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132 ORGANIZATIONS CALL ON BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO EXTEND AND RE-DESIGNATE SOUTH SUDAN FOR TPS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, 132 organizations issued a [letter](#) to the administration urging Secretary Mayorkas to extend and redesignate South Sudan for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months. South Sudan is currently designated for TPS due to violence, climate change, a healthcare crisis, and economic instability within the country. South Sudan nationals continue to face several threats including human rights violations, the deliberate targeting of civilians, including women and children, an election process lacking legitimacy, and limited access to essential resources such as food and water, among others.

In addition to the TPS designation, the letter also requests Special Student Relief (SSR) that is set to expire on November 23, 2023. Without an extension of SSR, international F-1 students from South Sudan who are directly impacted by the crisis would encounter difficulties in obtaining authorization to work off campus, being exempt from regular student employment requirements, and being unable to reduce their course loads if needed.

TPS is a designation that provides life-saving protection to non-citizens in the United States, including undocumented immigrants, who cannot safely return to their home country. It provides essential benefits including work authorization and protection from deportation. Advocates are calling on the Biden administration to extend designations for countries requiring assistance in an equitable manner, ensuring that the process doesn't unfairly impact immigrants from Black and Brown majority countries. The discriminatory impact overburdens advocates of color who are already providing vital services to the affected community due to the absence of protections. Such disparate treatment should never exist.

Diana Konaté, Policy Director at African Communities Together, said, “Over the past two decades, South Sudanese nationals have made the United States their home, fleeing severe conflict and crises in their home country. Secretary Mayorkas' decision last year to redesignate played a pivotal role in allowing individuals who didn't initially qualify for protections to apply for TPS, ensuring protection from deportation to those perilous conditions. We urge the Biden administration not to exclude any South Sudanese individuals from TPS protections, as they continue to face threats to their safety upon return. Extending these protections becomes a lifeline for Black immigrants, and we implore the Biden administration to consider all other Black nationals enduring similar dire circumstances and in need of TPS.”

Karen Sullivan, Director of Advocacy at the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), said, “TPS is a life-saving humanitarian tool that should be used equitably and justly, for all countries where it would be highly unsafe to return. South Sudan is in the midst of multiple, overlapping crises of violence and insecurity, and its citizens residing in the United States deserve to remain here in safety. We urge the administration not to delay in extending

and redesignating TPS for South Sudan. Delaying this decision will only cause anxiety for people facing very real threats in their country of origin.”

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[African Communities Together](#) is an organization of African immigrants fighting for civil rights, opportunity, and a better life for African families in the U.S. and worldwide. ACT connects African immigrants to critical services, helps Africans develop as leaders, and organizes African immigrant communities on the issues that matter.