



**NEW DATA SHOWS BIDEN COULD PROTECT UPWARDS OF 30,000
UNDOCUMENTED ETHIOPIANS FLEEING HUMANITARIAN
DISASTER—NEARLY 100 ORGANIZATIONS CALL UPON THE ADMINISTRATION
TO ACT IMMEDIATELY**

Armed conflict, famine, and civil unrest make safe return to Ethiopia impossible at this time

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WASHINGTON, D.C.—New estimates from the Center for Migration Studies find that [about 30,000](#) Ethiopians living in the United States would be eligible for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) if the program applied to those who had entered the United States by 2021. Nearly 100 local, state, and national organizations led by the Temporary Status and Deferred Enforced Departure Administrative Advocacy Coalition (TPS-DED AAC) have written a [letter](#) to Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas and Secretary of State Antony Blinken to urge an immediate 18-month designation of TPS for Ethiopia. TPS provides life-saving protection to noncitizens in the United States, including undocumented immigrants, who cannot be safely returned to their home country. As a blanket protection, TPS designations are particularly essential to protect Black immigrants who may slip through cracks in the asylum system due to systemic racism.

In the letter, advocates make clear that life-threatening conditions are ongoing in the country and make safe return impossible. There are numerous reports of attacks against civilians including: unlawful or arbitrary killings by security forces and private entities; forced disappearances by armed groups; torture and cruel punishment by the government, high incidence of gender-based violence such as rape and assault, and more. Additionally, the United Nations has stated that more than 350,000 people in Ethiopia's war-torn Tigray are experiencing "catastrophic" famine, with over 60 percent of the general population also grappling with high levels of acute food insecurity. Overall, looming famine conditions, latent tensions threatening to resurface in ethnically divisive regions, and recurring conflict between the government and society present in all corners of the country leaves little room for a safe escape.

Denise Bell, Researcher for Refugee and Migrant Rights at Amnesty International, stated: "As Tigrayans in Ethiopia continue to be placed at risk with all parties to the conflict responsible for war crimes, the Biden administration must urgently implement a ready solution at hand that will help save lives now: designate Temporary Protected Status for Ethiopians in the United States to prevent them from being forced return to dangerous and deadly conditions. The administration's leadership can ensure a safe haven for Ethiopians here in the United States, one part of a multi-track solution to support Ethiopians, end the conflict, and ensure accountability."

Mustafa Jumale, Co-Founder of the Black Immigrant Collective and Immigration Policy Manager of the Brooklyn Community Bail Fund (BCBF), stated: "Ethiopia is in crisis right now. Over the past few months, the world has witnessed state violence, and many are describing it as genocide of different ethnicities as the mass killings are very targeted. Ethiopia is also experiencing famine, creating the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people rendering many as internally displaced persons or refugees and asylum seekers who the U.S.



must be in solidarity with. DHS should designate TPS for Ethiopian nationals seeking refuge during this time of instability.”

Anuradha Mittal, Executive Director of the Oakland Institute, stated: “There is nothing temporary about the lives that Ethiopians in the United States have built here. They have grown homes and businesses and are integral to the social fabric of their communities. The Oakland Institute has tracked the worsening economic and political conditions in Ethiopia for the last 15 years. Ethiopians in the United States need humanitarian protection. Ethiopia is in the throes of a massive crisis and is in no position to receive an estimated 30,000 of its citizens in the middle of worsening famine and conflict. TPS protects recipients from deportation to untenable conditions, allowing them to work and live without fear. President Biden should listen to their pleas and designate Ethiopia for TPS.”

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The TPS-DED AAC 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.