

# Congress: act now for TPS, DED, and DACA recipients

Recent attacks on the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) programs threaten to push our immigration system out-of-sync with our obligation to ensure that individuals seeking protection are not returned to unsafe situations. Furthermore, the termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program threatens to destabilize families and communities by jeopardizing the lives of immigrants who came to the United States as children.

## **TPS, DED, and DACA recipients alike are essential parts of their communities with long-term ties in the U.S.**

TPS protects approximately 330,000 people in the U.S. from 10 countries (El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Nepal, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, South Sudan, and Somalia) who would otherwise be deported to areas that continue to suffer from disease, violence, food insecurity, the aftermath of natural disasters, and other life-threatening conditions.

DED protects 4,000 Liberian TPS holders residing in the U.S. from returning to Liberia at a time when the nation continues to face a public health crisis. DED holders have resided in the U.S. for over a decade and are vital community members.

DACA has offered stability to the lives of over 700,000 young people by giving them opportunity and peace of mind to pursue their dreams, provide for their loved ones, and be active members of their communities.

However, TPS, DED, and DACA are temporary benefits that do not lead to lawful permanent residency or any other immigration status.

## **Who is at risk?**

The administration has stripped away protections for TPS holders from Haiti, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Nepal, Honduras, Sudan, Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone, putting over 300,000 TPS and DED holders at risk of deportation over the next two years. Time is running out for communities like Liberian DED holders who face imminent deadlines. TPS holders are taking legal action to challenge the Trump administration's decisions. DACA is hanging by a thread, with lawsuits in various states and the government continuing to accept applications for renewal, but with continued attacks from the administration, recipients could still be threatened with deportation.

The cruel termination of TPS, DED, and DACA has forced over one million immigrants into the U.S.'s inhumane and deadly deportation pipeline. We cannot silently stand by as aggressive efforts are underway to deport millions of immigrants with deep roots in our communities.

## **We call on Congress to:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Immediately enact a permanent, standalone solution** that offers Lawful Permanent Residency (LPR) and a roadmap to citizenship for all TPS, DED, and DACA recipients.

**Provide relief for TPS, DED, and DACA recipients** without expanding detention infrastructure, increasing funding for ICE and CBP, or further militarizing our border communities.

**Maintain the TPS program** to ensure that future designations to countries that need shelter provided by the U.S. can be granted through TPS.

# Why we need



# #ResidencyNow

## **Granting legal permanent residency with a pathway to citizenship for TPS, DED, and DACA recipients will strengthen communities and support family stability.**

- Most TPS, DED, and DACA recipients have been in the U.S. for decades and are deeply integrated into our communities. They are from mixed status families of U.S. citizens, TPS holders and undocumented individuals. They provide emotional and financial support to loved ones, and shoulder responsibilities in schools, churches, and civic organizations.
- Deporting TPS, DED, and DACA recipients would separate hundreds of thousands of families, which is morally abhorrent. Nearly 270,000 U.S. citizen children have a parent who is a TPS recipient from Honduras, El Salvador, or Haiti, and at least 200,000 U.S. citizen children have a parent who is a DACA recipient.
- TPS, DED, and DACA recipients have built thriving lives in the United States that span decades, starting their own businesses, buying homes, attending community colleges and universities, and raising and supporting their families. Residency will allow them to continue to do so.
- A roadmap to citizenship will protect TPS, DED, and DACA recipients from policies that would criminalize them and their loved ones and increase persecution through detention and deportation.

## **Offering Lawful Permanent Residency for TPS and DACA recipients would support regional stability goals.**

- TPS countries recovering from catastrophic events would be able to rebuild without having to divert limited resources to handling people being returned with little or no capacity to safely receive them.
- Remittances make up more than 15% of the GDP of some TPS-designated countries, which are also countries of origin for many DACA recipients. A sudden loss of these remittances would have serious economic implications for impacted countries leading to increased instability and reverberations across the region.
- The impact of such a preventable loss will only fuel cycles of migration as those impacted by crushing poverty seek to save their lives and the lives of their families.
- Forcing hundreds of thousands of TPS, DED, and DACA recipients to return to Central American and other nations makes them targets of criminal gangs that prey on returnees.

## **TPS, DED, and DACA recipients have strong and vital ties to the local and national economy.**

- TPS, DED, and DACA recipients are key players in the fabric of their local economies and the national economy. A roadmap to citizenship will provide the stability for these individuals to continue to gain from and contribute to the economy, earn higher incomes, establish more businesses, and otherwise make more contributions to the welfare of their families and communities.
- Over a decade, the inability of these individuals to work would result in over \$500 billion in lost GDP and over \$10 billion in lost Social Security and Medicare contributions.



**American Friends  
Service Committee**

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace, and humanitarian service. Its work is based on the Quaker belief in the worth of every person and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice.