

Action Toolkit on the Cancellation of Temporary Protected Status



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Background on Temporary Protected Status

Under the Constitution, Congress has the authority to write immigration laws and create both permanent and temporary immigration statuses. Congress has given the Executive branch broad authority to implement several types of administrative relief. Because of this authority, there are multiple temporary statuses solely under the control of the Executive branch – including Temporary Protected Status (TPS), Humanitarian Parole, and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Such executive actions were created to provide immediate relief to populations in need. However, these statuses are vulnerable to unilateral executive action in the case of an administration that is more hostile to immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

TPS is a vital humanitarian program in the United States designed to offer temporary legal status to people from countries experiencing severe crises. The program provides a lifeline for those who cannot safely return to their home countries due to ongoing armed conflict, environmental disasters, epidemics, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions. After being initially granted for a period of 6 to 18 months, TPS is typically extended or terminated by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. This decision is made after a review of a country's conditions and considerations of whether people can safely return.

Analysis of TPS Today

In recent months, TPS has been cancelled for people from a growing list of nations still facing significant concerns of safety and stability in their countries of origin. As of March 2025, there were nearly 1.3 million people from 17 designated countries in the United States protected under TPS. As of September 2026, the Administration has terminated TPS for 13 of these populations including Afghans, Haitians, and Venezuelans. Only an estimated 300,000 people still have TPS. These terminations have resulted in hundreds of thousands of people losing legal status and in fear of deportation to unsafe conditions. This [Forum fact sheet](#) explains the details of TPS policy and process and provides a breakdown of impacted populations.

The Moral and Practical Implications of Canceling TPS

The cancellation of TPS without regard to the conditions of countries of origin is one of many actions taken by the administration to systemically dismantle the legal protections that have long reflected our country's values. It is a part of an effort to deliberately reshape American identity, culture and policy toward nativism. As we trade in our beacon of welcome for a reputation of inhumanity, all of society will bear the consequences – from the weight of our collective moral failure to the loss of talent, ingenuity, and economic contribution that has characterized every generation of refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers. See HIAS' [Deep Dive on the systemic push to eliminate TPS](#).

Tools for Assisting Impacted Individuals

Because we live in interconnected community, we are often only a few degrees away from those who are directly impacted by the revocation of federal protections for immigrants with TPS and other humanitarian statuses. The resources below provide context and recommendations for ways to help family, friends, staff, neighbors and community members who may be impacted.

Legal Representation

The single most impactful means of helping impacted individuals is to make sure that they have access to legal services. A qualified immigration lawyer or DOJ Accredited Representative can:

- help determine whether someone may qualify for alternative legal protection
- represent them at ICE check-ins
- provide information on what may happen next with their status or case

See the [National Immigration Legal Services Directory](#) for pro and low bono options. Please note that current demand for such services has put a strain on many providers and capacity for new clients may be limited.

Financial Assistance

People who have lost TPS no longer have work authorization, and many will likely face job termination. Cash gifts from discretionary funds, crowdsourcing, or other campaigns can help address immediate needs as people determine the next steps they want to take.

Other Forms of Direct Support

People who have recently lost their legal status may no longer feel comfortable going about their daily lives. The [HIAS Support Your Neighbors Resource](#) compiled for supporting immigrant neighbors during increased immigration enforcement efforts has recommendations that will apply to those who have recently lost their legal status. In particular, accompaniment, standby guardianship in case of detention, and Know Your Rights (KYR) education may be appropriate means of support to consider.

Addressing Changes to Benefits Policy

Cancellation of TPS also includes a loss of access to food and medical benefits (SNAP and Medicaid). Additionally, due to the [implementation of the OBBBA](#), on October 1st, 2026, even those with TPS status that has not been revoked are among the many legal immigrant populations losing access to these benefits as well. Impacted individuals can be supported through additional financial support and/or donated services from appropriate community professionals like doctors and dentists.

Organizational Plans in Case of Encounters with Immigration Enforcement

If you are concerned about an individual being targeted for immigration enforcement on your premises, note that places of worship are no longer treated as “sensitive locations” in which arrests are prohibited. You may wish to identify and implement protocols in case of an encounter with immigration enforcement from a resource like this [guidance for congregations produced by the Unitarian Universalist Association](#).

Advocacy Actions

Congressional action can extend TPS for populations that have had their status revoked. The [Dream and Promise Act](#) in the House of Representatives is legislation that would provide a pathway to lawful permanent residence (LPR) status for TPS holders and DACA recipients. As of the date of publication, it is one signature short of the required 218 votes needed to force a vote. Similarly, the SECURE Act in the Senate provides pathways to LPR status for those with TPS holders. You can [take direct advocacy action here](#) to encourage your representative to sign onto the petition for discharge. You may also want to consult with [HIAS staff](#) to determine the most effective advocacy approach that takes into consideration your specific elected officials. Piecemeal legislation for particular TPS populations is also being advanced. Here is a non-exhaustive list of bills support TPS extensions for specific populations:

Advocacy for Haitian TPS Holders

Currently, a bill to extend the status of Haitian TPS holders has passed the house and is under consideration in the Senate as Senate Bill S. 4814. You can [take direct action with the Haitian Bridge Alliance here](#) and [review their resources and information for the Haitian community](#).

Advocacy for El Salvadoran TPS Holders

As of September 2026, TPS for recipients from El Salvador remains active but in limbo with notification that “an announcement on El Salvador’s TPS will be made at the appropriate time.” Congressman Eugene Vindman [has introduced legislation to extend TPS for individuals from El Salvador](#).

Advocacy for Afghanistan TPS Holders

H.R. 9899 was recently introduced to extend TPS protections for Afghan nationals and received bipartisan support and has a companion bill in the Senate. Read more [here](#).

TPS Status for Other Nationalities

For more information on the status of TPS for individual countries visit [this page](#) from the Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP) and for litigation updates for specific countries visit [this resource](#) from the Communities United for Status and Protection (CUSP).

Media Context:

HIAS recommends these podcasts that provide insight into the lived experience of TPS holders.

- [This American Life: Last Shift](#)
- [TPS For Haiti is Not a Game](#)