

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Backgrounder

November 2024

What is Temporary Protected Status (TPS)?

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is a temporary benefit granted by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that provides temporary protection and work authorization to certain nationals in the United States from countries (or parts of countries) experiencing ongoing armed conflict, natural disasters or epidemic, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions that prevent their safe return. [TPS](#) does not lead to lawful permanent resident status or grant any other immigration status. TPS protections are limited to those who are already present in the United States.

TPS was [created](#) under the Immigration Act of 1990 and first [granted](#) to nationals of El Salvador. There are currently 16 countries with TPS designation: Afghanistan, Burma, Cameroon, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, and Yemen. [TPS](#) applicants and grantees may still apply for [asylum](#), nonimmigrant status or other immigration benefits if eligible. On October 17, 2024, DHS [announced](#) a planned new TPS designation for Lebanon. For more information on TPS eligibility and countries currently designated for TPS visit the [USCIS website](#).

Can the President cancel a TPS designation?

The Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a country for TPS for periods of 6, 12 to 18 months and can extend these periods if the country continues to meet the conditions for designation. The decision to extend or terminate a TPS designation must be made by the Secretary of Homeland Security at least 60 days before TPS designation expires and be published in the [Federal Register](#). If a decision is not published at least 60 days before the TPS designation expires, the designation is automatically extended for six months.

In 2017 and 2018, under the first term of the Trump Administration, DHS announced the termination of TPS designations for Sudan, Nicaragua, Haiti, El Salvador, Nepal and Honduras in Federal Register notices. TPS beneficiaries and their U.S.-citizen children filed [lawsuits](#) challenging the TPS terminations. Under the Biden Administration, DHS redesignated Haiti and Sudan, [announced](#) the rescission of the TPS terminations, and extended TPS for El Salvador, Honduras, Nepal and Nicaragua.

Why is Temporary Protected Status (TPS) important?

TPS provides needed protection for nationals from TPS-designated countries facing ongoing armed conflict, natural disasters, and other circumstances preventing their safe return. In [Venezuela](#) more than [7 million](#) individuals having fled due to limited access to food and opportunities. The Venezuelan president has implemented extrajudicial executions, military tribunals, and suppressing free press. In [Haiti](#), a combination of ongoing natural disasters, poverty, and political instability has created a series of crises. Around [60 percent](#) of the capital city of Haiti is currently under the control of gangs. With humanitarian disaster and a country-wide economic collapse in Afghanistan, TPS designation protects Afghans from being sent back to live under the violent rule of the Taliban. Global Refuge welcomed re-designations for TPS including for [Venezuela](#), [Haiti](#), and [Afghanistan](#). Additionally, TPS is an essential protection tool for [displacement due to climate-related disasters](#) including hurricanes.

How many people benefit from TPS per year?

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [reported](#) to Congress that at the close of Calendar Year (CY) 2023, there were approximately 870,332 TPS beneficiaries. The largest numbers of TPS beneficiaries in calendar year 2023 were from Venezuela (284,207), El Salvador (237,270), Haiti (204,759), Honduras (74,572), Ukraine (29,739) and Nepal (13,896). A complete chart of TPS beneficiaries by nationality is available in the DHS [Temporary Protected Status: Calendar Year 2023 Annual Report](#). According to the [Congressional Research Service](#) (CRS), as of March 2024, the largest populations of TPS recipients lived in Florida, Texas, New York, and California. CRS reports on TPS are available [here](#).