

Worsening Humanitarian Conditions in Haiti Make Clear Case for Action on TPS from Biden-Harris Administration

Administration Must Extend and Redesignate TPS for Haiti

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Washington, DC—With armed groups kidnapping Haitians, terrorizing Haiti, and committing violent crimes, it is clear that the country conditions in Haiti continue to meet the statutory requirements for relief. Extending and redesignating temporary protected status (TPS) for Haiti is a moral imperative for the Biden-Harris Administration.

"Haitians have withstood one challenge after another, from major earthquakes to hurricanes to a coup and armed groups terrorizing the country's streets," said Lora Adams, Co-coordinator of the TPS-DED Administrative Advocacy Coalition. "But at some point, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris must recognize that it's humane and common sense to extend and redesignate TPS for Haiti."

The current TPS designation for Haiti will expire on February 3, 2023. Recently, it was announced that TPS will be extended for countries named in *Ramos v. Mayorkas*. Although Haiti is one of those countries, the extension only applies to the 2011 designation, which only includes an estimated 40,000 Haitians. There still needs to be an extension from the 2021 designation, in addition to a redesignation to ensure that those that came in after July 29, 2021, will not be at risk of deportation and are not sent back to life-threatening, chaotic conditions. The Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security must decide if conditions in the country warrant an extension and redesignation by December 5, 2022.

"Haiti has experienced a nationwide lockdown for several weeks, with roads and businesses blocked by barricades erected by armed groups," said Ramya Reddy, Co-coordinator of the TPS-DED Administrative Advocacy Coalition. "Civilians are being threatened, injured, sexually assaulted, or killed, and homes are being looted and burned by gang violence. We call on the Biden-Harris Administration to lean into the best of its values – and those values that we hold dear in the United States – and create avenues for an orderly, humanitarian solution."

The UN estimates that 1.5 million people, or nearly 50 percent of the capital's population, are directly affected by gang violence, and 4.5 million need humanitarian assistance. These worsening and compounding crises, which had led to the UN Security Council considering an international intervention, make it unlikely for Haitian nationals in the United States to have a safe return to Haiti.

For additional information, see the following documents:

- Letter from 423 organizations requesting extension and redesignation of TPS for Haiti
- FWD.us: The U.S. Must Redesignate Haiti for Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

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.