



**50 ORGANIZATIONS CALL ON THE ADMINISTRATION TO EXTEND AND REDESIGNATE SYRIA FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS**

*This year witnessed “the most significant” escalation of hostilities in the country since 2019, [according](#) to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)*

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**WASHINGTON, D.C.**— Earlier this month, 50 local, state, and national organizations led by the American Coalition for Syria wrote to Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas and Secretary of State Antony Blinken to urge an 18-month extension and redesignation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Syria. TPS provides life-saving protection to non-citizens in the United States, including undocumented immigrants, who cannot be safely returned to their home country.

War-torn Syria continues to endure bombings, armed clashes, kidnappings, natural disasters, disease, and various human rights abuses and crimes against humanity. These include extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, and torture. The earthquakes in early February 2023 devastated the already fragile infrastructure throughout many parts of Syria and exacerbated a worsening humanitarian crisis. These temporary conditions make it impossible for Syrian TPS-holders to return safely to their country and thus warrant the extension and redesignation of TPS for Syria.

**Sameer Sabounji, Legal Affairs Director, Syrian American Council**

“A renewal and redesignation of TPS for Syria will protect the approximately 4,000 Syrians on TPS in the United States and allow them to continue living and working in our nation without the fear of deportation. As the conflict in Syria rages on and the humanitarian, political, and economic crisis there further deteriorates, the country remains temporarily unsafe for return, and therefore, Syrian TPS-holders in the United States should not be placed in the difficult position of being forced to return or find another country to relocate to. Syrians have a long and rich history of contributing to our nation and local communities, and Syrians temporarily here on TPS are no different. Renewing and extending their TPS protects their safety and wellbeing and enables them to continue rebuilding their lives and serving their local communities.”

**Farrah Alkhorfan, Immigrants Act Now**

“The current situation in Syria goes beyond a humanitarian crisis. The unlivable daily conditions and the damaged infrastructure deem the country unsafe for Syrian TPS-holders to return to. These Syrians have been vital contributors to the U.S. for the past 12 years since the administration designated TPS for Syria. It is critical for the administration to safeguard the well-being of Syrian TPS-holders, as their living conditions would be jeopardized if they are not granted the opportunity to continue maintaining a secure life in the U.S. Providing them with a safety net to work and live in the U.S. without the fear of deportation is essential.”

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The [American Coalition for Syria](#) is a coalition of U.S.-based organizations that support a principled U.S. policy based on democratic reform, human rights, accountability, and women empowerment in Syria.

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.