

September 11, 2023

Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
301 7th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 2052

**RECEIVED**  
**By ESEC at 2:46 pm, Sep 11, 2023**

**RE: 400 Organizations Urge Temporary Protected Status for Central American Countries and Nepal**

Dear Mr. Secretary,

The organizations signed on below urge you to immediately use your discretion to redesignate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Nepal, which you have recently found to meet the necessary country condition requirements. We also urge you to make the findings necessary to designate or redesignate TPS for all other countries that qualify under the statute, including Guatemala and Venezuela.

On Wednesday, June 21st, 2023, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) extended – but did not redesignate – the TPS designations of El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Nepal. The decision to extend these designations was necessary to resolve the status of just under 250,000 longstanding U.S. residents who have been living in limbo since the former administration attempted to terminate TPS for these countries. All of those benefiting already have TPS and will now be able to maintain the lawful status they have held – in the case of the Central American countries – for close to a quarter century.

The Federal Register notices published on that day by DHS included a formal finding that “The conditions supporting . . . designation for TPS still continue to be met” for all four of these countries. Based on this finding, DHS was required to extend TPS for them. But by statute the same finding also allows DHS, in its discretion, to redesignate TPS for those countries. Doing so would provide TPS protections to individuals who have come to the U.S. and established lives here in the many intervening years since the original designations. Such a decision to redesignate will remain open to you, as DHS Secretary, in your unreviewable discretion, until and unless those conditions are no longer in place. Failure to exercise that discretion would leave one to two million people from these same nations unprotected, even though they face the exact same dangers as current TPS holders if forcefully returned to their countries of origin.

The case for exercising this statutory authority delegated to you by Congress is overwhelming, considering that it would provide enormous benefits to our nation and also fulfill the spirit of the president’s campaign promise not to return TPS holders to unsafe countries. A decision to redesignate TPS for these countries would of course be life-changing for those who have made their lives here. In addition, a wealth of research demonstrates the benefits to all workers and the economy of granting legal status to persons who already live and work in the U.S. and specifically documents the huge economic contributions of persons who have or would be eligible for TPS. Redesignating TPS for these countries would grant work authorization to a meaningful proportion of all currently undocumented workers, helping to alleviate tight labor markets and reducing the need for local safety net programs. It would also increase remittances back to these countries, putting resources directly into the hands of the people who need it most, helping to bring stability to those countries, and thereby reducing migration. We cannot think of a single countervailing argument of anywhere close to equal force.

To your credit, DHS under your leadership has often recognized this balance of considerations and has used its discretion to designate or redesignate TPS for several countries that qualify because the return of their nationals residing in the U.S. would be unsafe. In July of 2022, however, you extended but declined to redesignate TPS for Venezuela despite determining that the conditions justifying a TPS designation were met at that time. Decisions on other countries that would appear to qualify have yet to be rendered. Guatemala, for example, is experiencing conditions that are very similar to those of its Central American neighbors, and the Guatemalan nationals who would benefit from a TPS designation include many who have lived and contributed to our nation as essential workers and otherwise for more than three decades.

Every day of delay of TPS designations for these countries is a humanitarian and economic loss for all of us. We therefore once again ask you, in the strongest terms, to:

- Immediately redesignate TPS for El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Nepal based on the country condition findings that the Department made on June 21st; and
- Make the country conditions findings necessary to designate or redesignate TPS for Guatemala, Venezuela, and all other countries that qualify.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

cc: Secretary Antony Blinken, Department of State

1Hood Power  
350 Bay Area Action  
350 Sacramento  
350.org  
350Hawaii  
AbueNica  
Access Living / Cambiando Vidas  
ACM Legal Services  
Action Together NEPA  
Adhikaar for Human Rights & Social Justice  
Advance Maryland  
Advocates for Immigrant Rights  
African Asylum Initiative of Courageous Resistance  
African Career Education & Resource, Inc.  
African Communities Together  
African Immigration Initiative  
Al Otro Lado  
Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice (ACIJ)  
ALAC Alabama Latino AIDS Coalition  
Aldea - The People's Justice Center  
Alianza Americas  
America's Voice  
American Business Immigration Coalition - Action  
American Civil Liberties Union

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)  
American Immigration Lawyers Association  
American Jewish Committee (AJC)  
Arab American Association of New York  
Arkansas United  
Armadillos Ni un Migrante Menos  
Asian American Advocacy Fund  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC  
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence  
Asociación Guatemaltecos Sin Fronteras  
Association for Nursing Professional Development- Houston (ANPDH)  
Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP)  
Audubon Mid-Atlantic  
Ayuda  
Baltimore/DC-Metro Building Trades  
Bend the Arc Jewish Action: South Jersey  
Bermang Bustos  
Black Alliance for Just Immigration  
Boston Immigrant Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN)  
Boston University International Human Rights Clinic  
Brazilian Women's Group  
Buen Vecino  
Building Skills Partnership  
Cabrini Immigrant Services or NYC  
California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC)  
Capital Area Immigrants' Rights (CAIR) Coalition  
Care for Your Health, Inc  
Care in Action  
Caribbean Community Service Center (CCSC)  
Carpenters Local 197  
CASA  
Casa de Venezuela Atlanta  
Casa de Venezuela Jacksonville  
Casa de Venezuela New England  
Casa de Venezuela North Carolina  
Casa de Venezuela Orlando  
CASA in Action  
Casa Mary Johanna  
Casa San Jose  
Casa Yurumein  
CASH Campaign of Maryland  
Catholic Charities of SW Kansas

Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)  
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Congregation Immigrant Justice Ministry  
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Environmental Justice Ministry  
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies  
Center for Immigrant Progress  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Center for Progressive Reform  
Central American Black Organization  
Central American Resource Center - CARECEN  
Central American Resource Center - CARECEN SF  
Central American Resource Center of Los Angeles  
Centro Comunitario CEUS  
Centro de Apoyo Familiar  
Centro Presente  
Centro Romero  
Centro San Bonifacio  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN)  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund  
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Chicago Religious Leadership Network (CRLN)  
Ciudadanía Oregón  
Climate Refugees  
CO Communications LLC  
Coalicion de Lideres Latinos (CLILA)  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
Colectivo de Desarrollo Transnacional de Michoacán  
Colectivo de Mujeres Transnacional de Michoacan  
Colorado Jobs with Justice  
Committee of Interns & Residents/SEIU  
Communities Organizing Latinx Power and Action- COPAL Minnesota  
Communities United for Status & Protection (CUSP)  
Community Change Action  
Comunidades Indigenas en Liderazgo (CIELO)  
Comunidades Sin Fronteras CSF-CT INC  
Congregation Action Network (CAN)  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces  
Connecticut Shoreline Indivisible  
Connecticut Worker Center  
Corazon Latino  
CRECEN Houston  
Crossroads Community Food Network  
Daily Kos  
De Leon & Nestor, LLC

Diáspora Hondureña Internacional, Inc.  
Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services Inc  
Diocese of Atlanta  
Dominican Development Center  
Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose  
Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, Washington DC  
Dreamers Mothers In Action (DMIA)  
DRUM - Desis Rising Up & Moving  
Durango Unido  
El Centro de Igaulada y Derechos  
El Vínculo Hispano  
Elders Climate Action Maryland  
Emerald Isle Immigration Center  
Encuentro  
Environmental Justice Ministry Team, Cedar Lane UU Church  
eQuality HomeCare Coop  
Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project  
Etc Group, LLC  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Faith in New Jersey  
Faiths for Safe Water  
Familias Unidas en Acción  
Family Action Network Movement  
Farmworker Association of Florida  
Fe y Justicia Worker Center  
FIRM - Filipinx for Immigrant Rights and Racial Justice MN  
First Friends of New Jersey & New York  
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project  
Florida Immigrant Coalition  
Franciscan Action Network  
Franciscan Network for Migrants--USA  
Free Migration Project  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Fuerza Democrática Nicaragüense FDN  
Fundación Blanca Nieve Sierra  
FWD.us  
FWMgroup  
GALEO Impact Fund  
Global Labor Justice-International Labor Rights Forum  
Grassroots Leadership  
Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc.  
GreenLatinos  
Grupo de reflexión de excarcelados políticos GREX  
Gulf Coast LCLAA

Haitian Bridge Alliance  
Hamkae Center  
Heartland Workers Center  
Hispanic Federation  
Hondurans Against AIDS  
Hondureños contra el sida  
Hope Border Institute  
Houston America For All  
Human Rights Campaign  
Human Rights First  
IBEW Local 26  
Ignite Peace  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Illinois Environmental Council  
Illinois Venezuelan Alliance (IVA)  
Illinois Workers Action  
Immaculate Heart Community Commission on Justice for Immigrants, Refugees, Indigenous People  
Immigrant Children Advocates' Relief Effort (ICARE)  
Immigrant Defenders Law Center  
Immigrant Justice Ministry, Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church  
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota  
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project  
Immigrant Legal Center  
Immigrant Legal Center of Boulder County  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
Immigration Hub  
Immigration Law & Justice New York  
Immigration Services and Legal Advocacy (ISLA)  
Indivisible Georgia Coalition  
Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH)  
Interfaith Power & Light  
International Institute of New England  
International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)  
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades  
InterReligious Task Force on Central America  
Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice NW  
Jewish Community Action  
Jewish Vocational Service - Boston  
Jewish Voice for Peace, Atlanta chapter  
Jobs With Justice  
Justice Action Center  
Justice in Motion  
Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
La Estrella de Nicaragua

Labor Council for Latin American Advancement  
Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA)  
Langley Park Civic Association  
Latin America Working Group  
Latinas en Poder  
Latino Commission on AIDS  
Latino Community Fund INC (LCF Georgia)  
Latino Policy Forum  
League of Conservation Voters  
Liberales de Nicaragua en Exilio  
Lila LGBTQ, Inc.  
Living Hope Wheelchair Association  
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service  
Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA)  
Make the Road New York  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Maryland Center on Economic Policy  
Maryland Latinos Unidos  
Maryland League of Conservation Voters  
Maryland Legislative Coalition  
Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing  
Mass TPS Committee  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition  
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute  
Media Alliance  
Mi Familia Vota  
Miami Workers Center  
Migrant Equity Southeast  
Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO  
Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs (MCLA)  
Minnesota Freedom Fund  
Mission Guatemala USA  
Mitchell Hamline School of Law - Health Law Clinic  
Mojica Tax & Accounting  
MomsRising - MamásConPoder  
Movement of Immigrant Leaders in Pennsylvania (MILPA)  
Mujeres Unidas y Activas  
Mundo Maya Foundation  
N2G  
NAKASEC - National Korean American Service & Education Consortium's  
NAPAFASA - National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Domestic Workers Alliance  
National Employment Law Project

National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Immigration Project (NIPNLG)  
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund  
National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)  
National Partnership for New Americans  
National TPS Alliance  
Naugatuck Valley Project  
Nepalese association of Georgia  
Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Never Again Action  
New Jersey Consortium for Immigrant Children  
New York Immigration Coalition  
NextGen America  
Nicaragua Libre  
Nicaragua Nueva Generacion  
Nicaragua TPS  
Nicaraguan American Human Rights Alliance  
Nicaraguan American Legal Defense and Education Fund, NALDEF  
Nicaraguenses en el Mundo Texas, Inc  
Nigerian Center  
Northeastern University School of Law Immigrant Justice Clinic  
Northern Virginia Labor Federation  
Nurse Alliance of SEIU California  
One Pennsylvania  
Our Revolution Maryland  
Passionist Solidarity Network  
Pax Christi Florida  
Peace, Justice, Sustainability NOW!  
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition  
People Power United  
People Progress Network  
People's Action  
Pilipino Worker Center of Southern California  
Pilipino Workers Center 1  
Pilipino Workers Center 2  
Poder Latinx  
Pomona Economic Opportunity Center  
Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Presente.org  
Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration  
Public Justice Center  
RCMA - Redlands Christian Migrant Association



Red de Pueblos Transnacionales  
Red Mexicana de Lideres y Organizaciones de Migrantes  
Refugee Congress  
Refugees International  
Repatriate Our Patriots  
Represent GA Action Network  
Rian Immigrant Center  
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network  
Rural Women Health Project  
Salvadoran Association of Los Angeles (ASOSAL)  
Seeds of Resistance  
SEIU 1199 United Healthcare Workers East  
SEIU 121 RN  
SEIU 32BJ  
SEIU CA  
SEIU Healthcare 1199NW  
SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa  
SEIU Local 1  
SEIU Local 105  
SEIU Local 2015  
SEIU Local 26  
SEIU Local 521  
SEIU Local 721  
SEIU Local 99  
SEIU Minnesota State Council  
SEIU Texas  
SEIU United Healthcare Workers West  
SEIU United Service Workers West  
SEIU Washington State Council  
SEIU Wisconsin  
SEIU Workers United Southern Region  
SEIU6 Property Service NW  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Services, Immigrant Rights, & Education Network  
Shine Bright Vision Service Corp  
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore  
Sierra Club  
Sister Parish  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team  
Sisters of Saint Joseph Brentwood, NY  
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York  
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia  
Sojourners  
Somali Family Service of San Diego

Southeast Immigrant Rights Network (SEIRN)  
Stand.earth  
Strangers No Longer (Michigan)  
Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice  
Sunflower Alliance  
Sunrise New Orleans  
Tax Credits for Maryland Families  
Telpochacalli Community Education Project  
Temporary Protected Status Deferred Enforced Departure Administrative Advocacy Coalition (TPS-DED AAC)  
Terra Advocati  
Texas AFL-CIO  
The Committee of Interns and Residents - SEIU  
The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis  
The Episcopal Church  
The Movement  
The People's Justice Council  
Transformations CDC  
True Alliance Center INC  
U-Lead Athens  
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)  
U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph  
UFCW Local 663  
UndocuBlack Network  
UnidosUS  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)  
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community  
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice  
Unite Here International Union  
Unite Here Local 25  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church Ministries  
United Farm Workers  
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW)  
United for a Fair Economy  
United Stateless  
United Vision for Idaho  
United We Dream  
UnsdocuBlack Network  
Venezolanos Unidos en Indiana (VUI-AVI)  
Venezuelan American Caucus  
Venezuelan Association of Massachusetts  
Venezuelans and Immigrants Aid (VIA)  
Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights

Voces de la Frontera  
Voces Unidas (RGV)  
Voice for Refuge Action Fund  
Voto Latino  
Walter Adan Fornos Lizano  
Warehouse Workers for Justice  
Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO  
Wayne Action for Racial Equality  
We Are All America  
WeCount!  
Welcoming America  
West LA Democratic Club  
Wheaton Franciscan Sisters Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Office  
Wilfredo Maradiaga  
WIN! The Welcome Immigrant Network  
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center  
Witness at the Border  
Women Watch Afrika, Inc.  
Women Working Together U.S.A  
Women's Alliance Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER)  
Women's Refugee Commission  
Workers Confluence Fund of Minnesota  
Workers Defense Action Fund  
Working Families United  
Zero Hour



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

October 4, 2023

Cathryn Paul  
Cpaul@wearecasa.org

Dear Ms. Paul:

Thank you for your September 11, 2023 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requesting a designation or redesignation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for several Central American countries and Nepal. I am responding on behalf of the Department.

I appreciate the concerns you have outlined regarding TPS designations for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, as well as your interest in their extension and redesignation for TPS. DHS is closely monitoring conditions in these countries and, like you, is concerned about ongoing situations in those countries. DHS is committed to administering its programs, including TPS, in an equitable manner and makes decisions regarding TPS designations after consultation with interagency partners and careful consideration of the circumstances of the country, pursuant to specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act §§ 244(b)(1) and 244(b)(3). As required by the statute, at least 60 days before the expiration of a foreign state's TPS designation or extension, the Secretary, after consultation with appropriate Government agencies, must review the conditions in the foreign state to determine whether the conditions for the TPS designation continue to be met. DHS will consult with the Department of State to explore whether to extend and/or to redesignate El Salvador, Honduras, Nepal, and Nicaragua. DHS announced the extension and redesignation of TPS for Venezuela on September 20, 2023. For additional information, please see the press release announcing the extension and redesignation of TPS for Venezuela.<sup>1</sup> DHS issued a *Federal Register* notice with additional details and information on the application process on October 3, 2023.

Moreover, the Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a country for TPS and extend or terminate a country's existing TPS designation based upon specific statutory criteria. In order to designate a country for TPS or extend a country's TPS designation, the Secretary must find one or more of the following: (1) there is an ongoing armed conflict within the country that would pose a serious threat to the personal safety of the country's nationals if they were returned; (2) there has been an environmental disaster resulting in a substantial, but temporary,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2023/09/20/secretary-mayorkas-announces-extension-and-redesignation-venezuela-temporary>

disruption of the living conditions in the area affected, the country is temporarily unable to handle adequately the return of its nationals, and the country has officially requested TPS designation; or (3) there exist extraordinary and temporary conditions in the country that prevent nationals from returning in safety, and the Secretary does not find that permitting the country's nationals to remain temporarily in the United States would be contrary to the national interest of the United States. See Immigration and Nationality Act § 244(b)(1).

I appreciate the concerns you have outlined regarding Guatemala and your interest in its designation for TPS. Please be assured DHS is monitoring conditions in Guatemala.

In addition to TPS, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) also offers support that may be available upon request to assist eligible noncitizens who have been affected by conditions there, including the following:

- Change or extension of nonimmigrant status if eligible noncitizens are currently in the United States, even if the request is filed after the authorized period of admission has expired;
- Expedited processing of requests for advance parole documents;
- Expedited adjudication of requests for off-campus employment authorization for F-1 students experiencing severe economic hardship;
- Expedited adjudication of employment authorization applications, where appropriate;
- Assistance if applicants received a Request for Evidence or a Notice of Intent to Deny and were unable to appear for an interview, submit evidence, or respond in a timely manner because of the conditions; and
- Replacement of lost or damaged immigration or travel documents issued by USCIS, such as a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card).

More information on these options is available under “Immigration Relief in Emergencies or Unforeseen Circumstances” on our website at <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/immigration-relief-in-emergencies-or-unforeseen-circumstances>.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Please share this response with the other organizations that cosigned your letter. Should you require any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ur M. Jaddou", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ur M. Jaddou  
Director