

2025 Travel tips from CUNY CLEAR for brown folk, Muslims and immigrants

Webinar, April 9, 2025

NOTES from the webinar by CUNY CLEAR (City University of NY, Creating Law Enforcement Accountability & Responsibility)

1. For citizens and green card holders (GCs): **Opt out of face recognition and body scan, and request for ID inspection & a pat down.** You do not want the CBP and DHS to have your likeness that can be used for AI. Be prepared to be held in questioning but being inconvenienced protects others with less visa status.
2. If you bring meds, be ready to show your prescription.
3. For everyone: **On your phone, disable touch and face I.D. when crossing the border.**
4. **For citizens and GCs, you have the right not to give your password.** You will be delayed and might be threatened but hold your ground.
5. For everyone: CBP claims the legal right to access any individual's device and their password. But you should always reject giving your password. **CBP will present a paper or some form claiming that they can open your devices. Do not give your password.**
6. For citizens and GCs: The law says you do not have to offer your password. CBP might lie to you and insist on getting your device. They might show you some form that looks "official." Stand your ground and do not give your device or password.
7. Strong strategy for citizens and GCs: **Stand your ground and insist on your right not to give your password. If they take your device, get a receipt.**
8. Safest and most secure strategy for everyone: Leave your phone at home.
9. If you must take your phone, **encrypt your iPhone with a long password. 15 characters.**
10. Password app for creating a strong password: Use the Diceword app.
11. Another strategy for everyone: **Enable lockdown mode for iPhone.**
12. If you are taken to a secondary screening area, keep calm. **Do not sign any forms.** Insist on asking for a lawyer. Say you will not sign anything without a lawyer.