



**190 ORGANIZATIONS CALL FOR EXTENSION AND REDESIGNATION OF
TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR VENEZUELA**

*The escalating humanitarian crisis has made safe return impossible
for Venezuelans living in the United States*

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WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, 190 local, state, and national organizations led by the Temporary Status and Deferred Enforced Departure Administrative Advocacy Coalition [TPS-DED AAC](#) wrote to President Biden, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, and Secretary of State Antony Blinken to urge an 18-month extension and redesignation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Venezuela. TPS provides life-saving protection to noncitizens in the United States, including undocumented immigrants, who cannot be safely returned to their home country.

Venezuela is currently facing extraordinary conditions. The State Department [reported](#) that Maduro's policies are marked by "authoritarianism, intolerance for dissent, and violent and systematic repression of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the use of torture, arbitrary detentions, and extrajudicial killings." The [corruption and economic collapse](#) have led to over 80% of the Venezuelan population living in extreme poverty. Civilians continue to suffer from [insecurity due to lack of access to food, water, and healthcare](#), with inflation severely curtailing their ability to find an adequate source of income to purchase essential goods and services for survival. "The living conditions in Venezuela reveal a country in turmoil, unable to protect its own citizens," [said](#) Secretary Mayorkas. These country conditions warrant an immediate 18-month extension and redesignation of TPS.

Adelys Ferro, Executive Director at Venezuelan American Caucus stated: "The current crisis in Venezuela has and it is impacting millions, leading to one of the worst humanitarian crises in this hemisphere and in the world. The conditions in Venezuela have continued, and in some cases worsened since the country was initially designated for TPS. We call on the Biden Administration to both extend and redesignate Venezuela for TPS, protecting tens of thousands more Venezuelans in the United States fleeing the crisis."

Yanira Arias, National Campaigns Manager at Alianza Americas stated: "While it is imperative that Venezuela be redesignated for TPS, the promise of humanitarian protection is marred by the incredible backlog of applicants from last year's designation, now nearly 200,000 people. It is imperative that the administration takes into account the extreme delay and disadvantage that applicants have faced and waive the application fees for TPS and the accompanying work permit. USCIS still needs support, and the administration should dedicate a portion of its backlog funding from Congress specifically to TPS backlogs."

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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.