



## **COALITION COMMENDS CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS FOR LETTER TO BIDEN DEMANDING RELIEF FOR BLACK IMMIGRANTS**

*Over 65 members of Congress urge the Biden administration to protect DACA recipients, designate TPS for Black-majority nations, and address green card backlogs*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WASHINGTON, DC**—66 members of Congress, led by Congressional Black Caucus vice-chair [Rep. Yvette Clarke](#) (D-NY), sent a [letter](#) to President Joe Biden yesterday urging him to provide much-needed relief to America’s immigrant communities—particularly those from African and Caribbean diasporas—who face disparate treatment and barriers in the U.S. immigration system despite their longstanding presence and contributions to the United States.

The [Temporary Protected Status Deferred Enforced Departure Administrative Advocacy Coalition \(TPS-DED AAC\)](#) commends the congressional leaders for their advocacy for racial justice for Black immigrants, and echo their demands for protecting DACA and TPS recipients and addressing green card and work permit backlogs.

The letter, announced in an [exclusive](#) by Ashlee Banks in the Grio, [stated](#):

Despite their boundless contributions, Black immigrants often encounter systemic barriers and confront disproportionate challenges within our immigration system. For example, Black immigrants are more likely to be detained and deported based on alleged criminal offenses compared with other immigrant groups. In fact, while composing fewer than 9% of the undocumented population, Black immigrants represent 20% of all immigrants facing deportation due to criminal issues. Certain Black immigrant communities experience discriminatory treatment in bond determinations, with higher bond amounts imposed on individuals from Haiti, among others. Additionally, Black immigrants from Caribbean countries are disproportionately denied their right to asylum.

The policies of the Trump Administration only served to exacerbate the harmful impacts of the long-standing disparities within our immigration system. From a discriminatory travel ban targeting African countries, to family separation policies that inflicted long-lasting harm on Black immigrant families arriving at the border, to frequent attempts to terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for foreign nationals from places like Haiti, Black immigrant communities seem to disproportionately face any number of burdens not placed on other immigrant groups. These measures instilled fear and disrupted the lives of countless individuals and families, and to this day we continue to hear about the lasting effects of these policies from our constituents.

For these reasons and more, we request you to advance policies that promote immigration relief for longtime residents – a crucial step towards addressing these

concerns and restoring community trust. Further, we urge your administration to utilize all available executive and agency powers to provide immediate relief and protection for undocumented immigrants, including those from African and Caribbean diasporas.

The text of the letter and complete list of signatories is available [here](#).

“As Immigrant Heritage Month comes to a close, we are pleased to see so many members of Congress acknowledging and reminding the Biden administration of the anti-Black racism inherent to the U.S. immigration system,” said **Diana Konaté, Policy Director, African Communities Together (ACT)**. “From disproportionate asylum denials to slow TPS designations, Black immigrants bear the brunt of systemic racism in this country—which requires proactive acknowledgement and antiracist action from policymakers. We join Congresswoman Clarke in calling on the Biden administration to do everything in their power to address these racial disparities by immediately protecting DACA recipients, granting TPS designations to vulnerable Black-majority nations, and addressing green card and employment authorization backlogs. Our Black family members, colleagues, neighbors, and friends must not be made to wait for relief any longer.”

*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.*

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