



TPS FOR VENEZUELA RENEWED, BUT THOUSANDS LEFT OUT OF TPS PROTECTIONS

Biden administration extends but does not redesignate Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 11, 2022

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WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that it will extend, but not redesignate, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for an additional 18 months for Venezuelan TPS holders. While the Temporary Protected Status Deferred Enforced Departure Administrative Advocacy Coalition ([TPS-DED AAC](#)) applauds the administration's decision to rightfully extend TPS protection for Venezuela, we are deeply disappointed in the decision to limit this life-saving protection by not redesignating the country. This extension would only apply to current Venezuelan TPS holders who arrived before March 2021 and would not cover those who later fled the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, failing to protect thousands of additional Venezuelans who have fled since that date from being returned to such conditions.

[Nearly 200](#) local, state, and national organizations, [22 Senators](#), and the [Congressional Hispanic Caucus](#) have all urged the administration not to exclude an estimated 250,000 Venezuelans in the United States from TPS, which protects recipients from being forcibly returned to dangerous conditions and provides permission to work in the United States. This marks the first country up for renewal that the Biden administration has not redesignated.

Venezuela suffers from what the State Department [has declared](#) as “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 a [lack of access](#) to food, water, and healthcare, with inflation severely curtailing access to essential goods and services for survival.

Adelys Ferro, Executive Director at Venezuelan American Caucus stated: “The people who fled to the United States after March 2021 are facing the same conditions today as those who fled Venezuela prior to the cut-off date. While we are glad and grateful that protection has been rightfully extended, the decision not to redesignate leaves tens of thousands in a desperate limbo. We will keep asking and urging Secretary Mayorkas to redesignate Venezuelans for TPS. Venezuelans need protections and the possibility to work legally in the United States.”

Yanira Arias, National Campaigns Manager at Alianza Americas stated: “Even as we call for extended TPS protection for Venezuelans in the United States, we cannot neglect the devastating effect the current backlog has had on current TPS applicants including the risk of being considered “unauthorized alien” under federal law and potentially face deportation while waiting for a response from USCIS. Only a fraction of those who qualify for TPS protection have received it since March 2021, with hundreds of thousands of TPS applications still pending even

as the new TPS period approaches. We urgently await news from USCIS on how they will address this compounding issue that has left thousands in limbo."

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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.