



Temporary Protected Status for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Background: Armed conflict and violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has resulted in a humanitarian crisis causing death, displacement, and growing starvation in the country. The conflict has spanned over a period of 25 years and caused the death of over 5 million people and the internal displacement of thousands. As of December 2021, 5.4 million civilians were internally displaced due to conflict. The resurgence of armed conflict between government forces and non-state armed rebel group “Mouvement du 23 mars” or M23 has led to the displacement of over 186,000 people since the end of October 2022. Violence is persistent due to atrocities committed by state-sponsored and non-state actors, and communal atrocities that show no sign of ending. It is some of the worst violence in the region since rebels were chased to neighboring Rwanda in 2013. The insecurity created by armed groups has led to food scarcity and acute malnutrition, affecting an estimated 10 million people, predominantly children. Of the top five countries of origin of refugees that the United States has resettled this year, DRC had the highest number of resettled refugees. Yet, DRC is the only one without Temporary Protected Status.

Advocates are calling for humanitarian relief for individuals from DRC who are living in the United States:

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 safe return to the country impossible. An application for TPS does not affect an application for asylum or any other immigration benefit. You can apply for travel authorization for special purposes. *For more information, please refer to the [Overview of Temporary Protected Status](#).*

Special Student Relief (SSR) provides relief to F1 international students who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the humanitarian crisis in their home country. SSR gives international students more flexibility related to their duration of status, course load, and employment eligibility

How much does it cost to apply?

The fees vary. Typically, the TPS application ([Form I-821](#)) fee is \$50, the biometrics fee is \$85, and the work authorization ([Form I-765](#)) fee is \$410. You can request a fee waiver ([Form I-912](#)) for the filing fee by demonstrating the inability to pay.

Can I apply for TPS if I have a criminal history?

Yes, but it depends on the charge. It is important that you consult an immigration lawyer immediately.

Does TPS provide a path to citizenship?

No, TPS does not lead to permanent residency (green card) or citizenship.

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.