



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

December 28, 2017

Ms. Kristen Clarke
President and Executive Director
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
1401 New York Avenue, NW #400
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Clarke:

Thank you for your November 20, 2017 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Haiti. The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate or redesignate a country for TPS and to extend or terminate a country's existing designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

At least 60 days before the current expiration date for a TPS designation, the Secretary must review conditions in the foreign country and, after consultation with other appropriate federal agencies, determine whether the statutory conditions for TPS continue to be met. Under the INA, if the Secretary determines that the conditions for designation are no longer met with respect to a country, the Secretary is required to terminate the designation. *See* INA § 244(b)(1), (3).

On November 20, 2017, former Acting Secretary Duke announced the termination of Haiti's TPS designation after determining that the statutory conditions for its designation no longer continued to be met. However, to allow for an orderly transition, the former Acting Secretary delayed the effective date by 18 months, so the termination of Haiti's designation will not become effective until July 22, 2019. This 18-month period will provide time for individuals with TPS to arrange for their departure or to seek an alternative lawful immigration status in the United States.

Additional information on the termination of TPS for Haiti can be found in former Acting Secretary Duke's November 20, 2017 announcement of the decision posted on the DHS website, the USCIS website, and in a notice that will be published in the *Federal Register*.

Thank you for your letter and interest in this important issue. The co-signers of your letter will receive separate, identical responses. Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Francis Cissna".

L. Francis Cissna
Director