

## COALITION OF +100 ORGANIZATIONS APPLAUDS CONTINUED AND EXPANDED PROTECTION FOR HONG KONG RESIDENTS IN U.S.

The United States must continue to uphold promises to Hong Kongers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 26, 2023 CONTACT: Lora Adams at lora@masadc.com

**Washington, DC**—The Temporary Protected Status Deferred Enforced Departure Administrative Advocacy Coalition (<u>TPS-DED AAC</u>) applauds the Biden administration's <u>decision</u> to extend and expand eligibility for Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for Hong Kongers living in the United States. DED protects certain nationals from being returned to unsafe conditions, allowing them to live and work in the United States and strengthening U.S. foreign policy goals.

Special Student Relief (SSR) is also being extended for Hong Konger international students, providing much-needed flexibility for those experiencing financial hardship. TPS, DED, and SSR continue to be vital components of a holistic humanitarian and diplomatic response to countries and regions in crisis.

**Samuel Chu, President of the Campaign for Hong Kong stated:** "Today President Joe Biden extended and renewed Deferred Enforced Deportation for Hong Kong. The original DED order from August 2021 has helped more than 3,860 Hong Kongers in the United States—many would face political persecution, rigged trials, long jail sentences, and loss of freedom if forced to return. This action, extending and updating the arrival date, will greatly expand the number of those protected.

But DED is only a band-aid—the conditions in Hong Kong have only worsened. President Biden and Congress must provide long-term, permanent status for Hong Kongers, so they don't have to live in a cycle of fear and uncertainty. The United States promised to stand with Hong Kongers—it is time to stop deferring on that commitment and make it real and permanent. Today, we are grateful that thousands of Hong Kongers can breathe a sigh of relief knowing that the U.S. has not and will not abandon them."

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The <u>TPS-DED AAC</u> 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.