



## TPS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### What is Temporary Protected Status (TPS)?

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is an immigration status that is given to nationals of certain countries temporarily for humanitarian reasons. It is a relief from deportation for these foreign nationals who were physically present in the United States of America during the time that something catastrophic happened in their country of origin preventing their safe return. The conditions making it unsafe for them to return include but are not limited to: an ongoing armed conflict, an environmental disaster, an epidemic. To be eligible, individuals must be physically present in the U.S. on the date on which TPS is designated for their nationality, and must have continuously resided in the U.S. since that date.

### Why do we need a permanent solution? Why now?

As of January 2018, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) has been terminated for 7 countries: Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Nicaragua, Haiti, and El Salvador. This unprecedented string of terminations from the Administration leaves thousands of long term residents of the United States vulnerable to detention and deportation. TPS holders are integral members of the United States with deep family and community ties that span decades. Legislation that provides definite pathways to citizenship for TPS holders must be passed and enacted to formalize what TPS holders already are – permanent residents of the United States.

### What is DED and how is it different from TPS?

Deferred Enforcement Departure or DED is a discretionary decision made by the President to protect a class of individuals. Liberians have had DED or Temporary Protected Status (TPS) since 1991. It has been extended for the last decade by Presidents Bush and Obama, many recipients have been here in the U.S. for over 25 years. The current White House however, announced the termination of the current DED for Liberia and is set to expire March 31, 2019.

### Who is in charge of TPS?

Congress created Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in the Immigration Act of 1990. The Department of Homeland Security upon the advice of the President decides which countries to designate TPS to and whether to extend. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is responsible for the granting of the status to individuals.

### How long does TPS last for?

Persons granted TPS are authorized to remain in the U.S. for a specific, limited period, initially no more than 18 months. When this period expires, the DHS secretary may extend it for another specified period of 6 months, 12 months, or 18 months. The law permits DHS to extend a TPS designation for a country in need so long as conditions that led to TPS being granted exist or there are additional dangerous circumstances in that country; Congress did not impose a time limit in the TPS law.

### What demographic does TPS affect?

There are currently 320,000 people being protected by TPS in the U.S. from the Sudan, South Sudan, Nicaragua, Honduras, Haiti, El Salvador, Syria, Nepal, Yemen, and Somalia. TPS is a pertinent program for people of color representing African, Caribbean, Latinx, Afro-Latinx, Arab, Afro-Arab, European, and Mediterranean populations.

## How does TPS Affect Black Migrants?

4 out of the 10 countries that have TPS are Black majority countries. The largest population of which are 58,557 Haitians. These individuals are located across the U.S. but generally in New York, Florida, and California. They include several students, hospitality workers, health-care providers, educators, and children.

Country	Cause of Designation	TPS designated through	Years w/ relief from Deportation	Designated by	Recipients
Somalia	War, droughts, famine	September 17, 2018	27	George H.W. Bush	499
*Sudan	War	Will be terminated 11/02/2018	20	George H.W. Bush	1,048
Honduras	Hurricane Mitch	July 4, 2018	18	Bill Clinton	86,031
*Liberia	Civil War, Ebola	DED through March 31, 2019	27	George H.W. Bush	857- 4000
*Nicaragua	Hurricane Mitch	Will be terminated 1/5/2019	18	Bill Clinton	5,306
*El Salvador	Earthquakes	Will be terminated 9/9/2019	16	George W. Bush	262,528
**South Sudan	War	May 2, 2019	6	Barack Obama	77
*Haiti	Earthquake	Will be terminated 7/22/2019	7	Barack Obama	58,557
**Syria	War	September 30, 2019	5	Barack Obama	6,916
*Nepal	Earthquake	June 24, 2019	2	Barack Obama	14,791
Yemen	War	September 3, 2018	2	Barack Obama	1,116

\*DHS advised that TPS for Sudan will be terminated as of November 2, 2018, Haiti as of July 22, 2019, Nicaragua as of January 5, 2019, El Salvador as of September 9, 2019, Nepal as of June 24, 2019 and DED for Liberia as of March 31, 2018.

\*\* TPS for Syria and South Sudan was renewed for those who already had the designation, new applicants are not eligible.

## What is the procedure to get TPS?

TPS recipients, similar to other DHS mandated programs, must give biometrics, thorough background checks and are ineligible to hold TPS if they have certain criminal convictions. The application is a costly process and each individual is processed separately: employment authorization fee is currently \$410, while the application and biometrics fees are \$85 and \$50 respectively.

## What are the benefits of TPS?

TPS allows people to work legally in the U.S thereby contributing to the American economy as well as that of their home country. Many are a lifeline for their families who still live in dire and unstable circumstances overseas. TPS holders are protected from deportation allowing them to freely contribute richly to society. TPS holders are not eligible to adjust their status and they are not eligible for federal public benefits.

## What is the status of the TPS program?

TPS is at risk of being holistically terminated. The Trump Administration has indicated that it is looking towards ending the use of TPS. There is the fear that TPS holders will be sent back to countries that are unsafe or have poor conditions, putting their lives and livelihoods at risk.

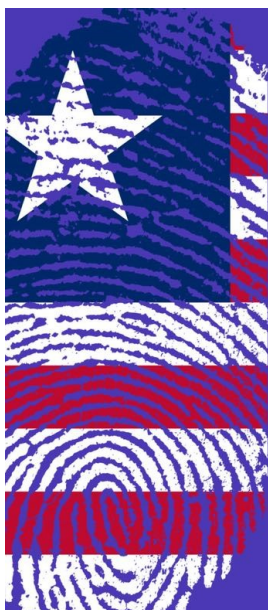
## How Temporary is TPS?

Though TPS is intended to be temporary, the prolonged conditions in some of the countries have had recipients here for over 20 years. They have built homes, careers, and families in the United States.

## What is the impact of ending TPS?

**Economic** - There would a profound impact on the country if TPS holders, many of whom are essential workers, were removed from their jobs. The loss of these workers would cost employers \$967 million from having to replace and retrain workers. The American economy (GDP, Medicare, and Social Security Contributions) would lose billions. Additionally, many TPS holders are homeowners and entrepreneurs. The loss of their assets, even one country at a time, would be catastrophic for the U.S. economy.

**Family** - The majority of persons with TPS were first here in the United States to be with their families and loved ones. Many have also lived full lives here not only contributing economically, culturally and strengthen additions to the service, technology and health industries but starting their own families. TPS holders from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti (the three largest TPS populations) have 273,000 U.S. citizen children. Ending TPS protections would separate hundreds of thousands from their families.



EXTEND DED

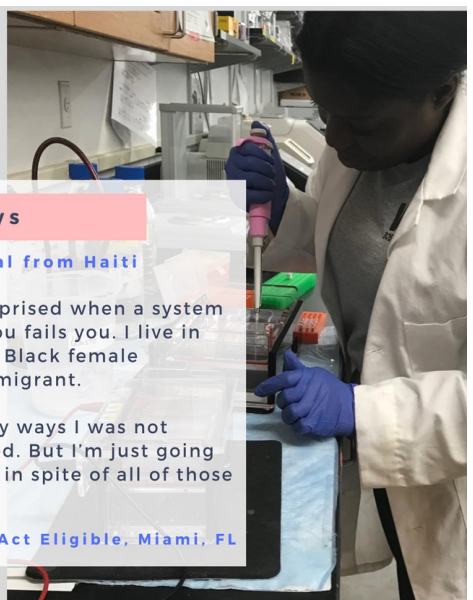
"I first applied for TPS in 1997 and then got onto DED in 2007. For over twenty years, I have been in limbo- waiting to be an American citizen. The process has cost me thousands of dollars- from annual immigration fees to legal fees in seeking attorney assistance.


I am almost fifty. My friends in Liberia are either dead or living outside of Liberia.

At this age,

I would not know how to start over."

Michael Weah- 48yr from Liberia | DED



 **Lys**  
Child arrival from Haiti

"You cannot be surprised when a system not designed for you fails you. I live in America, I live as a Black female undocumented immigrant.

Those are just many ways I was not designed to succeed. But I'm just going to have to succeed in spite of all of those factors."

TPS Holder, Dream Act Eligible, Miami, FL