



COALITION OF 100+ ORGANIZATIONS COMMENDS ADMINISTRATION FOR DESIGNATING UKRAINE FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

Coalition urges administration to similarly designate other countries where safe return is impossible

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WASHINGTON, DC—Today, the Temporary Protected Status Deferred Enforced Departure Administrative Advocacy Coalition ([TPS-DED AAC](#)), a coalition of over 100 national, state, and local advocacy organizations, commends the administration for designating Ukraine for TPS as a result of the recent Russian invasion. These actions will protect upwards of [30,000 Ukrainian noncitizens](#) in the United States. Last week, the TPS-DED AAC and partners coordinated a [letter](#) to the administration signed by 177 organizations requesting TPS and Special Student Relief for Ukraine. The coalition urges President Biden, Secretary Blinken, and Secretary Mayorkas to use its authority to similarly designate TPS for other countries where nationals are in urgent need of protection, including [Cameroon](#), [Mauritania](#), and [Afghanistan](#).

Victoria Kulik, President of the Ukrainian American Bar Association, stated: “We applaud the Biden administration for its quick action to provide life-saving protection to Ukrainians in the United States through TPS as this war unfolds. This designation is a powerful and needed message for Ukrainians as people are forced to flee their homes and country and hundreds have lost their lives. We hope this is only the first step of a broad U.S. humanitarian response to protect and welcome Ukrainians in need.”

Diana Konaté, Policy Director at African Communities Together, stated: “Ukrainians are in a situation no one imagines for themselves, but too many across the world are familiar with. To quote Somali-British poet, Warsan Shire, ‘you only leave home when home won’t let you stay.’ TPS was created for horrific moments like this, when home becomes a site of terror. Cameroonians, Mauritians, and other Black immigrants have been living in a traumatic limbo, hoping to at least rest knowing they are protected by TPS. We implore our government to take action for Black immigrants and designate TPS for Cameroon and Mauritania.”

Lisa Parisio, Director of Advocacy at Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., stated: “TPS sends a message from the U.S. government to the world that humanitarian protection in war and disaster must be prioritized. As we commend the administration for this crucial and life-saving decision to designate TPS for Ukraine, we call for a comprehensive TPS policy that extends protection to all in need. The backlog of TPS designations for Black-majority countries under this administration—including Ethiopia, Cameroon, and Mauritania—reflects the anti-Blackness we’re seeing as African students and others in Ukraine are denied access to escape the conflict. As the Biden administration rightly responds to war in Ukraine through this TPS designation, we also call for TPS designations for other countries to provide life-saving protection and welcome.”

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The [TPS-DED AAC](#) is a national coalition of more than 100 organizations with deep expertise in law and policy surrounding TPS and DED. Member organizations range from community-based organizations directly serving impacted communities in the United States to international NGOs, working in and providing insight from affected countries.