



**89 ORGANIZATIONS CALL ON THE ADMINISTRATION TO EXTEND AND REDESIGNATE BURMA FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS**

*Widespread human rights abuses and growing number of political arrests reported following the military coup*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Lora Adams, [lora@masadc.com](mailto:lora@masadc.com)

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Today, 89 local, state, and national organizations led by the Temporary Protected Status and Deferred Enforced Departure Administrative Advocacy Coalition ([TPS-DED AAC](#)) [wrote](#) to President Biden, Secretary Mayorkas, and Secretary Blinken to urge an 18-month extension and redesignation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Burma. TPS provides life-saving protection to non-citizens in the United States, including undocumented immigrants, who cannot be safely returned to their home country. In addition to Burmese migrants who would benefit from the extension of the prior designation, those who arrived in the United States after the last designation must also be afforded protections as the ongoing armed conflict persists and extraordinary and temporary conditions deteriorate in Burma.

The calls for extension and redesignation of TPS for Burma come as the elected leaders of the nation are spending their 21st month under [house arrest](#) after the military coup in February 2021. In 2022, more incidents of [violence against civilians](#) were reported in Burma than in any other country in the world. Civilians are arbitrarily detained, tortured, and killed in politically motivated attacks and [crimes against humanity](#), and [crimes against women](#) are being used as a weapon of war. The United Nations estimates that 907,500 are [internally displaced](#) across Burma as a result of the conflict. Over [14.4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance](#).

TPS is an essential component of our humanitarian relief system, allowing the Secretary of Homeland Security to designate a country experiencing ongoing armed conflict, natural disaster, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions. Burma's ongoing armed conflict has made it impossible for Burmese individuals currently in the U.S. to safely return, meeting the statutory requirements for an extension and redesignation.

Organizations are additionally requesting DHS to provide a 180-day registration period for beneficiaries under a redesignation and the current designation's extension and to provide educational resources and public engagement for the impacted community. With calls for an extension of TPS, comes the call for an extension of Special Student Relief for Burmese students in the United States.

**Martin Kim, Associate Director of Immigration Advocacy at Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC) stated:** "The decision to designate Burma for TPS in the spring of last year was one that saved lives. After the military coup, there were widespread reports of horrific violence against civilians, arbitrary detention, and politically motivated killings that have only continued in the 18 months since and made it impossible for people to return to Burma. Given the continuing crisis in Burma, it is absolutely necessary that DHS not only move

to extend and redesignate Burma for TPS but also help ensure that these impacted families and individuals receive the support they need to thrive here in the U.S.”

**Lakshmi Sridaran, Executive Director at South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) stated:** "The call for TPS for Burma is essential given the escalating conflict following the military coup and the ongoing state violence against Rohingya Muslims. The humanitarian crisis has caused severe harm, and the U.S. administration must at the very least utilize TPS to provide relief to Burmese communities in the U.S. who cannot return home safely due to the country's conditions."

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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.*