



**ORGANIZATIONS DEMAND AN INVESTIGATION INTO RACIAL BIAS IN
TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS DECISIONS**

The Biden Administration must advance racial equity in TPS designations

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Washington, D.C—Today, the Cameroon Advocacy Network and TPS-DED-Administrative Advocacy Coalition led a letter from 144 state, local, and national immigrant, labor, faith, civil rights, and legal organizations to President Biden regarding racial inequity in the delay and grant of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designations for countries of predominantly Black and Brown immigrants.

The [letter](#) urges an investigation by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in consultation with the White House, Department of State, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) into the racial and political bias in the TPS decision-making. Conducting a comprehensive audit and investigation of the administration's internal regulatory and sub-regulatory policies regarding the utilization of TPS is necessary, considering that it has led to disparate racial impacts in how and which countries are designated and when. This letter is released as community leaders convene for a week of action to mount pressure on Congress and the Biden Administration on the urgency to grant temporary protected status to countries in need.

Daniel Tse, founding member of Cameroon Advocacy Member said: “We are deeply concerned that the administration's processes regarding which countries are considered for TPS, has led to a disturbing and undeniable outcome: a *de facto* policy of refusing or delaying designation of TPS for Black- and Brown-majority countries that clearly meet the statutory requirements. The recent designation of TPS for Cameroon required years of advocacy on the part of immigration advocates. The delays in TPS designation lead to the unjust deportation of many in countries that are unable to receive them.”

Guerline Jozef, co-founder and executive director of Haitian Bridge Alliance and founding member of Cameroon Advocacy Network said: “We watched as the administration designate Ukraine for TPS in 8 days while past designations for predominantly Black and Brown have taken years-long campaigns to garner even the smallest amount of attention and awareness. This shows the structural racism that exists at all levels of the U.S. immigration and asylum system. As the redesignation dates for TPS for Haiti, Burma, Syria, and Venezuela approach, we hope that this administration thoroughly investigates this dangerous trend and immediately ensures equal protection and equal justice under the law for all those seeking refuge and safety, regardless of their racial makeup, ethnicity, or national origin.”

Lora Adams, campaign coordinator for the TPS-DED Administrative Advocacy Coalition said: “There has long been a clear difference in TPS decision-making for countries that the administration and others have deemed geographically ‘too close’ for TPS designation or redesignation, placing concerns over ‘pull factors’ over the protection of human life. People from countries like El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Venezuela deserve more

than humanitarian purgatory due to fearmongering over increased immigration. TPS and DED are life-saving humanitarian tools to respond to dangerous conditions abroad, and it is shameful that such protections be withheld based on hollow anti-immigrant rhetoric.”

The following Black- and Brown-majority countries are in need of TPS designation or redesignation, at a minimum: Burkina Faso, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Nepal, Nicaragua, and Sierra Leone.

“With the continuing delay and possible failure to pass meaningful immigration reform via Congress, it is more important than ever for the administration to use the full breadth of its executive power to provide essential humanitarian protections.”

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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.