



SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD  
**NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER**  
*Rise Up AND Act for Justice*

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## **Trump Administration is Testing the Soul of our Nation Ending Temporary Protected Status for Salvadorans**

The Trump Administration has announced that it is ending the immigration protected status of nearly 200,000 residents from El Salvador and forcing their return to that dangerous and unprepared country in 18 months. Temporary Protected Status is granted on rare occasions to people living in the U.S. from countries that have experienced severe natural disasters, war or other extreme conditions.

"This single decision will have devastating multiplying affects on families in both countries, on the economy of both countries and on the soul of our nation," said Lawrence E. Couch, director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

"These 200,000 residents have families in the United States. They have 193,000 children who are U.S. citizens. Families will be torn apart here and imperiled in El Salvador. Twenty percent of families in El Salvador rely on the remittances of money that their U.S.-based family members send them to survive."

"Salvadorans living here under this protected status have joined and built up the American economy and are integral to our communities," Couch continued. "They own homes, go to church, support our schools and neighborhoods, and 88 percent are employed, contributing to the U.S. tax base. And those remittances that Salvadorans living in the U.S. send back represent 17 percent of El Salvador's economy."

The government of El Salvador also has asked that TPS be continued for its citizens living in the U.S. They recognize that their economy, institutions and infrastructure cannot accommodate its own citizens, and they realize that they cannot keep their people safe from the gang violence that has overtaken its society.

"I believe that the American people are a hopeful and welcoming people, but our government is out of sync with our values. Our neighbors, friends and co-workers are constantly coming under assault from this Administration because they were born in another country. But isn't that why the United States of America was founded? The soul of our nation is being tested," said Couch.

The Trump Administration has recently ended TPS for people from Nicaragua, Sudan and Haiti. A decision on Honduras, whose deadline is this May, should come soon.

The National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd call on Congress to quickly find a permanent solution allowing residents under the TPS program to become permanent U.S. residents.

*[The National Advocacy Center](#) educates and advocates on social justice issues for the transformation of society to the benefit of all people reflecting the spirituality, history and mission of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. NAC advocates at the Federal level for people living in poverty, immigrants, victims of human trafficking, victims of domestic abuse, and other vulnerable populations.*

*The Sisters of the Good Shepherd was founded in France in 1835 and are in over 70 countries on 5 continents and have had a presence in the United States for over 175 years. With a presence in 22 states and 1 U. S. Territory, the Sisters and their Lay Mission Partners have dedicated themselves to serving girls, women and families who experience poverty, exploitation, vulnerability and marginalization.*

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