



COALITION OF OVER 100+ ORGANIZATIONS COMMENDS ADMINISTRATION FOR A REDESIGNATION AND EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR SOUTH SUDAN

This TPS redesignation and extension provides work permits and protection from deportation for 273 people.

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WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, African Communities Together (ACT) and the Temporary Protected Status Deferred Enforced Departure Administrative Advocacy Coalition (TPS-DED AAC) commend the Biden administration for its decision to extend and redesignate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for nationals from South Sudan. Over 100 organizations led by ACT called for the continuation and expansion of humanitarian protections for the South Sudanese living in the United States in addition to Special Student Relief to international students from South Sudan in light of the ongoing crisis. This is an important step that underscores the administration's commitment to humanitarian values and the protection of vulnerable communities during times of crisis.

Citing the ongoing armed conflict and a humanitarian crisis, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced today an 18-month extension and redesignation for South Sudan effective on November 4, 2023, and ending May 3, 2025. South Sudanese individuals who have maintained continuous residence in the United States since November 4, 2023, and who can demonstrate continuous physical presence since this date, are now eligible to apply for TPS for the first time. The expansion benefits an additional 140 individuals who meet the new eligibility criteria under the redesignation.

Diana Konaté, Policy Director at African Communities Together stated: "In South Sudan, many families continue to face deadly conflict, mass displacements, diseases like malaria, ebola and COVID-19—all without adequate public services, a decimated health system, and spiraling food scarcity. South Sudanese communities are supporting each other through these devastating challenges, but there is no doubt South Sudan is unsafe for people to return to right now. We welcome the Biden Administration's decision to extend and redesignate TPS for South Sudan and continue to call on U.S. leadership to do all in its power to push for humanitarian protection for Black and Brown communities."

Karen Sullivan, Director of Advocacy at the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), said, "We commend the administration for the 18-month redesignation and extension of TPS for South Sudan. This humanitarian benefit helps ensure that those who

qualify for its protection will receive it, and feel rest assured that they will not be forced back into the current violence and crises. We urge the administration to ensure a swift implementation of TPS for the people of South Sudan. Any delay in doing so will prolong existing anxieties and uncertainties."

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African Communities Together is an organization of African immigrants fighting for civil rights, opportunity, and a better life for African families in the U.S. and worldwide. ACT connects African immigrants to critical services, helps Africans develop as leaders, and organizes African immigrant communities on the issues that matter.

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.