov).

## **CRCL Releases 2010 Annual Report and 2011 Quarterly Reports to Congress**

CRCL is pleased to announce the submission of its [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2010 Annual Report and Consolidated Quarterly Reports to Congress](#). In accordance with 6 U.S.C. § 345 and 42 U.S.C. § 2000ee-1, the Report highlights the activities and accomplishments of the office during FY 2010. Some of CRCL's most significant initiatives and achievements over the reporting period include:

- *Improving processing of public complaints*
- *Eliminating the backlog of DHS's Equal Employment Opportunity complaints awaiting final agency adjudication*
- *Broadening community engagement efforts to new locations and stakeholder communities*
- *Partnering with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on detention reform and enforcement improvements*
- *Working with the Transportation Security Administration to ensure aviation security measures protect civil rights and civil liberties*
- *Expanding the reach of civil rights and civil liberties training at DHS-supported Fusion Centers*
- *Improving the Department's implementation of the antidiscrimination requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which governs agencies and organizations that receive financial support from DHS*
- *Promoting access to response and disaster resources for people with limited English proficiency adversely affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill*



CRCL also submitted the combined [FY 2011 First and Second Quarter Report to Congress](#) as required by section 803 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, 42 U.S.C. § 2000ee-1(f). This Report features a new focused format, which allows for more timely and transparent submissions that focus on complaints data and analysis. Continue to check our [website](#) for the third and fourth quarter reports, which will soon be available.

## **Disability Employment Awareness Month 2011**



On October 3, 2011, President Obama issued a [proclamation](#) designating October 2011 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), urging all Americans to embrace the talents and skills that individuals with disabilities bring to our workplaces and communities and to promote the right to equal employment opportunity for all people.

The theme of this October's NDEAM is "Profit by Investing in Workers with Disabilities." Activities showcase the contributions of workers with disabilities and inform the public that they represent a highly skilled talent pool that can help employers compete in today's global economy.

The Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy coordinates NDEAM activities. For more information, visit [www.dol.gov/odep](http://www.dol.gov/odep).

## **Hispanic Heritage Month 2011**

[National Hispanic Heritage Month](#) is recognized each year from September 15 to October 15, as a time to celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of Hispanic Americans whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.



On September 15, 2011, President Obama issued a [proclamation](#) calling on public officials, educator, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month. Administration officials participated in activities and events focused on this year's theme: "Renewing the American Dream." Learn more about National Hispanic Heritage Month events [here](#).

### **CRCL on the Road, October**

#### ***October 5 – Houston, Texas***

A CRCL representative spoke on to the Greater Houston Partnership Immigration Taskforce.

#### ***October 5 – Columbus, Ohio***

A CRCL representative attended a Law Enforcement/Somali Advisory Group meeting.

#### ***October 6 – Houston, Texas***

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

#### ***October 14 – Denver, Colorado***

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

#### ***October 21 – Seattle, Washington***

CRCL will convene its regular community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

#### ***October 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> – Chicago, Illinois***

A CRCL representative will attend the International Chiefs of Police annual conference.

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

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**This is the second 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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*