

THE COUNCIL ON COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

I. Purpose

This Instruction implements the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Directive 002-01, The 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 compliance with, and knowledge about, 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, and the provision of training and resources to stakeholders and the public as appropriate.

II. Scope

This Instruction 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 Health Affairs, the immediate Office of the Secretary, including a member of the DHS Blue Campaign, 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 U.S. Coast Guard, as they relate to the administration of our immigration laws.

III. References

- 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. Definitions

- A. **Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) Family Violence Prevention and Services Program**: The primary Federal funding stream dedicated to the support of emergency shelter and related assistance for victims of domestic violence and their dependents. Funding to the States, Territories, and Tribes provides core support to more than 1,500 community-based domestic violence programs.
- B. **Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Violence Against Women (OVW)**: The administrator of financial and technical assistance to communities across the country that are developing programs, policies, and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- C. **Co-Chairs of the Council**: Consists of the Office of Policy, Assistant Secretary for State and Local Law Enforcement and an appointee designated by the Secretary.

V. Responsibilities

- A. The **Co-Chairs of the Council**:
 - 1. Manage the Council, ensuring it is staffed appropriately, and may rotate staffing responsibilities.
 - 2. Develop strategies to support Department compliance with VAWA and TVPRA and identify and address additional issues as they

relate to victims of domestic violence and other crimes enumerated in the VAWA and VTVPA.

3. Implements and oversees DHS policies regarding combating violence against women and works with the Components to integrate all programs used within the Department.
4. Coordinate an annual DHS agenda that supports the implementation of strategies to combat violence against women, and addresses related issues.
5. Lead the formulation of annual goals and objective, along with projected outcomes, for the Council.
6. Determine annually the appropriate evaluation methods for the goals and objectives to be utilized by the Council.
7. Coordinate with Component Heads to facilitate appropriate designations for representation on the Council.
8. Report bi-annually to the Secretary on the Council's priorities and accomplishments.

B. The **Component Heads:**

1. Appoint a representative(s) of the component to the Council, who is familiar with programming, legal, and policy issues that relate to the protection of victims under VAWA and the VTVPA.
2. Develop quarterly reports to the Council identifying efforts, priorities and accomplishments related to combating violence against women
3. Ensure compliance in their agency with VAWA Confidentiality provisions.

C. The **Component Representatives:**

Identify gaps and systemic issues in the protection of battered immigrants, including women and children, and coordinate efforts to address these issues, including, but not limited to VTVPA and VAWA issues and other issues of special impact on women.

1. Facilitate DHS collaboration and communication about related issues with stakeholders, including federal, state, and local law enforcement, other federal, state, and local government partners,

and advocates for women, and relevant officials from the Executive Office of the President.

2. Coordinate inter-agency communication and partnerships between their component and Federal government partners including, but not limited to, the White House, the Department of Health and Human Service's Family Violence Prevention and Services Program, and the Department of Justice's Office of Violence against Women.
3. Coordinate with the DHS Office of Public Affairs and, subsequently, the White House Council on Women and Girls to educate the public about DHS efforts to combat violence against women.
4. Contribute comments and suggestions to relevant components during development of legislation and regulations related to VAWA and VTVPA and reauthorizations, and other relevant legislation or regulations.

VI. Content and Procedures

A. Council Membership

1. The Council consists of one representative from the following components: Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman (CISOMB), Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL), Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Office of the General Counsel (OGC), Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA), Office of Public Affairs (OPA), Office of the Secretary (OSEC), Office of Policy (PLCY), Office of Policy's Office for State and Local Law Enforcement (OSLLE), Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA), the Office of Health Affairs (OHA), the Immediate Office of the Secretary, including a member of the DHS Blue Campaign, 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 U.S. Coast Guard.

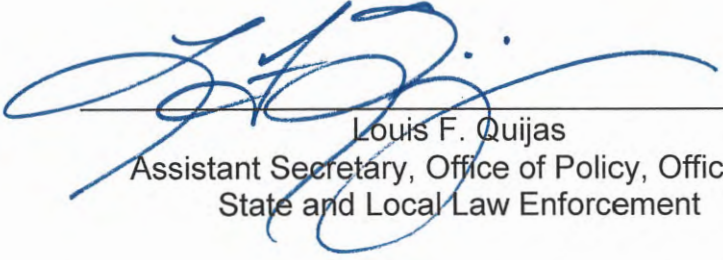

B. Operating Procedures

1. The Council meets at least quarterly. Council Committees may meet in addition to the quarterly meetings.

2. Council Meetings should be announced to the participants in advance and be held during normal working hours.
3. Council members:
 - a. Attend all meetings personally or through a designated surrogate.
 - b. Monitor the progress of efforts in their own component or office and update the Council on the initiatives, policy announcements and related information.
 - c. Bring SMEs from their office or component as needed.

VII. Questions

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

 _____ Louis F. Quijas Assistant Secretary, Office of Policy, Office for State and Local Law Enforcement	 _____ Date
---	--