



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

December 27, 2017

The Honorable Michaelle C. Solages
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblywoman Solages:

Thank you for your October 25, 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 again 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 matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

December 27, 2017

The Honorable Rodneyse Bichotte
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblywoman Bichotte:

Thank you for your October 25, 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.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

December 27, 2017

The Honorable Kimberly Jean-Pierre
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre:

Thank you for your October 25, 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.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
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Services

December 27, 2017

The Honorable Clyde Vanel
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblyman Vanel:

Thank you for your October 25, 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.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

December 27, 2017

The Honorable Thomas Abinati
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblyman Abinati:

Thank you for your October 25, 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.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

December 27, 2017

The Honorable Charles Barron
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblyman Barron:

Thank you for your October 25, 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.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

December 27, 2017

The Honorable Carmen De La Rosa
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblywoman De La Rosa:

Thank you for your October 25, 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.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

December 27, 2017

The Honorable Anthony D'Urso
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblyman D'Urso:

Thank you for your October 25, 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.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

December 27, 2017

The Honorable Sandra Galef
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblywoman Galef:

Thank you for your October 25, 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.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

December 27, 2017

The Honorable Richard Gottfried
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblyman Gottfried:

Thank you for your October 25, 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.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

December 27, 2017

The Honorable Andrew Hevesi
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblyman Hevesi:

Thank you for your October 25, 2017 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

December 27, 2017

The Honorable Ellen Jaffee
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblywoman Jaffee:

Thank you for your October 25, 2017 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
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Services

December 27, 2017

The Honorable Kenneth Zebrowski
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblyman Zebrowski:

Thank you for your October 25, 2017 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

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U.S. Citizenship
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December 27, 2017

The Honorable Brian Kavanagh
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblyman Kavanagh:

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U.S. Citizenship
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Services

December 27, 2017

The Honorable Fred Thiele, Jr.
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblyman Thiele:

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U.S. Citizenship
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December 27, 2017

The Honorable Helen Weinstein
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblywoman Weinstein:

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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 again 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 matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

December 27, 2017

The Honorable Aravella Simotas
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblywoman Simotas:

Thank you for your October 25, 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.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

December 27, 2017

The Honorable Philip Ramos
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblyman Ramos:

Thank you for your October 25, 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.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

December 27, 2017

The Honorable Amy Paulin
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblywoman Paulin:

Thank you for your October 25, 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.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

December 27, 2017

The Honorable Donna Lupardo
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblywoman Lupardo:

Thank you for your October 25, 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.

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