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Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties **U.S. Department of Homeland Security** Washington, DC 20528



August 7, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

Tamara J. Kessler MACting Office FROM:

Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

SUBJECT: Nondiscriminatory Law Enforcement and Screening Activities

On April 26, 2013, Secretary Napolitano transmitted to all components a revised DHS policy regarding nondiscrimination in law enforcement and screening activities. Pursuant to the policy, each component is required to:

- 1) "[I]nclude the DHS policy . . . in all manuals, policies, directives, and guidelines regarding any activity in which the use of race, ethnicity, or nationality may arise as a security screening, enforcement, or investigative criterion";
- 2) "[I]n coordination with the Department's Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, . . . implement Component-specific policy and procedures to implement this guidance for law enforcement, investigation, and security activities"; and
- 3) "[E]nsure that all law enforcement personnel, including supervisors and managers, are trained to the standards set forth in the [Department of Justice] guidance and the DHS policy . . . and are held accountable for meeting those standards." (Emphasis added.)

I understand that some Components are well underway in implementing this policy. To ensure consistent and timely implementation across DHS, CRCL will convene a short-term working group to set goals and facilitate coordination of the component-specific implementation.

Accordingly, by Monday, August 19, please identify one or more individuals to represent your Component in coordinating implementation of the policy on the working group by responding to this workflow to CRCL ExecSec. It may be reasonable to include representatives from your Component's policy-making, training, and counsel offices. Please direct any questions to Scott Shuchart, Senior Advisor, CRCL, scott.shuchart@hq.dhs.gov, 202-357-7676.

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Enclosures

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Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Washington, DC 20528



April 26, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR COMPONENT HEADS

FROM:

Secretary Napolitano //

Subject:

The Department of Homeland Security's Commitment to

Nondiscriminatory Law Enforcement and Screening Activities

The Department of Homeland Security's mission is to ensure that the Nation remains a safe, secure, resilient place where the American way of life can thrive. As former Secretary Ridge explained in the predecessor to this policy, "In all we do to secure America, our strategies and our actions must be consistent with the individual rights and civil liberties protected by the Constitution and the rule of law."

The Department of Homeland Security's policy is to prohibit the consideration of race or ethnicity in our investigation, screening, and enforcement activities in all but the most exceptional instances. The following is the Department's official policy on this issue:

"Racial profiling" is the invidious use of race or ethnicity as a criterion in conducting stops, searches, and other law enforcement, investigation, or screening activities. It is premised on the erroneous assumption that any particular individual of one race or ethnicity is more likely to engage in misconduct than any particular individual of another race or ethnicity. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has explicitly adopted the Department of Justice's "Guidance Regarding the Use of Race by Federal Law Enforcement Agencies," issued in June 2003. It is the policy of DHS to prohibit the consideration of race or ethnicity in our daily law enforcement and screening activities in all but the most exceptional instances, as defined in the DOJ Guidance. DHS personnel may use race or ethnicity only when a compelling governmental interest is present, and only in a way narrowly tailored to meet that compelling interest. Of course, race- or ethnicity-based information that is specific to particular suspects or incidents, or ongoing criminal activities, schemes or enterprises, may be considered, as stated in the DOJ Guidance.

Except as noted below, it is DHS policy, although not required by the Constitution, that tools, policies, directives, and rules in law enforcement and security settings that consider, as an investigative or screening criterion, an individual's simple connection to a particular country, by birth or citizenship, should be reserved for situations in which such consideration is based on an assessment of intelligence and risk, and in which alternatives do not meet security needs, and

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however, do not apply to antiterrorism, immigration, or customs activities in which nationality is expressly relevant to the administration or enforcement of a statute, regulation, or executive order, or in individualized discretionary use of nationality as a screening, investigation, or enforcement factor).

All Components should include the DHS policy stated above in all manuals, policies, directives, and guidelines regarding any activity in which the use of race, ethnicity, or nationality may arise as a security screening, enforcement, or investigative criterion. Each Component, in coordination with the Department's Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, should implement Component-specific policy and procedures to implement this guidance for law enforcement, investigation, and security activities. Moreover, all Components should ensure that all law enforcement personnel, including supervisors and managers, are trained to the standards set forth in the DOJ Guidance and the DHS policy stated above, and are held accountable for meeting those standards.

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S COMMITMENT TO NONDISCRIMINATORY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SCREENING ACTIVITIES

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

The Secretary has directed Components to develop Component-specific policy and procedures to implement the attached policy on Nondiscriminatory Law Enforcement and Screening Activities, dated April 26, 2013. This document offers additional guidance for such policy and procedures regarding the use of race, ethnicity, country of birth, and nationality for law enforcement, national security and transportation security purposes:

A. DHS programs that use race, ethnicity, or country of birth as a security screening, enforcement, or investigative criterion:

- 1. Race- or ethnicity-based screening, whether based on appearance, name, or country of birth, should be limited to situations in which there is a compelling interest and the screening protocol is narrowly tailored to meet that interest. National security is *per se* a compelling interest, but use of race and ethnicity must nonetheless be narrowly tailored to the particular national security concern involved in a proposed use.
- 2. All tools, policies, directives, and rules utilizing ethnic or country of birth factors should remain in effect no longer than necessary. To ensure that this is so, any such tools, policies, directives, and rules should be subject to periodic review by the relevant Component's leadership, intelligence office, and counsel, which should include particular focus on timeliness and validity. Each Component should develop a review process to implement this requirement.
- 3. Racial, ethnic, or country of birth criteria should be coupled with other characteristics, if practicable, to better focus law enforcement or screening attention. Approaches that respond to actual travel itineraries, or combine race, ethnicity, or country of birth with additional limiting characteristics (age, sex, travel history, known affiliations), are preferable to those that draw distinctions among individuals on the basis of ethnicity or country of birth alone.
- 4. Reasonably available alternatives are preferred over protocols that depend on DHS enforcement, investigation, and screening personnel's subjective estimation of individuals' likely race or ethnicity. If such protocols cannot be avoided, they too should be reviewed periodically. In addition, DHS officers and agents who conduct security screening, enforcement and investigative functions should receive necessary instruction

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¹ These four terms are used here in their most ordinary senses, which are somewhat different from the technical meanings they have acquired in equal employment and other domestic nondiscrimination law (where, in particular, "national origin" is sometimes a term of art meaning "ethnicity"). Here, "ethnicity" means ancestry, language, culture, or other similar social characteristics; "country of birth" means the political entity where the individual was born; and "nationality" means a country to which an individual has a relationship along the lines of citizenship. The expression "national origin" is not used here, to avoid confusion.

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or training to make sensible identifications of relevant characteristics, rather than relying on their general expectations about ethnic groups, and officer or agent perceptions should be supported, where possible, by computerized name analysis.

B. DHS programs that use nationality as a security screening, enforcement or investigative criterion:

- 1. Many of the statutes DHS implements or enforces draw explicit nationality distinctions. For example, under the customs laws, the nationality of a person can affect duty exemptions; under the immigration laws, nationality affects an alien's eligibility for admission under the visa waiver program or for temporary protected status; and under the embargo laws, nationality can affect the ability of a person to import or export merchandise. Other examples include the Trading with the Enemy Act, 50 U.S.C. App. §§ 1 et seq.; the International Economic Emergency Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. §§ 1701-1707; the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966; and the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act of 1997. Using nationality for antiterrorism, customs, or immigration activities in which nationality is expressly relevant to the administration or enforcement of a statute, regulation, or executive order to, for example, trigger screening, inspection, or investigative steps is entirely appropriate and needs no further justification; it is excluded from sections B.3 and B.4, below. If nationality is not expressly relevant to the administration or enforcement of a statute, regulation, or executive order, a proposed use of nationality may still be permissible but must comply with the requirements in sections B.3 and B.4, below.
- 2. In addition, individualized discretionary use of nationality as a screening, enforcement, or investigative factor—for example by an officer or agent using his or her training and experience to conduct an inspection at or near the border—is not limited by the requirements of sections B.3 and B.4, below, which are directed at more general tools, policies, directives, and rules.
- 3. In other settings, in which nationality is used for security screening, enforcement, or investigative decisions, rules or policies establishing nationality-based criteria are preferable, from a civil rights perspective, to those establishing ethnicity-based criteria. However, unless use of nationality-based rules is part of an operation to protect particular at-risk populations, such use should be limited if limits are consistent with security objectives. In the other settings covered by this paragraph, rules or policies that require consideration of nationality should be reserved for situations in which that consideration is based on an assessment of intelligence and risk, should not remain in effect longer than necessary, and should be subject to periodic review to further that outcome. Each Component should develop a review process to implement this requirement.
- 4. Use of nationality criteria (when not connected to a nationality-specific legal requirement or where nationality is not expressly relevant to the administration and enforcement of a statute, regulation, or executive order) should be coupled with other characteristics, if relevant and practicable, to better focus law enforcement or screening efforts. Approaches that respond to actual travel itineraries, or combine nationality with additional limiting characteristics (for example, age, sex, travel history, known

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affiliations), are preferable, when relevant and appropriate, to those that draw distinctions among individuals on the basis of nationality alone.

C. General

The Department's policy and guidance on these topics are not intended to, do not, and may not be relied upon to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by any party in any administrative, civil, or criminal matter.