

March 29, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

Our unions are deeply committed to advancing immigration policies that protect human and worker rights and help to lift standards for wages and working conditions in our industries. In that spirit, we write today to urge you to make assertive use of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) statute to provide immediate and urgently needed relief to working families from countries destabilized by conflict or disasters.

We call on DHS to protect current TPS recipients, who contribute greatly to this country and are parents to more than two hundred thousand U.S. born children, and to newly designate or redesignate for TPS all countries that are eligible, including Cameroon, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mauritania, Nepal, and Nicaragua, among others.

As your swift and welcome designations for Ukraine and Afghanistan have made clear, TPS is a critical tool to protect those in need and prevent human suffering and family separation. Many other countries in our region and around the world meet the statutory requirements for TPS designations, and extending those protections would spur far-reaching benefits for our workforce as well. Indeed, the enhanced worker protections that come from TPS are particularly important and timely as our labor movement prepares for a generational investment in infrastructure. We want all workers in this country to be able to access good union jobs, rather than being misclassified and forced into the informal economy.

TPS holders help to build, serve and feed our nation. We are proud to call many of them our union members, and they should not have to labor in uncertainty about their status. The Biden administration can protect and empower millions of working families by designating and redesignating all qualifying countries for TPS. We urge you to do so without delay.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Federation of Teachers
Bricklayers and Allied Crafts
Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
Ironworkers
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
Laborers International Union
National Postal Mail Handlers Union
United Food and Commercial Workers
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