

# **COUNCIL ON COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

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## **I. Purpose**

This directive establishes the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Council on Combating Violence Against Women (“Council”) and its membership, and outlines the Council functions, coordination responsibilities, and operating procedures.

The Council focuses on advancing overall knowledge of and compliance with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (VTVPA), subsequent reauthorizations of those laws, and related immigration laws and issues, as well as the provision of training and resources to stakeholders and the public as appropriate.

## **II. Scope**

This directive applies to the following DHS Components: Office of Policy, Office of General Counsel, Office of Policy’s Office for State and Local Law Enforcement, Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman, Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement, Customs and Border Protection, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, the Office of the Secretary, including a member from the DHS Blue Campaign, the Office of Health Affairs, and any other Component who has programming and policy responsibilities that relate to the protection of individuals who are the victims of domestic violence and other crimes enumerated in the VAWA or VTVPA and their reauthorizations, such as the U.S. Coast Guard, as they relate to the administration of our immigration laws.

## **III. Authorities**

- A. The Homeland Security Act of 2002, codified in Title 6, United States Code (U.S.C.) Pub. L. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135 (2002).

- B. Violence Against Women Act of 1994, codified in Title 6, §§ 40001-40703 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, Pub. L. 103-322, 108 Stat. 1902
- C. Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, 22 U.S.C. 7101, Pub. L. 106-386, 114 Stat. 1464
- D. Trafficking and Victims Protection and Reauthorization Act of 2003, Pub L. 108-193 (2003)
- E. Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2005, Pub. L. 109-162, (2005)
- F. William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA), Pub. L. 110-457, 122 Stat. 5044 (2008)

## IV. Responsibilities

- A. The Co-Chairs manage the execution of this Directive. The **Office of Policy's Assistant Secretary for State and Local Law Enforcement** and an **appointee designated by the Secretary** are the appointed co-chairs of the Council.
- B. The enumerated **Component heads**:
  1. Appoint an individual(s) responsible for coordinating DHS efforts on the Council to combat violence against women.
  2. Develop a written process for evaluating their component's efforts in support of this Directive.

## V. Policy and Requirements

**Policy.** Through the Council, DHS ensures that policies combating violence against women are consistent department-wide. As "One DHS", it is important to ensure that the Department continues to work together to address these issues. By identifying opportunities to build consensus on challenging issues across the Department's components, implementing best practices throughout the Department, and coordinating efforts Department-wide, this Council supports the Department's missions of effectively administering the laws preventing violence against women and enhancing homeland security for all. This Council also formally recognizes the important steps the Department has taken to place protections in effect that prevent and combat violence against women, including domestic violence and other crimes.

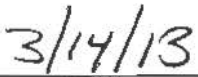
**Requirements:**

- A. The Council:
  - 1. Coordinates with the White House and Federal agencies to support DHS strategies to combat violence against women and children.
  - 2. Engages with the public to discuss issues that impact the protection of victims of domestic violence and other crimes.
  - 3. Develops and coordinates the implementation of strategies to support compliance with immigration laws and addresses affiliated issues as they relate to victims of domestic violence and other crimes enumerated in the VAWA and VTVPA.
  - 4. Makes recommendations to the Secretary on an as needed basis.
- B. All Components submit quarterly reports to the Council identifying efforts, priorities and accomplishments related to combating violence against women.
- C. The Co-Chairs report bi-annually to the Secretary.

**VI. Questions**

Address any questions or concerns regarding this Directive to the Assistant Secretary of the Office of State and Local Law Enforcement.

  
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Rafael Borrás  
Under Secretary for Management

  
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Date