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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

June 5, 2015

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable John F. Kerry
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Johnson and Secretary Kerry:

New York City is proud to be home to approximately 6,000 immigrants from Nepal, and it has the fastest-growing Nepali-American population in the country. On behalf of these New Yorkers, I urge you to extend Temporary Protected Status to Nepal in light of the extraordinary circumstances facing the country after the recent massive earthquakes there.

The two earthquakes that struck Nepal are the worst earthquakes to hit the region in nearly a century, causing a high number of deaths, injuries and an avalanche on Mount Everest. As of today, the death toll stands at 8,712, with 22,493 people injured and 188 still missing. Among those who have survived, many are displaced. The country estimates that more than 560,000 homes were destroyed or damaged.

In a time of devastation, our nation can play a crucial role. You have already taken important steps by sending aid and relief supplies to Nepal's residents. The United States can continue to show leadership during this crucial rebuilding period by extending TPS to Nepal and allowing Nepalese people who are living in the United States to stay here temporarily until it is safe to return and their government is able to receive them. At this time, much of the country's public safety infrastructure is devoted to search and rescue work and addressing the shortages in food, water and electricity. The United States can do its part by not sending individuals back to a country that is currently burdened with widespread damage, uncertainty and turmoil.

Approximately 11,000 Nepali nationals live in the United States and many of them could potentially benefit from a grant of TPS. By allowing grantees to work lawfully in the U.S. and send remittances to their families there, TPS would also contribute significantly to Nepal's rebuilding process.

Due to the extraordinary humanitarian emergency in Nepal caused by the earthquake, I urge you to consider granting TPS to Nepali nationals who not only face unsafe conditions at home, but who also may no longer have a home to which to return. I believe that the United States should continue to be a global humanitarian leader by granting TPS during a time of critical need. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill de Blasio".

Bill de Blasio
Mayor

BDB:cg

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

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The Honorable Jeh Johnson
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528





U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

JUL 24 2015

The Honorable Bill de Blasio
Mayor of New York City
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

Thank you for your June 5, 2015 letter. Secretary Johnson asked that I respond on his behalf.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security shares your concern for all those affected by the recent earthquakes that struck Nepal. On June 24, 2015, Secretary Johnson announced his decision to extend the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Nepal for 18 months. This designation, which is in effect through December 24, 2016, allows Nepalese nationals, and persons without nationality who last habitually resided in Nepal, to remain in the United States throughout the designation period and to receive work authorization.

Individuals from Nepal who desire TPS have through December 21, 2015, to file an application with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Your staff can access the application, and other important information about eligibility for TPS and the application process, online at www.uscis.gov/tps. Additionally, USCIS issued a news alert on May 5, 2015, highlighting other temporary immigration relief measures currently available to assist eligible Nepalese nationals. The full news alert is available online at www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/immigration-relief-measures-nepali-nationals.

Thank you again for your letter. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "León Rodríguez". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "L" and "R".

León Rodríguez
Director