



Deferred Enforced Departure for Liberia Fact Sheet

What is DED?

Deferred Enforcement Departure or DED is a discretionary decision made by the President to protect a class of individuals. In 2007, President George W. Bush provided DED for 18 months to certain Liberians whose Temporary Protected Status (TPS) was expiring on September 30, 2007. It has been extended for the last decade by Presidents Bush and Obama, but many recipients have been here in the U.S. for over 25 years.

Impact of DED expiration on Liberian immigrants

If the President does not extend DED for Liberians, individuals who do not qualify for another type of immigration status will lose their DED and work authorization. Liberians with DED had previously been on TPS waiting in limbo for a longer permanent solution. Many have gone to school, have developed careers and have families in the United States. They risk losing all this; and either being deported to a country they have not been in decades, or living as undocumented Americans.

Impact of DED expiration on the United States

- Our country is strongest and safest when families are kept together
- These immigrants are contributors to the economy and culture of cities and towns across the US, many of them having lived here over twenty years. They work in the healthcare industry, own homes, have children in our schools, patronize our restaurants and create art and music that enriches Minnesota.
- Liberian immigrants contribute to a cross-sector of American industries including education and healthcare
- For instance, economists estimate that in Minnesota: if only 300 Liberians, who work in the Healthcare industry, were to be deported en masse, Minnesota should expect a loss in earnings of about \$300 million

Liberia Today and why Liberians on DED need reprieve

- Recovering and rebuilding from the Liberian civil wars- the country is still developing basic infrastructure like healthcare, banking, housing, education, security and food systems.
- The 2014 Ebola crisis which claimed the lives of over 11,000 people, has had a devastating long term impact on the fragile healthcare system. Studies are showing that some of the indirect repercussions include: loss of access to basic healthcare needs like Malaria and pre-natal care for women.
- High unemployment rates as well as electricity outages and food and waters shortages make the conditions for American Liberians difficult to adjust.

Renewing DED and creating a path to citizenship for Liberian nationals who have lived in this country for decades is the ethical thing to do.