



Disciples: Call Congress & DHS to Extend TPS for Haitians, Central Americans & Other Vulnerable Populations!

July 5, 2017

As members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) throughout the U.S. and Canada, we have been blessed over decades to partner both internationally and in our congregations inside the United States with populations that have benefitted upon occasion from the humanitarian granting of Temporary Protected Status. TPS has offered foreign nations compassionate protection in times when conditions of disaster, conflict or extraordinary conditions have not allowed them to return safely to their home nations.

Our partnerships with TPS recipients in our churches have been deep; such as with members in our Disciples Fishers of Men Haitian Evangelical Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., where one active member has reported how TPS has allowed her the opportunity to work in the healthcare field, and also has made it possible to return funds to assist her home nation. Likewise, the church administrator in our primarily Liberian congregation, Whosoever Wills Christian Church in Beltsville, Md. has been a TPS recipient, where she has served most capably as the church's administrator.

Now and in the coming months, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is considering whether or not to extend the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) of nearly 323,000 TPS nationals from ten countries. Included among nations being considered for renewal are El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua and Nepal where multiple natural disasters and diseases have stalled rebuilding efforts, as well as Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, where armed conflicts continue to produce escalating human displacement. With faith partnerships among many of these groups, we are deeply hopeful that reviews of TPS renewal and assessment of current country conditions will be conducted very carefully. DHS has also recently recommended that TPS for Haitians be ended altogether in January of 2018.

Call Congress and DHS to Extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Vulnerable Populations!
U.S. Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121 & Dept. of Homeland Security Comment Line: (202) 282-8495
(Please leave a message!)

Sample Script: *"I'm from [City, State, Congregation/Community] and, as a person of faith, I ask [the Senator/Representative] to urge DHS Secretary Kelly to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for vulnerable communities. My denomination has long-term international and national partnerships with TPS population congregations, and our faith communities have benefited from the commitments and wisdom of such partners.*

Studies prove that TPS holders contribute greatly to the U.S. economy, are engaged strongly in the U.S. workforce, and regularly pay taxes and make social security payments. For example, TPS holders contribute hundreds of millions of dollars in federal tax revenue annually.¹ (See and refer to statistics on page 2 of this alert.) Likewise, TPS recipients, through remittances, contribute to the rebuilding and development of their homelands.²

Ending TPS for populations from nations like El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, and Nepal (which have experienced multiple natural disasters) would be detrimental and overwhelm service systems in potentially disastrous ways for each nation. Likewise, any decision to return individuals to nations with active war zones such as Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen would send such returnees into likely danger and potential death.

Please remember that TPS recipients are fully vetted, and none with a serious criminal record is eligible for TPS. Rather, they help build up our communities—and TPS for vulnerable communities should be renewed, for the scriptures remind us: 'When you give a feast, invite the poor...and you will be blessed' (Luke 14:13-14).



¹ Baran, Amanda, Jose Magaña-Salgado, and Tom K. Wong. 2017. *Economic Contributions by Salvadoran, Honduran, and Haitian TPS Holders*. Washington, DC: Immigrant Legal Resource Center. (https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/2017-04-18_economic_contributions_by_salvadoran_honduran_and_haitian_tps_holders.pdf)

² Pew Research Center. "Remittance Flows Worldwide in 2015." Pew Research Center Global Attitudes & Trends, August 31, 2016. (<http://www.pewglobal.org/interactives/remittance-map/>).

Tweet the same message: “[@SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE](#) Tell [@DHSgov](#) [@WhiteHouse](#) to extend #TPS. Don't return vulnerable families to danger they fled. #GreaterAsI”

For more resources on TPS, see:

Baran, Amanda, Jose Magaña-Salgado, and Tom K. Wong. 2017. *Economic Contributions by Salvadoran, Honduran, and Haitian TPS Holders*. Washington, DC: Immigrant Legal Resource Center. (https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/2017-04-18_economic_contributions_by_salvadoran_honduran_and_haitian_tps_holders.pdf)

Menjívar, Cecilia. 2017. *Temporary Protected Status in the United States: The Experiences of Honduran and Salvadoran Immigrants*. Lawrence, KS: Center for Migration Research, University of Kansas. (http://ipsr.ku.edu/migration/pdf/TPS_Report.pdf).

Center for Migration Research

Executive Summary of Contributions of TPS Holders

This report presents findings from a nationwide survey of immigrants holding Temporary Protected Status (TPS). The Center for Migration Research (CMR) at the University of Kansas, in collaboration with CARECEN and other organizations, designed and administered a representative telephone survey and in-person survey of 2,098 respondents (Men 53.7%, Women 46.3%) from El Salvador (92.3%), Honduras (7.5%), and Nicaragua (0.2%). The survey was conducted in Spanish between April and August, 2016 in the six cities with the largest concentrations of Central Americans. Respondents come from Los Angeles (34.1%), Houston (28.7%), Washington (21.0%), San Francisco (9.4%), New York (4.9%), and New Jersey (1.9%).

Survey results indicate that TPS has contributed positively to the socioeconomic integration of these immigrants; this legal status has benefitted them, their families and society in general. Key findings include:

- The average educational level of the respondents upon arrival in the United States was 7.64 years; however, 49.2% furthered their education in the United States, enrolling in English language courses (36.4%), high school diploma or GED (9.6%), vocational certificate (4.9%), college courses (1.6%), and university (1.0%)
- Survey participants have high levels of labor force participation: 94.0% of men and 82.1% of women hold jobs; 83.2% of men and 54.9% of women work more than 40 hours weekly, and 7.6% of men and 10.0% of women holding more than one job. About one tenth were self-employed (13.4% men; women 7.8%).
- Men work in construction/painting (18.9%), driving (9.3%), cleaning (6.3%), cooking (3.2%), gardening (2.8%), while women concentrate in cleaning buildings (16.5%) or houses (12.2%), childcare (7.6%), cooking (6.0%), or in clothing manufacture (5.8%).
- The average monthly income of the survey respondents is \$2,909.87 (men=\$3,597.64; women=\$2,054.31)
- Over 90% of these workers file income taxes annually; over 80% pay social security, including the self-employed. They have contributed to social security the entire period they have been on TPS—15 years.
- 33.6% of men and 29.94% of women live in owner-occupied homes in the United States.
- 29.7% of the survey respondents volunteered in civic organizations, committees, or community groups in the 12 months prior to the survey, showing high levels of social integration. In addition, 20.2% engaged in activities to benefit to their community including donating blood, cleaning streets, etc.
- 98.5% of the survey respondents reported positive effects of TPS on their life: better job opportunities (78.0%), more security for me (67.3%), better pay (47.3%), less fear and worry for me (46.9%), more security for my family (37.6%), less fear and worry for my family (35.6%), being able to travel and visit my family (24.7%), ability to obtain a driver's license (17.1%), opportunity to open my own business (12.1%). These benefits accrue to the immigrants but also to their communities and society in general.



Thank you for taking action at this critical time! Contact Rev. Sharon Stanley-Rea at Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries, 202-957-7826, or sstanley@dhm.disciples.org. Find us online at:

<https://www.discipleshomeissions.org/missions-advocacy/refugee-immigration-ministries/>. Like us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/RefugeeAndImmigrationMinistriesChristianChurchDoc/> Tweet us @StanleyRea.

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Working in Partnership with the Christian Church Capital Area and Disciples Center for Public Witness