# Interfaith Toolkit to Defend Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

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Our Collective Call to Care

This toolkit is intended to help educate faith communities about our brothers and sisters with Temporary Protected Status and to inspire and provide the tools and materials necessary for action.

As you’ll see, there are many opportunities for action outlined in the toolkit, all requiring varying resources and assets. Some communities may be capable of pulling off any action in this toolkit, some will not. We encourage you to look for opportunities for collaboration with other faith communities to overcome limitations.

What is most important is that your faith community take a public stand in defense of the lives of our neighbors and their families, no matter how big or small. Every action counts.

As people of faith, let’s stand together, shoulder to shoulder, and raise one voice. No matter how we pray, we are collectively called to never turn our backs on those in need.

What is TPS?

Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, is a life-saving immigration program that allows foreign nationals to remain in the U.S. if, while they were in the U.S., something catastrophic happened in their country of origin that prevented their safe return. Examples include war, famine, natural disaster, or epidemic. TPS protects people from deportation and allows them to work legally while they remain in the U.S. TPS is a temporary, humanitarian form of relief that does not grant permanent residence in the U.S., nor does it provide of “amnesty” to unauthorized immigrants.

A variety of political and/or environmental catastrophes have justified TPS designations since the program was established in 1990 with bipartisan Congressional support. Right now, TPS protects approximately 330,000 people in the U.S. who would otherwise be subjected to disease, violence, starvation, the aftermath of natural disasters, and other life-threatening conditions.

TPS in the Current Political Landscape

The administration is in the process of phasing out the use of TPS. In May 2017, the administration told Haitian TPS holders they should “prepare to go home.” Although progress has been made, Haiti is far from sufficiently recovered from the 2010 magnitude 7.0 earthquake that devastated the country, an unprecedented cholera epidemic that was inadvertently introduced by United Nations peacekeepers following the earthquake, and Category 4 Hurricane Matthew, which struck just a year ago in 2016.

In September 2017, the administration terminated TPS for the Sudan. The United Nations recently reported that there are 2.3 million people displaced by violence in the Sudan who need humanitarian aid, including 8,200 people who have been newly displaced due to ongoing conflict in Darfur. Sudan is also facing a growing cholera epidemic and 3.6 million people are food insecure, with areas of the country facing emergency food shortages.
Temporary Protected Status: A Faithful Response to Humanitarian Crises

As people of faith, our concern stems from shared values rooted in our sacred texts that remind us to love our neighbor and welcome the sojourner among us. By welcoming those in need, TPS translates our core American and faith values into action. We have a moral obligation not to cause destabilizing consequences or undermine U.S. efforts to advance our foreign policy and regional security goals.

Members of Congress, faith leaders, impacted populations, and community members have called for an extension of TPS for all nationals currently residing in the U.S. They have conveyed to the administration the dire country conditions that would make returning these individuals and families to those countries a dangerous and consequential mistake. Failing to extend TPS would needlessly tear families and communities apart.

Faith Teachings

"The strangers who sojourn with you shall be to you as the natives among you, and you shall love them as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." Leviticus 19:33-34.

“There shall be one standard for you; it shall be for the stranger as well as the native, for I am the LORD your God.” Leviticus 24:22

“…I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Matthew 25:31-46

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:2

“Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none…” Luke 3:11

“Islam began as a something strange and it will return to being strange, so blessed are the strangers.” Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 145.

"And do good unto your parents, and near of kin, and unto orphans, and the needy, and the neighbour from among your own people, and the neighbor who is a stranger, and the friend by your side, and the wayfarer, and those whom you rightfully possess. Verily, God does not love any of those who, full of self-conceit, act in a boastful manner..." An-Nisa (4:36)

"Those who believed and adopted exile and fought for the Faith, with their property and their persons, in the cause of Allah, as well as those who gave (them) asylum and aid--these are (all) friends and protectors, one of another.” Al Anfal (8:72)

"Don't oppress a stranger" - You know the feelings of the stranger - how painful it is for him when you oppress him. Exodus 23:9

“Bring water to the thirsty, meet the fugitive with bread… For they have fled from the swords, from the drawn sword, from the bent bow, and from the stress of battle.” Isaiah 21:14-15

“And (as for) those who believed and fled and struggled hard in Allah's way, and those who gave shelter and helped, these are the believers truly; they shall have forgiveness and honorable provision.” Quran 8:74

“And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.” Deuteronomy 10:19
Who are TPS Holders? A Snapshot

- More than 90% are from Haiti, El Salvador, or Honduras. Of these recipients:
  - 50% are homeowners
  - More than 50% of TPS recipients from El Salvador and Honduras have lived in the U.S. for more than 20 years
  - 87% speak English
  - 68,000, or 22%, arrived in the U.S. before they turned 16
- Recipients are parents to more than 273,000 U.S. citizens
- More than 80% of TPS recipients are employed, a rate much higher than that of U.S.-born populations (63%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>End Date of TPS Designation</th>
<th>Cause of Designation</th>
<th>Number of Recipients</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>March 9, 2018</td>
<td>Earthquakes</td>
<td>195,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>January 22, 2018</td>
<td>Earthquake</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>January 5, 2018</td>
<td>Hurricane Mitch</td>
<td>57,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>June 24, 2018</td>
<td>Earthquake</td>
<td>8,950</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>January 5, 2018</td>
<td>Hurricane Mitch</td>
<td>2,250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>September 17, 2018</td>
<td>War, Droughts, and Famine</td>
<td>270</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>Termination effective November 2, 2018</td>
<td>War</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>March 31, 2018</td>
<td>War</td>
<td>5,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>September 3, 2018</td>
<td>War</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>May 2, 2019</td>
<td>War</td>
<td>75-200²</td>
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**Stories: Understanding the Impact**

Isais Portillo, 40, has been a TPS-holder since 2001. He is a single father taking care of five boys ages 12, 10, 9, 5, and 4 – all born in the United States. He loves his boys and being a part of their life as they grow up. He has worked in construction for years. Portillo, in fact, is working on the construction of the Purple Line rail project, which will benefit his neighborhood of Hyattsville, Maryland. But if he loses his TPS status, it will be devastating for his family who depend on him.

“My biggest fear is losing my job. They only give me work because I have legal status through TPS. Without my work permit, I couldn’t work. If they took my permit away, how could I support or leave my kids who are here? I would be lost.”

Evelin Rivas, 36, has been a TPS holder since 2001. Evelin is a child care worker and house-keeper. She came to the United States after the devastating 12-year war in El Salvador. Along with her husband who is also a TPS recipient, they have two U.S. born children of 15 and 7 years of age. Her husband and her are homeowners in Maryland. They have long contributed to their community. For five years, Evelin helped raised the children of a military family. She is currently the child care worker for two families who depend on her to care for their children while they work. On the weekends, Evelin is a self-employed house-keeper who cleans the homes of families in the Washington, DC metro area.

“I don’t know what I would do if we lost TPS. We’d lose our home – everything we’ve built together. But it would be much worse for my children. Both of them are Americans – they’ve grown up in the United States. How could we take them to a country they’ve never lived in, without the opportunities or the security that America has given them? This country has been our home for decades. I don’t know what I would do if we lost TPS. Our world we be turned upside down.”

Luis Martinez, 40, has been a TPS holder since 2001. Luis is a small business owner. He runs a company that provides landscaping, residential renovation and cleaning services. Both, his wife and him are TPS recipients who have two U.S. born children (12 and 7 years old). They came to the United States after the devastating 12-year war in El Salvador. Luis is active in his community – he goes to church and helps run a soccer junior academy for the Catholic school where his two children attend.

“America gave me a chance to become the person I am today. I worked hard to buy my home and learn to speak English and run my own company. I really feel like I’ve reached the American Dream. It’s wasn’t easy, but thanks to TPS I was able to work and give back to my family and community. Losing TPS would be devastating.”
How to Teach your Faith Community about Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

Use this model agenda to organize an educational event about TPS at your place of worship or community center. We encourage you to modify the structure to fit your community’s needs. The estimated time for this event is one hour.

A Note about Guest Speakers: Prioritize partnering with an immigration legal service provider to ensure your audience receives accurate information about immigration law and policy. To locate a legal service provider near you, visit https://cliniclegal.org/directory.

While planning for this event, don’t forget to:

a. Invite members of Congress & the press (if safe and appropriate). Sample invitation to members of Congress is available below the model agenda.

b. Promote the event (use social media if safe and appropriate).

c. Estimate a headcount.

d. Consider the need for interpreters.

e. Confirm the location is accessible for people with disabilities.

f. Choose a strategic date and time.

g. Offer food and beverages, if possible.

Model Agenda:

1. Open with a Prayer or Reflection – Use this moment to outline the faith and community values that call on you to be of service to our immigrant brothers and sisters. (5 minutes)

2. Give an Overview of the Agenda – Briefly introduce your speakers and the topics they will be covering. Let your audience know what you hope they will learn by the end of the event. (5 minutes)

3. What is TPS? – Have your local legal service provider give an overview of TPS and what its expiration would mean for the people who hold it. Leave some time for questions, but ask that the audience follow up after the event if you run out of time. (20 minutes)

4. Share Stories – Have two or three TPS holders, family/friends, or allies (teachers, pastors, social workers etc.) briefly talk about their experiences. Make sure they understand the risks of sharing their stories with the public and take precautions to protect them if necessary (change their names or have friends or family members share their stories on their behalf). If no TPS holders feel comfortable speaking, ask for audience volunteers to read the stories within this packet aloud. (Approx. 20 minutes or less)

5. Call to Action – Provide the next steps your community may take after the event. Here are some suggestions:

   a. Hand out the “Rise Up and Take Action” section of this packet to your audience and ask them to make the calls as soon as they get home.

   b. Ask for volunteers to organize a group visit to your congressional representatives when they are in the district during a congressional recess.

   c. Ask the legal service provider to explain the concept of sensitive locations and take a vote on whether to offer your place of worship for a Know Your Rights event and/or screening workshop.

   d. Ask each individual to make a commitment to educate absent community members about TPS.
e. For additional suggestions, check out CLINIC’s Discerning How to Welcome Your Neighbor resource.

6. **Closing Prayer and/or Reflection** – Repeat step one and thank everyone for coming.

**Sample Invitation to Members of Congress:**

Dear Honorable Senator / Representative,

We would like to invite you to attend [ORGANIZATION/ COALITION]'s [EVENT TITLE] on [DATE] at [LOCATION] in support of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipients, who are vital members of our community.

This event will focus on educating our community about TPS and calling them to action to stand with our immigrant brothers and sisters. An [AGENDA, FLYER, etc.] is attached. We would be honored by your presence and would gladly welcome your remarks to our community. Please let us know as soon as possible if you are able to attend by contacting me at [EMAIL ADDRESS]. I would be happy to answer additional questions or provide more information.

Sincerely,

[Agenda, flyer, etc. enclosed]
Host an Interfaith Vigil

Hosting interfaith vigils provides the opportunity for faith leaders to express how welcoming immigrants and refugees is part of all faith traditions, reflecting on the deep scriptural and spiritual roots of our work. Even small events, multiplied across the country, will send a powerful message to the Trump administration and Congress that welcoming immigrants and refugees, and standing alongside interfaith community members are part of our values as a country.

Steps to a successful prayer vigil:

- Coordinate a public prayer vigil with faith leaders, immigrants' rights groups, refugee resettlement agencies, immigrant leaders, community members, and if possible, local elected leaders.
- Identify the core leaders and speakers, make sure to invite people affected by TPS, including TPS holders, to help plan and speak at the event.
- Consider inviting elected officials including representatives, senators, city council members, or the mayor.
- Be clear about your goals, what you want to accomplish, and how many people you hope will join the event.
- Identify the best location for the vigil, which is generally somewhere central in a symbolic memorial, state capitol, park or city hall.
- Apply for any permits needed for the location; reserve or order any equipment you’ll need such as microphones, cameras, banners, candles, projectors; and make sure you can access electrical outlets.
- Choose a time of day best for attendance and media -- most news reports take place at 5-6 p.m. and 9-10 p.m., so a few hours before those time blocks may be best for press events.
- Promote the event through social media, public service announcements, flyers, websites, and congregation bulletins.
- Agree on messaging and talking points.
- Bring signs that are consistent with your messaging and agreed upon ahead of time
- Assign specific talking points to each speaker and ensure they have time limits.
- Invite the media by issuing a media advisory and following up with a press release after the event.
- Invite participants at the vigil to be part of further action and advocacy by writing and calling the White House and their representatives and senators.
- If you are able to get a wide range of organizations together, you could hold a 24- or 48-hour vigil outside the office of your senator or representative. Create a spreadsheet to sign up each organization with two-hour blocks of time.

The set-up for the vigil should ensure that all faiths are respected and welcomed with awareness and consciousness. Drawing on the faith traditions and rituals can make vigils much more powerful, raising the creative and dramatic tension. Some options to consider:

- Ask clergy to wear collars, stoles, robes and any other appropriate religious attire.
- Have a foot-washing ceremony for people who are affected by the policies.
- Hold a procession with candles to a symbolic location.
- Create a prayer wall with handwritten prayers for Muslims and refugees.
- Feature stories in sacred texts.
- Highlight passages in scripture and present them to members of Congress.
- Collect and deliver prayers to your senators and representatives.
- Make visuals – photos, drawings, art, etc., that show the consequences of the Trump administration’s actions and policies.
- If you want to do a 24- or 48-hour vigil, make a signup sheet and assign two-hour time slots to each organization involved.
Sample Vigil Program:

Welcome—a few words about the focus and purpose of your vigil. Why now? What’s the concern? Who’s affected? How can this vigil convince your members of congress to support TPS holders, Dreamers, and other immigrants? What values shape your faith traditions’ response to these concerns? This may take the form of brief comments from one of your speakers, or a welcome and an opening prayer.

Music—Invite local musicians to join your vigil, you can have them do one or two songs throughout the program. Choose songs that are connected to the cause, or songs that everyone knows and can sing along.

Opening Prayer—Ask clergy or key lay leader to open with a prayer.

Song—A singer, choir or instrumentalist can perform, or a few singers can lead participants in singing.

Reading—for ideas see suggested readings below.

Speaker—A personal story from a local community member of how the outdated and unjust immigration system has affected families. More than one story can be integrated throughout the program as well. Creative Ritual: Integrate creative symbols or rituals from faith traditions that draw more attention to the importance of supporting Muslims and refugees (see above suggestions)

Prayer—One person may lead the prayers, or you might invite several faith leaders to pray according to their traditions. Involve vigil participants in praying a refrain during your prayer time, or pray in a circle so everyone has the opportunity to pray. Consider offering prayers in multiple languages.

Song & Closing—reiterate the focus and purpose of your vigil, and send participants off with a call to welcome newcomers and raise their voices in the public sphere to stop the deportations. Consider a procession or march to another symbolic and strategic location.

Sample Invitation to Your Member of Congress:

Dear Honorable Senator / Representative,

Thank you for your support.

We would like to invite you to attend [ORGANIZATION/ COALITION]’s prayer vigil/ press conference on [DATE] at [LOCATION] along with faith leaders and civic leaders who are speaking out in support of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipients and immigrants in the United States.

We would be honored by your participation as a speaker at this press conference/ vigil. Other speakers include [list 2-3 top speakers] Please let us know as soon as you can if you are able to attend by contacting me at [email]. If you are able to be there we will connect about the details on messaging and agenda.

Sincerely,
Media Resources:

If you have planned an event or vigil, we encourage you to invite members of the media. Look online at the local publications or outlets you would like in attendance and search for past articles on immigration or refugees, then consider pitching your event to reporters who frequently cover those issues or other community issues if there is not a designated immigration or refugee reporter.

Consider inviting the editorial editor at your local newspaper. By inviting members of the press, you will be able to further share our message of welcoming to a larger audience and also inspire local media to cover immigration issues more frequently in a positive way that highlights broad community support for TPS holders, Dreamers, and immigrants more broadly.

To invite multiple members of the press, send a media advisory at least two full business days ahead of the event. Ideally, send the media advisory one week before the event and then again the day before your event.

Please see the draft pitch email for media invitation, as well as the media advisory below.

Draft Pitch Email for Media Invitation and Follow Up from Advisory

Hello,

I wanted to let you know of a potential story opportunity on the upcoming decisions the Trump administration will make about Temporary Protected Status for people from Honduras, Nicaragua, Haiti, El Salvador, and other countries. On DATE, ORGANIZATION will host an interfaith vigil. Faith and community leaders including LIST, will join TPS holders to stand in solidarity with our immigrant neighbors.

In light of the continued and heated political debate, we would like to highlight the human stories behind the program. Given your past articles highlighting immigrants in our communities, I would love to offer you an exclusive interview with the group next DATE if you are interested!

I have attached the invitation flyer to this email with a full list of individuals in the group, but please let me know if you are interested or if you have any questions!

Sincerely,
NAME
As Administration Decides Fate of Vulnerable Immigrants under TPS, Local (Faith/ Human Rights Group) Hosts (Vigil/Rally) (Name of Town)

Your City Name, State Abbreviation – As the (City/Town Name) community seeks to demonstrate interfaith support for TPS holders and our immigrant neighbors, leaders from (Organization/Congregation) will host (event type) to show support for recipients of Temporary Protected Status. They will be joined by XX (list other special guests, especially clergy or elected officials). Participants will discuss how Muslims and refugees positively impact the community. All participants will be available for interviews before and after the event.

WHAT: Event type with faith and community leaders to welcome immigrants

WHERE: Address of event

WHEN: Date and time of event

SPEAKERS: List of all speakers and their titles

DETAILS: Add event details such as security (if applicable), special visuals (religious symbols, art pieces, etc.), or any other important event information.

###
Communications and Message Guide to Temporary Protected Status

Overarching Message

President Trump has launched a heartless campaign to arrest and deport moms, dads, and young people who have lived here for years and are important members of our communities. The Trump administration’s current target: approximately 330,000 people with legal status, many of whom are parents to American children. These essential workers are protected by a program known as Temporary Protected Status, or TPS. TPS provides safety to people whose countries have been devastated by war, natural disaster, famine, or epidemic.

TPS holders are our neighbors. They fill crucial roles in our economy and society, including construction and infrastructure jobs, caring for our homes, children and workplaces, and preparing our food. Because they’ve lived here so long—because their countries have been unsafe for so long—they are crucial to our local economies and communities. Tearing them apart from their families and sending them back to the countries they fled would be a death sentence. President Trump and the DHS secretary must NOT uproot them from the lives they’ve built here and strip away their legal status. Until Congress acts to create a permanent solution to protect TPS holders, the administration must allow them to remain with their families.

For more messaging guidance, please click here.

Talking Points

- Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, allows foreign nationals to remain in the U.S. if while they were in the United States, something catastrophic happened in their country of origin that prevented their safe return— for example war, famine, natural disaster, or epidemic.

- TPS allows people to work legally in the U.S., to contribute to the American economy and society, and be protected from deportation.

- There are currently approx. 330,000 people being protected by TPS in the U.S. They come from Sudan, South Sudan, Nicaragua, Honduras, Haiti, El Salvador, Syria, Nepal, Yemen and Somalia.

- The Department of Homeland Security decides whether to designate or extend TPS. The law permits DHS to extend TPS for a country in need so long as the dangerous conditions exist; Congress did not include a time limit in the TPS law.

- The administration intends to end the use of TPS. As people of faith we are gravely concerned that TPS holders will be sent back to countries that are unsafe or have poor conditions, putting their lives at risk.

- **Families:** The majority of TPS holders have been in the U.S. for many years because their countries have been unsafe for many years. They have U.S. citizen children. If TPS is terminated before countries are sufficiently safe for their return, TPS-holder parents will be faced with impossible decisions. They will have to decide whether to be separated from their children or bring them into harm’s way. It is morally wrong and fundamentally unAmerican to put parents and U.S. citizen children into this position. TPS holders from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti (the three largest TPS populations) have **273,000 U.S. citizen children**.

- **Economy:** TPS holders are just like any other member of the community—working hard, living peacefully, raising families. In particular, studies show that TPS holders contribute greatly to key
industries such as health and childcare. There would a profound impact on the country as a whole if essential workers were removed from their jobs. The loss of these workers would cost employers at least $967 million from having to replace and retrain workers. The U.S. economy (GDP, Medicare and Social Security contributions) would lose billions.

- **National Security**: TPS is in U.S. national security interests. Not forcing countries to reabsorb tens of thousands of people while recovering from catastrophic events promotes regional security. The money that TPS holders send home is literally a lifeline to family and friends in devastated countries. Terminating TPS before countries are sufficiently recovered will have a profoundly destabilizing effect. It will be felt in countries in need, by their neighbors, and inevitably at the U.S. borders, as people flee their countries to save their lives and the lives of their families.

**Tip Sheet: How To Help A TPS Holder Prepare For A Media Interview**

One of the most important ways to advocate for TPS holders is to help them share their stories with the world. If a member of your faith community is comfortable, willing, and able to share their story and the effect TPS has on their lives and the lives of their families, here are a few tips:

1. **Prioritize safety**: Unless there is another immigration status or benefit available to them, TPS holders may choose not to leave the U.S. if TPS is terminated. They will become undocumented and at risk for deportation. A person may choose to use a pseudonym or only a first name to protect their identity.

2. **When telling their stories**, TPS holders should explain to the interviewer how terminating TPS would affect them personally, how it would affect their families and communities, and how it would affect the U.S. as a whole. For example, a TPS holder could talk about what they do for a living and how removing TPS holders from their jobs would have a widespread effect.

3. **TPS holders should talk about how they are essential members of their faith and other communities while connecting it to the fact that they have been in the U.S. for many years because their countries have been unsafe for many years.** In other words, remind the audience that TPS is a lifesaving program.

4. **If possible**, a TPS holder should make a statement about what they would say if given the opportunity to speak directly to the president and other decision makers on TPS.

5. **TPS holders should making a statement calling Congress to action to protect TPS holders if the administration terminates TPS for their country/all countries.**
Sample Op-Ed

My Faith Calls on Me to Stand with TPS Holders

From the earliest days of [Sunday school, Hebrew School, Seminary, etc.], my faith has taught and called me to welcome the stranger, stand with the vulnerable, and love my neighbor. Now, as a [faith leader, adult member of religion, etc.], I am proud to demonstrate these values in my daily life and service at [name of congregation].

It is because of those values that I am calling on Congress to act to protect TPS holders, or recipients of Temporary Protected Status. TPS was created to provide protection to those in the United States when it is unsafe for their return home. TPS has given more than 300,000 people from 10 countries the opportunity to rebuild their lives in the United States. Many TPS holders have lived here for years and are parents to U.S. citizen children. They are our neighbors. Tearing them apart from their families is wrong. If Congress does not act, the administration could curtail the program. TPS holders who have lived here legally for years shouldn't have to fear being uprooted based on conditions in the countries where they once lived. I call on [my members of Congress] to do everything in their power to see TPS extended for all ten countries for at least another 18 months, issue public statements declaring support for all TPS holders, and support legislation to ensure TPS holders can continue living and working legally in the U.S.

[choose a scripture passage below based on your religious tradition, or include your own]

In the Bible, God commands “Bring water to the thirsty, meet the fugitive with bread… For they have fled from the swords, from the drawn sword, from the bent bow, and from the stress of battle.” (Isaiah 21:14-15)

The Quran instructs “And (as for) those who believed and fled and struggled hard in Allah's way, and those who gave shelter and helped, these are the believers truly; they shall have forgiveness and honorable provision.” (Quran 8:74)

The Torah reads “And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.” (Deuteronomy 10:19)

From the [earliest books] in the [Bible/Torah/Quran], our faith calls on us to show mercy and hospitality to the sojourner. We are called to treat them with dignity, respect, and love, providing the same welcome that we ourselves would hope for. As Americans, we live in a country built in large part by the hard work, dreams, and determination of generations of immigrants -- many of whom were our ancestors. Sadly, it seems that our legislators have forgotten these lessons and have acted without compassion. We have a moral obligation to welcome the immigrant, uphold the innate dignity of all people, and affirm our nation’s greatest value of creating brighter futures for all of us. TPS holders are no different than our [Biblical] ancestors who were once strangers who found welcome and were called to do the same.

I have grave concerns about the recent extension of Haiti’s TPS designation for a mere six months, while Sudan’s TPS designation was terminated. Our outdated immigration system leaves millions unjustly detained, separated from family, and locked out of regularizing their status. I call on Congress to declare their support for TPS holders, support legislation that protects them from deportation, and then turn towards realizing an immigration system that affirms the sanctity of family unity, respects the rights and dignity of all, and makes the American Dream truly achievable.

I join faith communities across traditions, who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to immigrants and their families, and are calling on elected officials to champion policies that would create a path to citizenship for undocumented individuals in the United States. We need our elected leaders to protect TPS holders and support legislation that would provide a solution for them to remain in the country they call home. It’s the American and right thing to do.
Dear Editor,

President Trump’s disheartening decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) has put the lives of over 800,000 immigrant youth in jeopardy. But the president’s attacks against immigrants doesn’t stop there. The Trump administration’s new target: nearly 330,000 people with legal status, many of whom are parents to American children. These essential workers are protected by a program known as Temporary Protected Status (TPS). TPS allows immigrants to remain in the U.S. if while they were here something catastrophic happened in their country of origin preventing their safe return – for example war, famine, natural disaster, or epidemic.

Combined with Dreamers, President Trump intends to take away the legal status of more than a million people who have helped make their home - the United States - stronger. Immigrants protected with TPS have worked in the U.S. for years, contributing billions to our economy, social security, and even Medicare. They work in diverse industries where they care for our homes, children, elderly, and the food we eat. They are essentially America’s caretakers.

We have a moral obligation to welcome the immigrant, uphold the innate dignity of all people, and affirm our nation’s greatest value of creating brighter futures for all of us. Immigrants with TPS are no different than our [Biblical] ancestors who were once strangers who found welcome and were called to do the same.

President Trump must act with compassion and not make the same mistake he made with DACA. He must not extend TPS for these essential workers until Congress can pass a legislative solution.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME
Social Media: Sample Posts & Graphics

Graphics

Sample graphics available here.

Sample Tweets

As part of his ongoing assault on immigrants, Trump is targeting the more than 300,000 immigrants protected under TPS. Congress, #SaveTPS!

TPS recipients are our caretakers. They're childcare workers, small business owners, gardeners, cooks, builders, and janitors. #SaveTPS

Ending TPS would be a death sentence for recipients, who would be sent back to countries with extreme poverty and rampant violence. #SaveTPS

Many TPS workers have been living and working in the US for DECADES. Congress must stand up to Trump and #SaveTPS.

Calling for the deportation of hundreds of thousands is a betrayal of our nation's values. It's time to stand up for what's right & #SaveTPS

Welcoming those in need has always been central to our national identity. We cannot turn our backs on them now. #SaveTPS

If we want to remain a compassionate nation, we cannot turn our backs on those in need. That means we must fight to #SaveTPS

For more sample tweets and a click-to-tweet option, please click here.

Sample Facebook Post

Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, has allowed more than 300,000 immigrants to live and work in the United States for decades. These workers are essential to our communities and our economy. They are childcare workers, small business owners, gardeners, cooks, janitors, and store clerks. They are America’s caretakers. It’s time Congress stands up to Trump to #SaveTPS.

For updates or new social media posts, please click here.
TPS Press Release Guidelines

Public education and raising the public profile are key needs in TPS advocacy. Press releases accomplish both and we encourage faith organizations to take a public stance as often as possible. If your organization doesn’t already have a list of press contacts (be it local or national media or both) now would be a great time to build one. Additionally, if your organization doesn’t have a Facebook or Twitter account to push out press statements, start one now!

Guidelines for TPS Termination Press Releases:

- TPS advocacy is centered around the fear that people will be sent back to their countries of origin before they are sufficiently safe for their return.
- Statements should focus on country conditions and why the U.S. government should not put human lives at risk by prematurely terminating TPS.
- Because many TPS holders have been in the U.S. for many years—because their countries have been unsafe for many years —faith advocates object to breaking up families and ripping hardworking people out of the U.S. economy and society. These key points should be woven into any press statement.

Guidelines for TPS Extension Press Releases:

- It is also important to put out press releases on TPS extensions for the purposes of public education and raising the profile.
- TPS is the law. Extending TPS for a country with conditions that do not allow for a national’s safe return is following the law. Therefore, the tone of a press release regarding the extension of TPS for a country should highlight the fact that 1) Congress created TPS to protect people, 2) TPS is the embodiment of American and faith values from across traditions, and 3) it is the duty of any administration to follow the law and uphold these cherished values. In other words, it may not serve our advocacy well to frame a press release regarding an extension in a way that highly praises the administration for following the law.

Other TPS Press Releases:

- Put out press releases announcing TPS vigils or events you’re hosting or organizing. Don’t forget to invite the press to cover the events, too!
- Put out press releases sharing TPS stories and the local/community impact of terminating TPS. Always consider safety when sharing stories (for example, a person may want to use a pseudonym).

TPS Press Release Template (for country termination)

Headline: [Faith organization decries administration’s cruel decision to end Temporary Protected Status for …]

[FAITH ORGANIZATION] condemns the administration’s decision to terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for [COUNTRY]. TPS protects individuals and families who would otherwise be in harm’s way in their countries of origin, which are recovering from catastrophic events such as natural disaster, war, famine, or disease. As [PEOPLE OF FAITH] we believe in the dignity of human life and denounce a decision to return people to conditions where their lives will be immediately put in danger.

[INSERT QUOTE FROM LEADER OF YOUR ORGANIZATION describing country conditions--check recent reports from the United Nations or International Office of Migration--and stating that returning people to those conditions is a violation of American, moral, and faith values.]
[INSERT QUOTE FROM TPS HOLDER or family member of TPS holder in your congregation or community and what it means to have to leave the U.S. and return to unsafe conditions.]

[INSERT QUOTE FROM LEADER OF YOUR ORGANIZATION about concern with breaking up families and removing people from their communities. **End by calling on Congress to act to protect vulnerable people.**]

TPS Press Releases from Faith Organizations

**Ignatian Solidarity Network**


**Franciscan Action Network**


**HIAS**


**Church World Service**


_Faith Leaders, Advocates, Respond to Secretary Kelly’s Trip to Haiti_ (June 6, 2017): [https://greateras1.org/faith-leaders-advocates-respond-secretary-kellys-trip-haiti/](https://greateras1.org/faith-leaders-advocates-respond-secretary-kellys-trip-haiti/)

_Faith Organizations Express Disappointment that TPS for Haitians Extended for Only Six Months_ (May 23, 2017): [https://greateras1.org/faith-organizations-express-disappointment-that-tps-for-haitians-extended-for-only-six-months/](https://greateras1.org/faith-organizations-express-disappointment-that-tps-for-haitians-extended-for-only-six-months/)

_More than 400 Faith Leaders and Organizations Nationwide Urge Support for Haitians at Risk for Deportation_ (May 2, 2017): [https://greateras1.org/more-than-400-faith-leaders-and-organizations-nationwide-urge-support-for-haitians-at-risk-for-deportation/](https://greateras1.org/more-than-400-faith-leaders-and-organizations-nationwide-urge-support-for-haitians-at-risk-for-deportation/)

**Catholic Legal Immigration Network**


_END_
Short TPS extension for Haitians just continues unsettled situation (May 22, 2017):

More than 400 faith leaders and organizations nationwide urge support for Haitians at risk for deportation (May 2, 2017):

TPS Media Clips

Use these clips to help you and your congregation and/or faith organization better understand the issues and messaging around TPS.

5 important stories that deserve a second look, PBS, (Sept. 29, 2017):
http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/5-important-stories-deserve-second-look-2/

A través de una carta más de 700 congregaciones religiosas piden al Gobierno continuar con el TPS, Washington Hispanic (Sept. 29, 2017):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYxCcqJuls0&feature=youtu.be

The administration is playing with the lives of 59,000 Haitians, The Intercept, (Sept. 26, 2017):

Catholic groups decry end of special status for Sudan, Catholic News Service, (Sept. 26, 2017):

Editorial Is it safe for citizens to go home to Sudan or Haiti?, Los Angeles Times, (Sept. 25, 2017):

New York Congresswoman Says Push to Defend Temporary Protected Status Underway, Observer, (Sept. 21, 2017):

Dialogue, peaceful dispute settlement ‘indispensable’ to achieving peace, El Salvador tells UN Assembly, UN News Centre, (Sept. 21, 2017):

DHS to end protections for Sudanese immigrants, CNN, (Sept. 18, 2017):

U.S. ends temporary protected status for Sudanese but extends it for South Sudanese, Reuters, (Sept. 18, 2017):

https://www.voanews.com/a/el-salvador-dreamers-tps/4028801.html

The next DACA? Trump administration turns to another class of immigrants, CNN, (Sept. 11, 2017):
Explaining The Temporary Protected Status Campaign, CBS Boston/Centro In Spanish, (August 10, 2017): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Z1uFl2ZX0I (6 min.)


Up to 55,000 Haitians Face Deportation If Trump Refuses to Extend Temporary Protected Status, Democracy Now, (May 3, 2017): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CHSNQGFowU (9:53 min.)

Additional TPS Stories & YouTube Clips

Maya, a Nepali Immigrant and a Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Recipient, (Sept. 18, 2017): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=neW1KkhJPpg (4:36 min.)

Christian is a a DACA recipient whose father is a TPS recipient, (Sept. 18, 2017): https://youtu.be/AX8WXzPfEK4 (3:41 min.)


Save TPS Now! A collection of stories, Centro Presente, (July 6, 2017): https://youtu.be/GU0p3w1RI3c

Temporary Protected Status for Central Americans, WOLA/CARECEN, (June 26, 2017): https://youtu.be/s7o5J5bCDik (55 min.)
RISE UP AND TAKE ACTION: National, State, and Local Advocacy

Urge Congress to Stand With Our Immigrant Neighbors!

Right now, we are facing a heartless campaign to tear families apart and devastate communities by arresting and deporting moms, dads, and young people who have lived in the United States for years. Temporary Protected Status (TPS) was created to provide protection to those in the United States when it is unsafe for their return home. TPS has given approximately 330,000 people from 10 countries the opportunity to rebuild their lives in the United States. TPS holders contribute billions of dollars to our economy, and many of them have lived here for years and are parents to U.S. citizen children. They are our neighbors. Tearing them from their families is wrong.

We need a path forward -- one that starts by leaving TPS protections intact and extending all TPS protections for at least 18 months, and for as long as the dangerous conditions in these countries persist. We also need Congress to act with a legislative solution that protects TPS holders from being uprooted from their communities and being separated from their families. To fail to extend TPS for these countries while they remain unstable would be an affront to our American values of hospitality, generosity, compassion.

Tell Congress to Support TPS Holders and #SaveTPS!
(844) 817-8056

Please call 3x for your 2 Senators and 1 Representative

Sample Script: "I'm your constituent from [City, State]. I stand in solidarity with my immigrant neighbors, support Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and strongly oppose any attempt to terminate or curtail the program. TPS is designed to protect people from being returned to harm and is extended based on country conditions. There are about 330,000 people from 10 different countries who through TPS are currently pursuing their dreams, rebuilding their lives, and raising families in safety. Some have been here for many years, and more than 70% have a U.S. citizen sibling, spouse, or child. Tearing apart families is wrong.

I urge [the senator/representative] to do everything he/she can to ensure that the administration extends TPS for all 10 countries for at least another 18 months, issue a public statement declaring support for all TPS holders, and support legislation that would ensure stability for TPS recipients who have lived here for many years, would face extreme hardship if deported, or are otherwise eligible for permanent residence."

Tweet the same message: ".@SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE Declare your support for #TPS holders & legislation to protect them from deportation #SaveTPS #GreaterAs1"

Follow @InterfaithImm on Twitter and "like" the Interfaith Immigration Coalition on Facebook to receive up-to-date alerts. Please tell us if you take action (opens a new webpage)!
State & Local Legislative Action

Although TPS and immigration law is controlled by the federal government, don’t forget the importance of activating your state and local lawmakers! After all, the impact of federal immigration law is most deeply felt on the local level. Here are two key actions faith communities can take:

Call to Action: Model Resolutions

Although state and local lawmakers cannot regulate immigration law, state and local legislative bodies can pass resolutions calling on the federal government to act. Meet with your state and local legislators and talk to them about the local, community-level impact of terminating TPS. Encourage them to pass a resolution on TPS to be used as a tool to get Congress and the administration to act to protect TPS holders.

Make sure that there is a mechanism in place to make members of Congress and the administration aware that a resolution has been passed. Faith communities can also send the passed resolution to the administration and members of Congress with letters of support and additional calls to action. See model resolution below.

Call to Action: Letters from Mayors, Governors, and other Prominent Local Leaders

State and local leaders are in powerful positions to explain to members of Congress and the administration the cost to municipalities and states if local families are ripped apart and worked are removed from their jobs.

Faith communities should request meetings with mayors, governors, and other prominent local leaders (including law enforcement, business, etc.) to discuss TPS and ask them to send letters of support for TPS to:

- All of the state’s U.S. representatives
- The state’s two U.S. senators
- Acting Secretary of Homeland Security, Elaine Duke
- President Donald Trump

Letters should include local statistics, stories, and other illustrations of the local impact if TPS is terminated. See sample letter below.
WHEREAS: The City of XX has had and maintains a long and proud history as a city that supports, values and respects its immigrants, regardless of their status of documentation, and refugees escaping war and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS: Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is a form of immigration status that provides employment authorization and protection from deportation for foreign nationals who cannot be safely returned to their home countries; and

WHEREAS: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), will consider whether to extend designations of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for all nationals that currently hold TPS including nearly 320,000 Salvadoran, Honduran, Nicaraguan, Haitian, Somali, Sudanese, South Sudanese, Yemeni, Syrian, and Nepali immigrant community members; and

WHEREAS: In light of the Trump Administration's radical increase of interior and exterior immigration enforcement through executive orders, funding requests, and policy guidance, the continued existence of TPS is very much at risk; and

WHEREAS: It is estimated that ending TPS for immigrants from El Salvador, Haiti and Honduras would result in a $6.9 billion reduction to Social Security and Medicare contributions over a decade, and the deportation of these individuals would cost taxpayers approximately $3.1 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS: The City of XX recognizes the overwhelmingly positive contributions of TPS holders and their families to the economy, social fabric, diversity and well-being of our community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The XX supports the Temporary Protected Status program and is calling on the Department of Homeland Security to continue the TPS program and support immigrant and refugees escaping ongoing armed conflict, environmental disaster or other extraordinary circumstances;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the XX Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Congressman XX and Senators XX and XX, and the President NBC of the United States and the Department of Homeland Security.
NOTE: Letters from other local leaders—for example law enforcement or business—should include specifics about TPS holders’ contributions to that sector or subject.

DATE

Address
Address
Address

Dear [Members of Congress; Senators; Acting Secretary Duke; President Trump],

On behalf of the people of [city or state] I write to urge you to protect Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Holders in our [state or community]. TPS protects [XXX] members of [state or community] and their families from being returned to countries that have been devastated by natural disasters, wars, epidemics, and other extraordinary conditions. TPS saves lives.

TPS holders are a vital part of [state or community] and it is in our national interest to [Ask for the president and Secretary Duke: continue to extend TPS for countries that are not able to safely reabsorb tens of thousands of people; Ask for members of Congress: created a permanent, legislative solution to safeguard TPS holders who have been in the U.S. for many years because their countries have been unsafe for many years.]

TPS holders make great contributions to our economy and the American workforce. In [city of state] and across the country TPS holders are yet to our construction, child care, health care, and services industries. Removing them from the workforce would cost employers billions in turnover costs having to replace and retrain workers. This would be deeply felt in [state or community].

Many TPS holders have U.S. citizen family members because their countries have been designated for TPS for many years as a result of catastrophic events. Ending TPS before countries are safe will put parents and their U.S. citizen children in horrible situations faced with impossible decisions. It is against our collective values as people of [city of state] and the U.S. as a whole to needlessly tear families apart.

Finally, TPS plays an important role in regional and national security, both abroad and at U.S. borders. Forcing countries to reabsorb tens of thousands of people while they are recovering from disaster would be gravely destabilizing and will inevitably lead people back to our borders, seeking assistance.

As Americans, we do not turn our backs on vulnerable people in need. The [city or state] stands with TPS holders and embraces their great contributions. I urge you to act to continue to protect them, their families, our economy, and national interests.

Sincerely,
Handouts and Fact sheets

Interfaith Fact sheet on Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

In the next two months, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will decide whether to extend TPS to about 330,000 people who have been living and working legally in the U.S. for years, even decades. If extensions are not granted, most of those who currently have TPS will lose their jobs and be forced to return to some of the most troubled countries on earth or face deportation.

What is TPS?
TPS is a lawful immigration status granted by DHS to nationals of countries that experience natural disasters, armed conflict, or other extraordinary conditions that make return unsafe. By statute, a country may be designated for up to 18 months at a time, with extensions available so long as unsafe conditions continue. People in the U.S. at the time of the original designation are able to remain here and work legally until the designation expires. TPS is granted by the secretary of Homeland Security to eligible foreign nationals, who are unable to return home safely due to conditions or circumstances preventing their country from adequately handling the return. These conditions can include (1) ongoing armed conflicts such as civil wars, (2) environmental disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, or epidemics, or (3) other extraordinary and temporary conditions.

Who is eligible for TPS?
TPS holders must be nationals of designated countries, have been continuously physically present in the U.S. since specific dates, and who are not otherwise inadmissible due to criminal or security reasons. TPS holders can work in the United States and are free from detention on the basis of their immigration status in the United States. However, TPS is a temporary benefit that does not lead to lawful permanent resident status (green card) or give any other immigration status.

Who are TPS holders?
There are approximately 330,000 TPS holders in the United States from 10 countries. More than 90 percent of those in the U.S. with TPS are from El Salvador (195,000 people), Honduras (57,000 people), or Haiti (50,000 people). Haitians with TPS have lived in the U.S. legally for at least 6 years, Salvadorans for at least 16 years, and Hondurans for at least 18 years. Almost half of TPS recipients from these three countries have lived here more than two decades.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population¹</th>
<th>Expiration Date</th>
<th>Decision Date²</th>
<th>Original Designation</th>
<th>Redesignations (If any)</th>
<th>Type of Designation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>57,000</td>
<td>Jan. 5, 2018</td>
<td>Nov. 6, 2017</td>
<td>Jan. 5, 1999</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>(B) environmental disaster and inability, temporarily, to accept returns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>2,550</td>
<td>Jan. 5, 2018</td>
<td>Nov. 6, 2017</td>
<td>Jan. 5, 1999</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>(B) environmental disaster and inability, temporarily, to accept returns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>Jan. 22, 2018</td>
<td>Nov. 23, 2017</td>
<td>Jan. 21, 2010</td>
<td>July 23, 2011</td>
<td>(C) extraordinary and temporary conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>195,000</td>
<td>Mar. 9, 2018</td>
<td>Jan. 8, 2018</td>
<td>Mar. 9, 2001</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>(B) environmental disaster and inability, temporarily, to accept returns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>5,800</td>
<td>Mar. 31, 2018</td>
<td>Jan. 30, 2018</td>
<td>Mar. 29, 2012</td>
<td>June 17, 2013; January 5, 2015; and Aug. 1, 2016</td>
<td>(A) ongoing armed conflict AND (C) extraordinary and temporary conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>8,950</td>
<td>June 24, 2018</td>
<td>Apr. 25, 2018</td>
<td>June 24, 2015</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>(B) earthquake and inability, temporarily, to accept returns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Sept. 3, 2018</td>
<td>July 5, 2018</td>
<td>Sept. 3, 2015</td>
<td>Jan. 4, 2017</td>
<td>(A) ongoing armed conflict AND (C) extraordinary and temporary conditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>Termination effective Nov. 2, 2018</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Nov. 4, 1997</td>
<td>Nov. 9, 1999; Nov. 2, 2004; and May 3, 2013</td>
<td>(A) ongoing armed conflict AND (C) extraordinary and temporary conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>75-200</td>
<td>May 2, 2019</td>
<td>Mar. 3, 2019</td>
<td>Nov. 3, 2011</td>
<td>Sept. 2, 2014 and Jan. 25, 2016</td>
<td>(A) ongoing armed conflict AND (C) extraordinary and temporary conditions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Population figures as of January 2018.
² Designation date.
³ Expiration date.

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Helping people in disasters: TPS is granted in extraordinary circumstances. All of these countries face severe crises with limited to no infrastructure to provide the most basic needs: food, water, sanitation, and housing. Our faith teachings compel us to protect the vulnerable and care for the least of us. Sending people back to disaster situations runs counter to our faiths. We must uphold the integrity of the TPS program.

Upholding family stability: Some TPS holders have been in the United States for more than a decade, and 70% of TPS holders have U.S. citizen siblings, spouses, or children. They are pursuing their dreams, rebuilding their lives, and raising families in safety. Our faiths teach us to value families as the basic unit of strong communities. If TPS is terminated before countries are sufficiently safe for their return, TPS holder parents will be faced with impossible decisions. They will have to decide whether to be separated from their children or bring them into harm’s way. It is morally wrong and fundamentally unAmerican to put parents and U.S. citizen children into this position.

Invest in humanitarian and community building efforts. We have a moral obligation to ensure that individuals seeking protection are not returned to unsafe situations. It is imperative that we keep intact the existing protections and we must provide adequate resources to ensure our communities are in the best position to help them integrate and succeed. Lastly, communities of faith stand ready to expand humanitarian efforts with local partners.

TPS strengthens U.S. national security. The return of large numbers of people would be destabilizing. Already-struggling economic health would suffer due to loss of remittances and the returnees would displace current workers, causing an increase in unauthorized migration to the U.S. It is not in the U.S. or regional security interest to increase instability, depress the economy, and increase unauthorized immigration from these nations. Forcing hundreds of thousands of TPS recipients to return to Central America and other nations will strengthen and further enrich the powerful multinational criminal gangs that prey on returnees.

Loss of TPS would also be costly for local economies here at home. TPS recipients from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti have a higher labor force participation rate (81 to 88 percent) than the general U.S. population (63 percent). The leading sectors where they work include construction, hotel and restaurant, landscaping, and child care. Large numbers of TPS recipients have worked long enough at their current employers to have developed specialized skills and attachments that would be hard to replace. As a result, removing all TPS recipients from the three countries would impose nearly a billion dollars in “turnover costs” and cost about $45 billion in GDP over a decade. Ending TPS would also put the nearly 100,000 mortgages held by TPS recipient families at risk of foreclosure. These costs would be concentrated in the industries and localities where TPS recipients predominate, leading to some dramatic economic losses and consequent loss of revenue to state and local governments. On top of those losses, the federal government would have to pay the cost of hunting down and deporting those who do not leave on their own, estimated to be up to $3.1 billion. For more data, please visit: http://cmsny.org/publications/kerwin-tps-loss/

Ending TPS would exact heavy a human toll. TPS recipients from the three countries with the largest TPS populations have nearly 273,000 U.S.-born children. They provide emotional and financial support to loved ones, and shoulder responsibilities in schools, churches, and civic organizations. More than one in five were themselves originally brought here as children when they were 15 or younger, and have essentially grown up here. Thousands more of them work as nannies or caring for disabled or elderly adults. No one would benefit if they were now suddenly uprooted and forced to return to countries they left years ago after living and working here legally for such a long time.

Let us support legislation that would ensure stability for TPS holders who have lived here for many years, would face extreme hardship if deported, or are otherwise eligible for permanent residence.
Country Conditions

Retaining Temporary Protected Status is integral to nationals from ten countries who live in the United States, where they work to support themselves, and family members who remain in the country of origin where opportunities for stable living and few to none. Each of these 10 countries continue to face conditions which qualify it for TPS designation and their nationals for protection in the United States. Terminating TPS for any of these countries would place thousands of people in imminent danger of facing war, famine, disease, or devastating hunger. The United States must continue its tradition of protection by extending TPS for each of these countries, which continue to face extraordinary temporary conditions that endanger their citizens.

El Salvador: Salvadoran citizens initially received TPS after two major earthquakes devastated the country in January and February 2001, killing more than 1,000 people, injuring approximately 8,000, and affecting approximately 1.5 million people.3 Hurricanes and tropical storms, heavy rains and flooding, volcanic and seismic activity, an ongoing coffee rust epidemic, and a prolonged regional drought all have slowed the recovery process.4 Basic needs, such as water, housing, and electricity remain scarce for significant portions of the population.5 In addition, the safety and security of Salvadorans with TPS status could not be guaranteed. Robbery, extortion, and murder rates remain high.6 Health crises such as the Zika epidemic,7 dengue, and chikungunya8 have plagued the country. Salvadoran nationals are the largest group of TPS recipients.9

Haiti: TPS was originally granted to Haitians following a devastating earthquake of 7.0 magnitude that occurred Jan. 12, 2010, affecting 3 million people—one-third of Haiti’s population.10 Together with several aftershocks, Haiti was left without infrastructure for electricity, telephone services, and fuel. Basic needs such as food and water are also scarce.11 Then, Hurricane Matthew made landfall in Haiti on Oct. 4, 2016, leaving 175,000 people without housing.12 Heavy rain in late April 2017 additionally destroyed an estimated 80% of the spring harvest in southern Haiti and affected 350,000 people.13 U.N. peacekeepers introduced a cholera epidemic, which was contracted by 800,000 and killed 10,000 Haitians.14 All together, 30% of Haitians have limited access to food, 40% lack access to fundamental health care, and there remains limited water, food, and sanitation.15 The need for TPS renewal as it applies to Haitians is vital while the country continues to rebuild.

Honduras: Hurricane Mitch struck Honduras in 1998, leading to the initial TPS designation for the country.16 The hurricane killed more 5,000 people and displaced 1.1 million people, destroying 70% of the roads, housing, communication infrastructure and water and sanitation systems in Honduras17 -- altogether

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setting Honduras back 20 years. Climate fluctuations between heavy rainfall and prolonged drought continue to challenge recovery efforts, because extreme rain exacerbates mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue and chikungunya, and drought leads to crop losses and food insecurity. In addition, Honduras has one of the highest murder rates in the world, along with extremely high levels of femicide, extortion and other dangerous crimes.

Nepal: TPS was originally designated to Nepal due to the earthquake on April 25, 2015, which affected 25-33% of Nepal’s population (approximately 8 million people), killed nearly 9,000 people, caused more than 20,000 injuries, destroyed 50,000 homes, and displaced millions of people. Nepal was redesignated in October of 2016 because country conditions remain significantly damaged from the earthquake, including poor infrastructure making it difficult to administer humanitarian aid, a severely damaged sanitation system, and lack of health and education facilities in the 14 most affected districts. In August 2017, the country was hit by severe rain, flooding, and landslides, affecting 1.7 million people and displacing 21,000 families.

Nicaragua: TPS for Nicaraguans began in 1998 following Hurricane Mitch, a catastrophic storm that affected close to 868,000 people and caused $1.5 billion in damage. Severe environmental disasters have slowed repairs: only a small portion of the 41,000 homes have been rebuilt, only 12 percent of Nicaragua’s roads have been repaired, and many schools and healthcare facilities remain in need of repair. The hurricane’s impact has made Nicaragua the second poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. In 2011, heavy rain caused by tropical depression resulted in landslides and flooding, damaging property, infrastructure, and agriculture. Approximately 2,800 Nicaraguans are currently in the United States under TPS.

Syria: Approximately 5,800 Syrians reside in the U.S. under TPS. In 2012, Syrians seeking political freedom rose against the rule of President al-Assad. In response, al-Assad brutally cracked down on his citizens, using the military to suppress the movement and killing thousands of Syrians. More than 6 million Syrians are internally displaced and 13.5 million people in the country need humanitarian assistance as the war continues. Foreign forces have joined both al-Assad and the rebels, while ISIS fights for territory in portions of the country; the widespread violence threatens everyone in Syria.

Yemen: TPS was originally designated for Yemen as a result of a ongoing conflict and civil war. Because of the conflict, Yemen is undergoing one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world with $2.3 billion

needed in funds, 14 million people who are food insecure, 14.8 million people who lack access to basic healthcare, 462,000 children under 5 who are severely acutely malnourished, and 2.9 million internally displaced people. An average of 75 people are killed or injured every day. More than 7 million people do not know when they will eat again and more than 8 million people have acute shortages of water and sanitation. The country is at the brink of famine. Currently 1,000 Yemenis reside in the U.S. under TPS.

**Sudan:** TPS for Sudan was originally designated in 1997 due to internal conflict and a large displacement of Sudanese nationals. In Sudan, violent armed conflict, especially in Darfur and the Two Areas (South Kordofan and Blue Nile states), has continued into 2017. In their 2017 report, Human Rights Watch found that government forces were killing civilians, raping women and girls, and destroying villages, displacing 190,000 people by September of 2016. 4.8 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance, 3.6 million Sudanese needed food of livelihood assistance, including 2.2 million acutely malnourished children below the age five.

**South Sudan:** South Sudan was designated for TPS in 2011 in response to ongoing armed conflict, internal displacement, forced migration, and food insecurity. Since its independence in 2011, famine, border conflicts with Sudan, and violent armed conflict with rebel groups have destabilized the country, limiting aid access, and causing widespread displacement. In April of 2017, Human Rights Watch has reported that the South Sudanese government is committing repeated ethnic killings and other forms of violence against civilians. As of February of 2017, 4.8 million people in South Sudan are facing hunger, more than 5.1 million are in need of aid, and 2.1 million are internally displaced.

**Somalia:** TPS was originally designated for Somalia in 1991 due to severe armed conflict, this designation has been renewed 23 times as the conflict continues and prevents Somalis from returning in safety. The situation in Somalia is exacerbated by a fragile and volatile security situation, the activity of terrorist organizations like Al-Shabaab, unstable access to healthcare or clean water, rampant food insecurity and malnutrition, and adverse weather effects like those of 2015-2016 El Nino which caused natural disasters including drought and flooding. Currently, 6.2 million people are in need of assistance, 388,000 are severely malnourished children under age 5 and 1.1 million people are internally displaced.
Temporary Protected Status for Haiti

The current six-month grant of Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, for approximately 50,000 Haitians will expire on Jan. 22, 2018 unless extended by the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. By law, the secretary must decide by Nov. 23, 2017 whether conditions warrant extending TPS.[2]

What is TPS?

Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, was established by Congress through the Immigration Act of 1990. TPS is intended to protect foreign nationals in the U.S. from being returned to their home country if it became unsafe during the time they were in the U.S. and return would put them at risk of violence, disease or death. Under the law, the secretary of Homeland Security may designate a foreign country for TPS in three scenarios:

1. Ongoing armed conflict (such as a civil war)
2. An environmental disaster (such as earthquake or hurricane), or an epidemic; or
3. Other extraordinary and temporary conditions that prevent people from the country from safely returning home. [3]

The country’s designation can last from six months, at a minimum, to a maximum of 18 months. Sixty days prior to the end of an initial designation or re-designation period, the secretary must review the conditions of the foreign country to determine if the unsafe conditions continue to exist. If conditions continue, the secretary may designate TPS for another six-, 12- or 18-month period. This may be repeated indefinitely.[4]

Nationals of a TPS-designated country and people without nationality who last resided in a TPS-designated country, who were physically present in the U.S. when the designation was made and meet certain requirements may be eligible for TPS. If granted, such applicants are protected from deportation and receive work authorization to support themselves while they remain in the U.S. TPS does not provide a direct path to lawful permanent resident status or citizenship.[5]

Why was Haiti designated for TPS?

Haiti was devastated by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake on Jan. 12, 2010. It was the most violent earthquake in the country in 200 years.[6] Much of the capital city of Port-au-Prince was destroyed. One and a half million people were displaced.[7] Within days, DHS granted TPS to eligible Haitians who were in the United States on or before the date of the earthquake[8]. In 2011, eligibility was extended to people who came to the U.S. for humanitarian reasons in the year following the earthquake.[9]

Haitian TPS has continued to be renewed for 18-month periods since the initial designation (with the exception of the most recent six-month extension), as the country remains unstable and unsafe. In addition to the devastating earthquake of 2010, the country has been struck by two additional catastrophes: a cholera epidemic inadvertently introduced by UN peacekeepers in October 2010 and Hurricane Matthew, a category 4 hurricane which hit in October 2016 and affected 2 million Haitians.

Why should TPS for Haiti be extended?

Haiti remains unstable and unsafe as a result of the lingering effects of three separate crises over the past seven years:

1. The 2010 earthquake: The earthquake cost Haiti, one of the poorest countries in the world, 120% of its GDP.[10] 300,000 buildings were destroyed in the capital city.[11] Seven years later, 60,000 survivors remain homeless and are living in camps.[12]
2. Cholera epidemic: In October 2010, unsanitary practices by UN peacekeepers led to a cholera epidemic which has killed at least 9,500 and sickened 900,000 people.[13] The disease leads to severe dehydration, blood sugar shock, and organ failure. Cholera can kill in a matter of hours.[14] The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention called it the “worst [cholera outbreak] in recent history.”[15] The UN has only raised $2 million of the $400 million estimated need to begin addressing the crisis it inadvertently caused.[16] Thousands of people continue to be sickened every year.[17]

3. Hurricane Matthew: Haiti was devastated by Hurricane Matthew on Oct. 4, 2016, the first Category 4 hurricane to hit the Caribbean island nation in 52 years.[18] Matthew affected more than 2 million Haitians[19], claiming 1,000 lives.[20] At least 1.4 million people were left in immediate need of emergency aid—including 800,000 children.[21] 800,000 people were left without food or “food insecure,”[22] and 1,250,000 Haitians—including a half million children—are without safe water.[23] The storm surge, flooding, and winds wiped out livestock and crops.[24] damaged or destroyed at least 716 schools, interrupted the education of an estimated 490,000 children,[25] and further spread the cholera epidemic.[26] According to a March 2017 UN Report, the hurricane cost Haiti $2.7 billion, or 32 percent of its GDP.[27]

What is the impact of TPS for Haitians on U.S. society and its economy?

- TPS provides work authorization for Haitians who are contributing to the U.S. labor market and economy. Overall, labor force participation of Haitian immigrants is more than 81 percent.[28] Haitian TPS holders make substantial contributions in food service, education, construction, and healthcare sectors, among others.[29]
- Each year, Haitian TPS holders contribute nearly $280 million to the gross domestic product. Over the course of 10 years, those contributions add up to nearly $2.8 billion in GDP.[30]
- Ending TPS for Haitians without a transition plan would reduce Social Security and Medicare contributions by $42 million per year and create nearly $60 million in employee turnover costs.[31]

What will the impact be if TPS for Haitians is not extended?

Ending TPS for Haitians living in the U.S. and forcing them to return to Haiti would put them at risk of hunger, disease, and death. It would further weaken and destabilize Haiti’s economy, and harm U.S. citizen children.

Remittances are crucial to Haiti’s economy and people.[32] In 2015, remittances to Haiti from the U.S. exceeded $1.3 billion—or about 15 percent of Haiti’s GDP.[33] Haiti’s new government, established in late February 2017 after years of turmoil and unrest, is saddled with major problems and only has a $2 billion dollar operating budget.[34]

Due to cholera and food, water and housing insecurity in Haiti, Haitian TPS-holder parents, if forced to return to Haiti, would face the excruciating decision of whether or not to bring their U.S. citizen children with them. In all likelihood, many parents would choose not to put their children in harm’s way, ripping families apart and scarring a generation of Haitian Americans.

Why is TPS for Haiti in line with our shared values?

The U.S. has a long history of providing relief to victims of catastrophic events and natural disasters. TPS reflects our country’s values by protecting people from unsafe conditions outside of their control. Americans hold themselves to high standards when it comes to the humane treatment of people. U.S. immigration law, including TPS, reflects respect for the lives of people who, without protection, would be returned to hazardous, if not deadly, circumstances.
Our faith and values demand that the U.S. extend TPS to protect the lives and dignity of Haitian TPS recipients in the U.S. We must welcome, share with, and stand in solidarity with our Haitian brothers and sisters in need. Continued TPS for Haiti satisfies our moral and international obligations until greater progress is made to ensure innocent people are not too soon returned to dangerous conditions. TPS embodies core tenets of Catholic social teaching on immigration. People have the right to migrate to sustain their lives and the lives of their families and a country must regulate its borders with justice and mercy.\[35\]

\[2\] 8 U.S.C. §1254a
\[3\] Id.
\[4\] Id.
\[5\] USCIS information about Temporary Protected Status, available at www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status
\[8\] See Designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status, 75 Fed. Reg. 3476 (Jan. 21, 2010).
\[12\] Id.
\[14\] Cholera, available at www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/cholera/symptoms-conditions/cholera-symptoms-causes/dxc-20311185
\[15\] Cholera in Haiti, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, available at www.cdc.gov/cholera/haiti/index.html
\[17\] U.N. Admits Role In Haiti Cholera Outbreak That Has Killed Thousands, NPR News, Aug. 18, 2016, available at www.npr.org/sections/thenewscaster/2016/08/18/490468644/u-n-admits-role-in-
\[19\] Gregg Zoroya, Haiti faces humanitarian crisis after Hurricane Matthew, USA TODAY, Oct. 5, 2016, available at www.usatoday.com/story/news/2016/10/05/haiti-hurricane-matthew-destruc-
\[29\] Id.
\[31\] Id.
\[33\] Id.
Temporary Protected Status for Honduras

The current 18-month grant of Temporary Protected Status for nearly 60,000 Hondurans will expire on Jan. 5, 2018 unless extended by the secretary of Homeland Security. By statute, the DHS secretary must decide whether conditions warrant extension of the deadline by Nov. 6, 2017.

What is TPS?

Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, was established by Congress through the Immigration Act of 1990. TPS is intended to protect foreign nationals in the U.S. from being returned to their home country if it became unsafe during the time they were in the U.S. and would put them at risk of violence, disease, or death. Under the law, the secretary of Homeland Security may designate a foreign country for TPS in three scenarios:

1. Ongoing armed conflict (such as a civil war)
2. An environmental disaster (such as earthquake or hurricane), or an epidemic; or
3. Other extraordinary and temporary conditions that prevents nationals from the country from safely returning home.

The country's designation can last as little as six months, the minimum, or as long as 18 months, the maximum. Sixty days prior to the end of an initial designation or re-designation period, the secretary must review the conditions of the foreign country to determine if the unsafe conditions still exist. If conditions continue, the secretary may extend TPS for another six-, 12- or 18-month period. There is no limit on the number of times the secretary may extend TPS, so long as the conditions continue.

Nationals of a TPS-designated country or people without nationality who last lived in a TPS-designated country who were physically present in the U.S. when the designation was made and meet certain requirements may be eligible for TPS. If TPS is granted, the applicant receives protection from deportation and work authorization to support themselves while they remain in the U.S. By statute, TPS does not provide a path to lawful permanent resident status or citizenship.

Why was Honduras designated for TPS?

Honduras was designated for TPS under President Bill Clinton on Jan. 5, 1999. In October 1998, Honduras was devastated by Hurricane Mitch. With 150 mph winds and days of torrential rain, it was one of the most catastrophic hurricanes in modern history. One-fifth of the Honduran population, 1.4 million people, were left homeless. More than 5,600 people were killed. Two-thirds of Honduras’ roads and bridges were destroyed, as well as the banana, coffee and other agricultural plantations vital to the Honduran economy. The United Nations reported that Hurricane Mitch set Honduras back 20 years, both socially and economically.

In the most recent extension of TPS for Honduras (July 6, 2016 through Jan. 5, 2018), the U.S. government cited that not only Hurricane Mitch, but subsequent natural disasters prevent the safe return of Honduran TPS holders in the U.S. This includes severe climate fluctuations between drought and flooding and the devastating flooding and landslides resulting from Tropical Storm Hanna in 2014.

Why should TPS for Honduras be extended?

Honduras remains unable to adequately handle the safe return of nearly 60,000 Honduran TPS holders. Following Tropical Storm Hanna, the country has endured the rise of two mosquito-borne diseases, dengue and chikungunya. In mid-2015, the president of Honduras’ medical school declared that public hospitals in the country were failing, barely able to provide basic medical care, let alone face an epidemic.
The country is also dealing with a catastrophic drought, which has led to massive crop losses, food insecurity, loss of employment and further economic depression.[17] The situation is exacerbated by a regional coffee plant disease, known as rust finger or coffee rust, further demolishing one of Honduras’ chief crops.[18]

In 2017, Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez said at the Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America that he hopes that the U.S. will extend TPS for Honduras when the current extension ends on Jan. 5, 2018.[19] He said that he planned to continue engaging with the U.S. on this matter, because “it’s not only that they are Hondurans, but these are human beings who have families,” referring to the number of Honduran TPS holders who have U.S. citizen children.

**What is the impact of TPS for Hondurans on U.S. society and the economy?**

- TPS provides work authorization for Hondurans who are living and contributing to the U.S. labor market and economy.
- 85 percent of Honduran TPS holders are in the labor force.[20]
- Each year, Honduran TPS holders contribute more than $1 billion in GDP. Over the course of 10 years, those contributions add up to over $10.9 billion.[21]
- Ending TPS for Hondurans would reduce Social Security contributions by more than $135 million each year and Medicare contributions by over $31.7 million each year.[22]
- Ending TPS for Hondurans would result in more than $233 million in turnover costs, resulting from employers being forced to fire workers they have trained and invested in, and replace them with new, untrained workers.[23]
- The construction industry and childcare services would be hardest hit by the end of Honduran TPS.[24]
- New York/New Jersey, Miami/Fort Lauderdale, Houston, the Washington metropolitan area, and Los Angeles are the areas that would be most dramatically affected, because they have the highest concentrations of Honduran TPS holders.[25]

**What will the impact be if TPS for Honduras is not extended?**

Ending TPS for Hondurans living in the U.S. and forcing them to return to Honduras would put 60,000 people at tremendous risk of food and housing insecurity, risk of disease without access to medical care,[26] and risk of violence from escalating gang violence in the country.[27] The United Nations estimates that at least 174,000 people have fled gang violence in Honduras since 2010.[28] A 2016 United Nations report said, “Everyone [in the capital of Honduras] has a story about a family whose home has been burned down or a son recruited by the gangs.”[29]

The remittances that Honduran TPS holders in the U.S. send home to family and friends in Honduras are crucial to Honduras’ economy and people.[30] In 2015, remittances to Honduras from the U.S. exceeded $3.7 billion, approximately 17.4 percent of Honduras’ GDP according to the World Bank.[31]

Due to food and housing insecurity, disease, and horrific gang violence in Honduras, Honduran parents (if forced to return to Honduras) would face the excruciating decision of whether or not to bring their U.S. citizen children with them. In all likelihood, many parents would choose not to put their children in harm’s way, ripping families apart and scarring a generation of Honduran Americans.

**Why is TPS for Honduras in line with our shared values?**

The U.S. has a long history of providing relief to victims of catastrophic events, war, violence, and natural disasters. TPS reflects our country’s values by protecting people from unsafe conditions outside of their control.
Americans hold themselves to high standards when it comes to the humane treatment of people. U.S. immigration law, including TPS, reflects respect for the lives of people who, without protection, would be returned to hazardous, if not deadly, circumstances.

Our faith and values demand that the U.S. extend TPS to protect the lives and dignity of Honduran TPS recipients. Continued TPS for Honduras satisfies our moral and international obligations until greater progress is made to ensure innocent people are not returned to dangerous conditions.

TPS embodies core tenets of Catholic social teaching on immigration. People have the right to migrate to sustain their lives and the lives of their families and a country must regulate its borders with justice and mercy.[32]

[2] INA § 244
[3] Id.
[4] Id.
[5] Id.
[14] Id.
[15] Id.
[16] Id.
[17] Id.
[18] Id.
[22] Id.
[23] Id.
[24] Id.
[28] Id.
[29] Id.
[31] Id.
[32] Id.
Temporary Protected Status for El Salvador

The current 18-month grant of Temporary Protected Status for nearly 200,000 Salvodorans will expire on March 9, 2018 unless extended by the Department of Homeland Security secretary. By statute, the DHS secretary must decide whether conditions warrant extension of the deadline by Jan. 8, 2018.

What is TPS?

Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, was established by Congress through the Immigration Act of 1990. TPS is intended to protect foreign nationals in the U.S. from being returned to their home country if it became unsafe during the time they were in the U.S. and returning would put them at risk of violence, disease, or death. Under the law, the secretary of Homeland Security may designate a foreign country for TPS in three scenarios:

1. Ongoing armed conflict (such as a civil war);
2. An environmental disaster (such as an earthquake or hurricane), or an epidemic; or
3. Other extraordinary and temporary conditions that prevent nationals from the country from safely returning home.

The country's designation can last as little as six months, the minimum, or as long as 18 months, the maximum. Sixty days prior to the end of an initial designation or re-designation period, the secretary must review the conditions of the foreign country to determine if the unsafe conditions still exist. If conditions continue, the secretary may extend TPS for another six- 12- or 18-month period. There is no limit on the number of times the secretary may extend TPS, so long as the conditions continue.

Nationals of a TPS-designated country or people without nationality who last lived in a TPS-designated country, and who were physically present in the U.S. when the designation was made and meet certain requirements, may be eligible for TPS. If TPS is granted, the applicant receives protection from deportation and work authorization to support themselves while they remain in the U.S. By statute, TPS does not provide a path to lawful permanent resident status or citizenship.

Why was El Salvador designated for TPS?

El Salvador was designated for TPS under President George W. Bush. El Salvador was struck by a catastrophic 7.6 magnitude earthquake on Jan. 13, 2001, and further devastated by two powerful aftershocks on Feb. 13 (5.1 magnitude) and Feb. 17, 2001 (5.6 magnitude). The series of earthquakes resulted in 1,100 deaths and left more than 2,500 people missing. Nearly 8,000 suffered injuries. Seventeen percent of El Salvador’s population (1.3 million people) was displaced by the earthquakes and resulting landslides. The earthquakes caused more than $2.8 billion in damages, including the destruction or damage of 220,000 homes, 1,696 schools and 856 other public buildings.

Since 2001, the country has remained unstable for the safe return of Salvadoran TPS holders. In the most recent extension (Sept. 10, 2016 to March 9, 2018), the U.S. government cited the dire conditions brought about by numerous subsequent natural disasters, including hurricanes, tropical storms, flooding, volcanic seismic activity, prolonged drought that caused widespread food and water insecurity, the spread of mosquito-borne illnesses, lack of housing and electricity and gang-related insecurity.

Why should TPS for El Salvador be extended?

El Salvador remains unable to adequately handle the safe return of nearly 200,000 Salvadoran TPS holders. In addition to continued acute food, water, and housing shortages, gang violence has reached unprecedented levels—the U.S. State Department reports that more than one in five families claim to have been the victims of violent crime. A 2015 study by the International Rescue Committee estimates that 5.2 percent of El Salvador’s population, or 324,000 people, have been displaced by gang violence.
In June 2017, Salvadoran President Salvador Sánchez requested the U.S. extend TPS for Salvadorans.[10] The request came as part the Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America, in which Central American and U.S. government leadership discussed solutions to stabilizing the Northern Triangle.[11] Extending TPS for El Salvador, and not forcing the country to absorb nearly 200,000 people and lose crucial remittances, is integral to that stabilization.

What is the impact of TPS for Salvadorans on U.S. society and the economy?

- TPS provides work authorization for Salvadorans who are living and contributing to the U.S. labor market and economy.
- 88 percent of Salvadoran TPS holders are in the labor force.[12]
- Each year, Salvadoran TPS holders contribute more than $3.1 billion in GDP. Over the course of 10 years, those contributions add up to over $31 billion.[13]
- Ending TPS for Salvadorans without a transition plan would reduce Social Security contributions in the U.S. by more than $390 million each year and Medicare contributions by more than $91 million each year.[14]
- Ending TPS for Salvadorans would result in more than $673 million in turnover costs, resulting from employers being forced to fire workers they have trained and invested in, and replace them with new, untrained workers.[15]
- Construction and services industries would be hardest hit by the end of Salvadoran TPS.[16]
- Washington, Los Angeles, New York City, Houston, and Dallas-Fort Worth would be the most affected metropolitan areas, as they are home to the highest concentrations of Salvadoran TPS holders.[17]

What will the impact be if TPS for El Salvador is not extended?

Ending TPS for Salvadorans living in the U.S. and forcing them to return to El Salvador would put them at risk of food, water, and housing insecurity, violence at the hands of gangs and further destabilize the economies of the U.S. and El Salvador.

Remittances from Salvadoran TPS holders in the U.S. are crucial to El Salvador’s economy and people.[18] In 2015, remittances to El Salvador from the U.S. exceeded $4.28 billion, approximately 16.8 percent of El Salvador’s GDP according to the World Bank.[19]

Due to natural disasters and extreme gang violence in El Salvador, Salvadoran parents (if forced to return to El Salvador) would face the excruciating decision of whether or not to bring their U.S. citizen children with them. In all likelihood, many parents would choose not to put their children in harm’s way, ripping families apart and scarring a generation of Salvadoran Americans.

Why is TPS for El Salvador in line with our shared values?

The U.S. has a long history of providing relief to victims of catastrophic events and natural disasters. TPS reflects our country’s values by protecting people from unsafe conditions that are outside of their control.

Americans hold themselves to high standards when it comes to the humane treatment of people. U.S. immigration law, including TPS, reflects respect for the lives of people who, without protection, would be returned to hazardous, if not deadly, circumstances.

Our faith and values demand that the U.S. extend TPS to protect the lives and dignity of Salvadoran TPS recipients. Continued TPS for El Salvador satisfies our moral and international obligations until greater progress is made to ensure innocent people are not returned to dangerous conditions.
TPS embodies core tenets of Catholic social teaching on immigration. People have the right to migrate to sustain their lives and the lives of their families and a country must regulate its borders with justice and mercy.\[^{20}\]

\[^{1}\] Extension of the Designation of El Salvador for Temporary Protected Status, 81 Fed. Reg. 44645 (July 8, 2016)
\[^{2}\] INA § 244
\[^{3}\] Id.
\[^{4}\] Id.
\[^{5}\] Id.
\[^{7}\] Extension of the Designation of El Salvador for Temporary Protected Status, 81 Fed. Reg. 44645 (July 8, 2016)
\[^{9}\] Id.
\[^{10}\] 'We're In This Together': VP Pence To Central Americans At Miami Conference, CBS Local, (June 15, 2017), available at http://miami.cbslocal.com/2017/06/15/vice-president-pence-miami-talk-cen_
\[^{11}\] Id.
\[^{14}\] Id.
\[^{15}\] Id.
\[^{19}\] Id.
ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS BY
SALVADORAN, HONDURAN, AND
HAITIAN TPS HOLDERS

The Cost to Taxpayers, GDP, and Businesses of Ending TPS

By Amanda Baran and Jose Magaña-Salgado with Tom K. Wong

I. Executive Summary

In the next two years, the current Administration, through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), will consider whether to extend designations of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for all countries that currently hold TPS.\(^1\) TPS is a form of immigration status that provides employment authorization and protection from deportation for foreign nationals who cannot be safely returned to their home countries.\(^2\) In terms of countries with the largest share of TPS recipients, the Trump Administration will decide whether to terminate the immigration status of over 300,000 immigrants from El Salvador, Honduras, and, most immediately, Haiti.\(^2\) In light of this Administration’s radical increase of interior and exterior enforcement through executive orders, funding requests, and policy guidance, the continued existence of TPS for these three countries is very much at risk. Thus, it is critical to determine the economic impact that termination of TPS for these three countries would have on taxpayers, businesses, and nation’s economy.

Using data from the American Community Survey (ACS), this report estimates the number of immigrants that would be impacted by ending TPS and examines the economic consequences of terminating TPS for El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti. Among the key findings of this report:

- There are approximately **186,403** Salvadorans, **70,281** Hondurans, and **46,558** Haitians who currently hold a valid grant of TPS, for a total of approximately **300,000** individuals.
- As the DHS Secretary must decide whether to issue renewals or terminations 60 days before expiration,\(^3\) decisions on TPS extensions for Haiti, El Salvador, and Honduras will likely occur May 2017, January 2018, and November 2017, respectively.
- Deporting all Salvadoran, Honduran, and Haitian TPS holders would cost taxpayers **$3.1 billion** dollars.
- Ending TPS for these three countries would result in a **$6.9 billion** reduction to Social Security and Medicare contributions over a decade.
- Ending TPS for these three countries would lead to a **$45.2 billion** reduction in GDP over a decade.
- The wholesale lay-off of the entire employed TPS population from these three countries would result in **$967 million** of turnover costs, e.g. costs employers incur when an employee leaves a position.
- The loss in GDP and turnover costs would be felt most acutely in the locations where Salvadorans, Hondurans, and Haitians are primarily located, including major metropolitan areas in **Florida, New York, California, Texas, Maryland, and Virginia.**
Additional Resources

Interfaith Sign On Letters

Profiles of TPS Holders in the United States
● A Statistical and Demographic Profile of the US Temporary Protected Status Populations from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti, Center for Migration Studies (CMS), http://cmsny.org/publications/jmhs-tps-elsalvador-honduras-haiti/
● Why is Another Category of Legally Present Immigrants Being Threatened With Loss of Status and Deportation, http://cmsny.org/publications/kerwin-tps-loss/

Country Conditions
● TPS Backgrounder on Sudan and South Sudan, http://www.adc.org/legal/tps-request/

Backgrounder on TPS
● CLINIC, Temporary Protected Status for Honduras https://cliniclegal.org/resources/temporary-protected-status-honduras
● CLINIC, Temporary Protected Status for Haiti, https://cliniclegal.org/resources/temporary-protected-status-haiti
● CLINIC, Temporary Protected Status for El Salvador, https://cliniclegal.org/resources/temporary-protected-status-el-salvador

Local TPS Resolutions
● For a regularly updated list of local TPS resolutions, please click here.
TPS Advocacy Resources

- Alianza Americas, Save TPS:

- Alianza Americas, TPS Talking Points (English):

- Alianza Americas, TPS Talking Points (Spanish):

- Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti:
  [http://www.ijdh.org/2016/10/topics/immigration-topics/dhs-should-extend-tps-for-haitians/](http://www.ijdh.org/2016/10/topics/immigration-topics/dhs-should-extend-tps-for-haitians/)

- Justice for Immigrants: