



100+ ORGANIZATIONS CALL FOR EXTENSION AND REDESIGNATION OF TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR SYRIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 12, 2022

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WASHINGTON, D.C.— Today, the Temporary Protected Status Deferred Enforced Departure Administrative Advocacy Coalition ([TPS-DED AAC](#)) and 112 [organizations](#) wrote to the administration to urge that Secretary Mayorkas extend and redesignate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Syria for 18 months. Organizations have additionally requested fee waivers due to slow processing times for Syrian TPS applications and dedicated funding to address the backlog issues. The designation of TPS for Syria is set to expire on September 9, 2022, with the decision date coming up on July 31, 2022.

Expanding this life-saving humanitarian protection will protect an [estimated 8,800](#) additional Syrians from returning to the conflict and permit them to live and work in the United States without fear of deportation. The Secretary [extended and redesignated TPS for Syria in March 2021](#) due to the protracted civil war that contributed to the severe humanitarian crisis and the deliberate targeting of civilians. According to the Department of Homeland Security, the war resulted in a sustained need for humanitarian assistance, food insecurity, limited access to water and medical care, and a large-scale destruction of Syria's infrastructure.

TPS is an essential component of a functioning humanitarian system and was created as a humanitarian protection to be used in any circumstance that warrants it under the statute. Russia's war on Ukraine has exacerbated the humanitarian situation in Syria, with rising food insecurity and safety concerns. The ongoing war, violence, and humanitarian crises make the safe return of Syrians impossible. The decade-long war has resulted in the death of at least [350,000](#) people.

Jenny Lindell, Grassroots Advocacy Officer at Syrian American Council stated:

"Syrians have played an essential role in the United States since before the decade long war ensued. It is imperative that the administration protect the interests of those displaced due to life threatening circumstances, and provide them the opportunity to rebuild their lives. TPS will allow Syrians to continue to live and work in the United States without the fear of deportation."

Hazem Rihawi, Senior Programs Manager at the American Relief Coalition for Syria: "A renewal and redesignation of TPS for Syrians in the US is imperative to protect lives and livelihoods. In Syria, currently 14.6 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, an increase of 1.2 million from 2021. As the humanitarian situation further deteriorates in Syria and the country remains not safe for return, we must ensure the safety and protection of Syrians in the U.S. In addition, we must be vigilant in ensuring work permits are issued in a timely and openly communicative manner to prevent a disruption of the wellbeing of vulnerable Syrian families in the United States of America."

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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.