

THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES THE REDESIGNATION OF TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR AFGHANISTAN

Afghan nationals and evacuees protected from deportation seek the passage of the Afghan Adjustment Act

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 21, 2023

CONTACT: Ramya Reddy, ramya@masadc.com

WASHINGTON, DC—Today, the Temporary Protected Status Deferred Enforced Departure Administrative Advocacy Coalition (<u>TPS-DED AAC</u>), commends the Biden administration on its <u>decision</u> to extend and redesignate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for nationals of Afghanistan. This decision is a result of the continued advocacy of a coalition of 164 organizations that <u>wrote</u> to the Biden administration calling for an 18-month redesignation of TPS Afghanistan.

The redesignation is critical as Afghanistan experiences political and economic insecurity, humanitarian crisis, and widespread atrocities such as threats to public health, and persecution of women, girls, and members of religious and ethnic minorities. The crisis is further exacerbated as the country confronts climate change. Afghans in the U.S. face an uncertain journey to permanent status, and while TPS serves as an essential temporary protection, the passage of the Afghan Adjustment Act is crucial to safeguard the future of Afghan evacuees.

The decision to redesignate TPS for Afghanistan will benefit 14,600 individuals who made their way to the United States seeking a safer home. This redesignation will provide life-saving protection from deportation, and work eligibility.

Daniel Salazar, Policy Analyst at U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

"We are grateful for this redesignation and extension of Afghanistan for TPS. As organizations advocating for robust temporary and permanent protections for Afghans, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Afghan American Foundation, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, and other members of the Evacuate Our Allies coalition are relieved that thousands of Afghans will have new or continued access to the life-saving protections of TPS.

While the path to permanency in the Afghan Adjustment Act remains a top priority, this announcement is still a major victory for Afghans in the United States. We hope the administration continues to strengthen permanent protection pathways for Afghans and to maximize the value of temporary protections for Afghans, such as TPS and the new re-parole process."

###

The <u>TPS-DED AAC</u> 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.