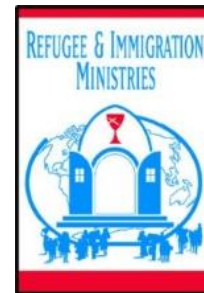


## Temporary Protected Status: A Faithful Response to Humanitarian Crises



### What is TPS (Temporary Protected Status)?

Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, is a life-saving immigration program that allows foreign nationals to remain in the U.S. if, while they were in the U.S., something catastrophic happened in their country of origin that prevented their safe return. Examples include war, famine, natural disaster, or epidemic. TPS protects people from deportation and allows them to work legally while they remain in the U.S. TPS is a temporary, humanitarian form of relief that does not grant permanent residence in the U.S., nor does it provide of "amnesty" to unauthorized immigrants. A variety of political and/or environmental catastrophes have justified TPS designations since the program was established in 1990 with bipartisan Congressional support. Right now, **TPS has protected approximately 330,000 people in the U.S. who would otherwise be subjected to disease, violence, starvation, the aftermath of natural disasters, and other life-threatening conditions.**

### As people of faith, why do we care:

Our concern stems from shared values rooted in our sacred texts that remind us to love our neighbor and welcome the sojourner among us. By welcoming those in need, TPS translates our core American and faith values into action. We have a moral obligation not to cause destabilizing consequences or undermine U.S. efforts to advance our foreign policy and regional security goals. Our sacred scriptures also call us to care for the most vulnerable:

"The strangers who sojourn with you shall be to you as the natives among you, and you shall love them as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." **Leviticus 19:33-34.**

"There shall be one standard for you; it shall be for the stranger as well as the native, for I am the LORD your God." **Leviticus 24:22**



"...I was a stranger and you welcomed me." **Matthew 25:31-46**

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it." **Hebrews 13:2**

"Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none..." **Luke 3:11**

### TPS in the Current Political Landscape

The administration is in the process of phasing out the use of TPS. In May 2017, the administration told 46,000 Haitian TPS holders they should "prepare to go home." Although progress has been made, Haiti is far from sufficiently recovered from the 2010 magnitude 7.0 earthquake that devastated the country, an unprecedented cholera epidemic that was inadvertently introduced by United Nations peacekeepers following the earthquake, and Category 4 Hurricane Matthew, which struck just a year ago in 2016.

In September 2017, the administration terminated TPS for the Sudan. The United Nations recently reported that there are 2.3 million people displaced by violence in the Sudan who need humanitarian aid, including 8,200 people who have been newly displaced due to ongoing conflict in Darfur. Sudan is also facing a growing cholera epidemic and 3.6 million people are food insecure, with areas of the country facing emergency food shortages. Since then, announcements have also been made by the administration that it is ending TPS for 2,550 Nicaraguans, 195,000 El Salvadorans, nearly 9,000 Nepalese, and up to 4,000 Liberians. A decision re: 57,000 Hondurans will be made the first week of May, and in June the government will decide if it will continue to protect 1,000 individuals from Yemen, 250 Somalis. 70 persons from South Sudan and 7,000 Syrians will receive notice of whether their protections will be continued in March and August of 2019, respectively.

### Who are TPS Holders? A Snapshot

- More than **90%** are from Haiti, El Salvador, or Honduras. Of these recipients:
  - \***50%** are homeowners for more than 20 years
  - \*More than **50%** of TPS recipients from El Salvador and Honduras have lived in the U.S. for more than 20 years
  - \***87%** speak English
  - \***68,000, or 22%**, arrived in the U.S. before they turned 16
  - \*Recipients are parents to more than **273,000** U.S. citizens<sup>1</sup>
  - \*More than **80%** of TPS recipients are employed, a rate much higher than that of U.S.-born populations (63%)

**(For More Information on how you can help protect TPS recipients, contact: Rev. Sharon Stanley-Rea, [ssstanley@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:ssstanley@dhm.disciples.org), or 202-957-7826.)**

<sup>1</sup> Robert Warren and Donald Kerwin, "A Statistical and Demographic Profile of the US Temporary Protected Status Populations from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti." Center for Migration Studies, 2017. <<http://cmsny.org/publications/jmhs-tps-elsalvador-honduras-haiti/>>

**TPS Designated  
Countries**

El Salvador

Haiti

Honduras

Nepal

Nicaragua

Somalia

Sudan

South Sudan

Syria

Yemen