



**Office of the New York State
Attorney General**

**Letitia James
Attorney General**

January 9, 2025

Hon. Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Hon. Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE
Washington, DC 20528-0525

Dear President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas,

We write on behalf of the States of New York, Arizona, California, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Rhode Island, and Vermont to request that your administration extend and expand Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designations to prevent deportation of noncitizens to countries that are extraordinarily unsafe, whether because of armed conflict, environmental catastrophe, or other circumstances. TPS is a critical humanitarian tool to ensure that our nation's immigration policy remains consistent with our long history of providing safe haven to those who flee armed conflict, natural disasters, and repressive conditions. Moreover, TPS recipients are critical contributors to the States' communities; they employ people as business owners, work in critical fields such as healthcare and childcare, and are active members in civic life.

Under the TPS program, nationals from designated countries who are already present in the United States can apply to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. If an individual is eligible, the agency will grant them TPS status, which provides authorization to work in the United States and protection from deportation for as long as the designation for their home country remains in place. A TPS designation for a particular country lasts up to eighteen months, and the federal government must determine whether to extend or terminate the designation at least sixty days prior to expiration.

At present, seventeen countries are designated for TPS, all of which are not places to which it is safe to return.¹ From Afghanistan to Yemen, the current list of designated countries reflects a judgment by the United States that our moral and legal obligations require us to allow people from these countries who are already present in the United States to stay here until conditions in their home countries improve.

We urge you to extend TPS designations for all countries currently so designated, but at a minimum, we ask that you extend the designations of countries whose designation is set to expire within the next six months: Afghanistan, Cameroon, El Salvador, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, South Sudan, Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela.

Additionally, we urge you to designate the following countries for TPS: Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, and Mali. According to the U.S. Department of State, these countries are all experiencing widespread human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings.² Several of these countries are experiencing armed conflict that jeopardizes civilian lives and involves conflict-related sexual violence, use of child soldiers, and other horrors. There are relatively few nationals of these countries in the United States, and extending the TPS designation to these countries would therefore not reflect a significant change to immigration policy, but it would reaffirm for the world the United States' commitment to serve as a safe haven for those who have fled violence, disaster, and repression.

Sincerely,



Letitia James
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State of New York

¹ The full list of countries, as of December 2024, is: Afghanistan, Burma (Myanmar), Cameroon, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Lebanon, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, and Yemen. U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, Temporary Protected Status, available at <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status>.

² See, U.S. Dep't of State, 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Burkina Faso, available at: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/burkina-faso/>; U.S. Dep't of State, 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Central African Republic, available at: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/central-african-republic/>;

U.S. Dep't of State, 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Democratic Republic of the Congo, available at: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/democratic-republic-of-the-congo/>;

U.S. Dep't of State, 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Libya, available at: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/libya/>;

U.S. Dep't of State, 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Mali, available at: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/mali/>.



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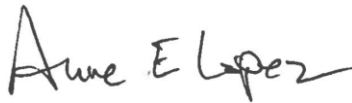
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