



Factsheet on Temporary Protected Status and Special Student Relief for Pakistan

What is happening in Pakistan:

In June 2022, unprecedented levels of rain caused a national emergency in Pakistan. The devastating floods have left one-third of Pakistan underwater, with relief agencies warning that it will take at least six months for the water to recede. At least 1,700 people have died since June, and 33 million people, including 16 million children, have been displaced. By early September, 6.4 million people were in dire need of humanitarian assistance, as food insecurity and malnutrition levels rise. Amidst this crisis, a deadly spread of waterborne diseases including cholera, dengue and malaria has been reported.

Why you must pay attention to it:

There is an imminent need for relief for Pakistani nationals, including those living in the United States. As world leaders discuss solutions to the crisis, a coalition of diaspora groups, climate justice activists, and immigrant rights advocates are leading efforts to call the Biden administration to safeguard Pakistani immigrants in the United States using Temporary Protected Status.

What can be done for the Pakistani diaspora in America:

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is a humanitarian relief that provides temporary legal status to live in the United States and permission to work in the country. TPS is granted to countries undergoing armed conflict, natural disasters, and other extraordinary and temporary conditions that make a safe return to the country impossible. While the decision to grant TPS to a country lies with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), advocates often make push the administration to designate a country for TPS during emergencies such as the situation in Pakistan. The coalition advocating for relief for Pakistani nationals in the United States is asking the Biden administration to provide TPS for Pakistan. However, in the case of natural disasters, the country facing the emergency must request the U.S. government for TPS protection.

Special Student Relief (SSR):

Pakistani international students with F1 status in the United States can benefit from pausing certain requirements that restrain the students' work opportunities, affect their course load, and cause financial hardship during their studies. Special Student Relief (SSR) allows the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to temporarily stop such regulatory requirements in light of emergency circumstances, including natural disasters. The coalition advocating for relief for Pakistani nationals in the United States is asking the Biden administration to provide Special Student relief for Pakistani students facing financial hardship due to the crisis.

How can you engage in advocacy for our community:

- Sign the petition being led by DRUM. [Contact Fahd Ahmed at fahd@drumnyc.org]
- Contact your state and local representatives to discuss the crisis in Pakistan and the urgent need for relief. [Visit <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>]
- Remittances sent by millions of Pakistani immigrants worldwide support Pakistan's economy as the second largest source of foreign exchange. Remittances are necessary to rebuild the country. Contact the embassy of Pakistan and stress the need for the Pakistani government to request the U.S. government for TPS. [Email consularsection@embassyofpakistanusa.org or call 202-243-6500/ 202-686-1534]

The [TPS-DED AAC](#) is a national coalition of more than 100 organizations with deep expertise in law and policy surrounding TPS. 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.

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