

Temporary Protected Status for Afghanistan

April 2025

What is Temporary Protected Status?

[Temporary Protected Status](#) (TPS) is a temporary immigration status that provides protection from deportation, as well as eligibility for work authorization, for certain eligible individuals from designated countries experiencing crises. Individuals must register for TPS and may apply for work authorization based on a grant of TPS.

What can TPS provide?

TPS provides protection from removal or deportation on a temporary basis for foreign nationals already in the United States. It can also provide access to work authorization so recipients can lawfully work in the United States.

If TPS is granted, the beneficiary may also seek a TPS travel authorization document which may be used for travel abroad.

Who can qualify for TPS?

The federal government, specifically the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), can ‘designate’ certain countries for TPS due to conditions in their territories, such as conflict or disasters, that prevent safe returns of their nationals or stateless individuals who last resided there. The federal government also determines who is eligible by setting cut-off dates for people to qualify—dates that people must have been physically present or maintained a continued residence in the United States to qualify for TPS.

With some [notable exceptions](#), TPS applicants must also demonstrate that they are admissible to the United States.

Why is Temporary Protected Status important?

TPS keeps people from falling out of status and facing removal to clearly unsafe conditions in their home countries. TPS also helps people remain self-sufficient by providing access to work authorization.

In recent years, TPS has also been a critical status for those who have entered the country on temporary humanitarian statuses, such as certain Afghans, Ukrainians, Venezuelans, and Haitians. Individuals with humanitarian parole can be granted TPS on top of an active grant of parole.

What is the TPS designation for Afghanistan?

In the spring of 2022, DHS [designated](#) Afghanistan for Temporary Protected Status for the first time due to humanitarian and economic conditions after the August 2021 U.S. and coalition military withdrawal and the Taliban takeover. DHS [extended and redesignated](#) Afghanistan’s TPS status in September 2023.

Countries can be designated for TPS in increments of 6, 12, or 18 months. In the case of Afghanistan, [the TPS designation currently in effect](#) is an 18-month designation from November 21, 2023, to May 20, 2025.

Afghan TPS applicants had to meet the requirements of the designation in the [Federal Register Notice](#) as Afghan nationals or stateless individuals from Afghanistan who have resided in the United States continuously since September 20, 2023, and remained physically present in the United States since November 21, 2023.

Who has been protected through the Afghanistan TPS designation?

[As of the end of September 2024](#), approximately 9,630 Afghans had received TPS. It is estimated there are between 11,000 and 13,000 beneficiaries as of early 2025.

Many of these individuals were evacuated from Afghanistan in August 2021 and were granted parole on a case-by-case basis during Operation Allies Welcome. Some Afghans have also sought and been granted TPS while they apply for a more permanent status, such as asylum or a green card based on a Special Immigrant Visa if they worked directly for the U.S. government or military during the war.

What happens when a designation is close to ending?

By law, DHS is supposed to review the country conditions of a designated country and the Secretary of DHS—in consultation with the Department of State and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)—is tasked with making a decision about an ending designation.

The decision to extend or terminate a TPS designation must be made at least 60 days before a 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.

With the Afghanistan designation ending on May 20, 2025, a decision was expected by March 21, 2025. However, no information was released about Afghanistan's designation by Sec. Noem or DHS by that time—in the Federal Register or elsewhere.

What is the latest on TPS for Afghanistan?

On April 11, The New York Times [reported](#) that Sec. Noem had reportedly decided to terminate the TPS designations of Afghanistan and Cameroon. A news report does **NOT** meet the legal requirement of notifying TPS holders of the termination of TPS, but if confirmed, the Afghanistan designation would end on May 20, 2025, as well as the protections granted to those on TPS.

What are the effects of this reported termination?

Afghan nationals could begin accruing unlawful presence in the United States if their TPS lapses and they have no other status. Afghan nationals will likely lose access to work authorization and could be fired from their jobs ahead of the pending end of their employment authorization document's validity date.

Will there be a lawsuit over this decision?

It is likely. TPS beneficiaries and their attorneys have sued the U.S. government over recent terminations of TPS designations, such as those for Haiti and Venezuela.

What should Afghan nationals with TPS do?

Afghan nationals with TPS should consult with a licensed immigration attorney about their options and potential protections that are best suited for their circumstances. Afghan nationals with TPS or another temporary status like parole should avoid international travel at this time. They should retain all records that demonstrate their status or notes of receipt for applications with USCIS.

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What can I do to advocate on TPS and protections for Afghan nationals?

If you're concerned about the possible termination of TPS for Afghanistan, you can reach out to your member of Congress to express support for temporary and permanent protections for Afghans in the United States. You can urge them to authorize additional Special Immigrant Visas for Afghans or to pass a reintroduced Afghan Adjustment Act to provide a pathway to permanency for Afghan parolees evacuated in 2021.