

## 100+ ORGANIZATIONS APPLAUD DECISION TO EXTEND AND REDESIGNATE TPS FOR SYRIA

Designation provides relief to over 7,400 Syrians

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**WASHINGTON, D.C.**— The Temporary Protected Status Deferred Enforced Departure Administrative Advocacy Coalition (<u>TPS-DED AAC</u>) applauds DHS Secretary Mayorkas' decision on Friday to extend and redesignate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Syria, as the country faces humanitarian crises that make safe return impossible. <u>Over 100 organizations</u> wrote the administration in June urging such protections. This decision extends TPS for Syria for 18 months through March 31, 2024, and expands the protection to nearly 1,000 Syrians who fled since the previous cut-off date. Over <u>7,400 Syrians</u> will be eligible for protection from deportation and access to work permits.

The Secretary's decision to designate Syria for an 18-month TPS extension and redesignation comes as the ongoing armed conflict and extraordinary and temporary conditions supporting Syria's TPS designation remain. Syria is in the middle of a decade-long war, with extreme violence and deteriorating conditions. An estimated 14.6 million people require <u>humanitarian</u> <u>assistance</u>, and 90% of Syrians live in poverty. Russia's war on Ukraine has exacerbated the humanitarian situation, with rising food insecurity and safety concerns.

While we celebrate this victory for Syrian immigrants in the United States, we acknowledge the dangerous conditions in other countries, whose nationals living in the United States do not have a safe home to return to. We strongly urge the administration to continue to use TPS to provide life-saving protection for individuals whose home countries are in crisis.

**Jenny Lindell, Grassroots Advocacy Officer at Syrian American Council:** "We were pleased to see the 18-month extension for Syrian TPS holders, and the news that an additional 960 Syrians would be eligible for TPS under the redesignation. Syria is not safe for return, and the United States must live up to its promise of being a safe refuge."

**Hazem Rihawi, Senior Programs Manager at the American Relief Coalition for Syria:** "We at ARCS are grateful for the renewal and redesignation of TPS for Syrians in the United States. This allows for those already under TPS status to continue to remain safe and positively contribute to their communities as well as provides the ability for eligible Syrians to apply for TPS. ARCS would like to thank all parties involved in advocating for the renewal and redesignation and USCIS for recognizing the unsafe conditions in Syria."

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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.