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By ESEC at 8:48 am, Mar 08, 2023

# EWIC

Essential Worker Immigration Coalition

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March 7, 2023

Dear Secretary, Mayorkas,

We are writing to request an update to the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) eligibility date for Nicaraguans in the United States. EWIC is a broad-based coalition of national businesses and trade associations from across the industry spectrum concerned with the shortage of both semi-skilled and unskilled (“essential worker”) labor.

Nicaragua has been designated for TPS since January 5, 1999. TPS has been extended several times since then. Unfortunately, the current eligibility date only covers Nicaraguans who entered the United States on or before December 30, 1998.

Considering the ongoing political, social, and economic instability in Nicaragua, we believe that it is reasonable to extend the TPS eligibility date to include those who entered the U.S. after December 30, 1998. This would provide vital relief and stability to those who have fled Nicaragua and are currently in the U.S. in an unstable status.

Nicaraguan TPS holders are employed in many essential worker industries, including agriculture, construction, and healthcare. They have become an integral part of our workforce and play a crucial role in keeping our economy running.

Many Nicaraguans who have sought refuge in the United States cannot return home due to the risks they face. Extending the eligibility date for TPS would allow them to continue contributing to their communities.

We urge the Department of Homeland Security to update the eligibility date for TPS for Nicaragua.

Sincerely,

Essential Worker Immigration Coalition



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

July 3, 2023

Essential Worker Immigration Coalition  
1750 Tysons Blvd, Suite 1000  
McLean, VA 22102

Dear Essential Worker Immigration Coalition:

Thank you for your March 7, 2023 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requesting an extension and redesignation of Nicaragua for Temporary Protected Status (TPS). I am responding on behalf of the Department, as U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

As you know, on June 9, 2023, after careful consideration, including a thorough review of the country conditions and consultation with interagency partners, Secretary Mayorkas announced the rescission of the previous Administration's termination of the TPS designation of Nicaragua and extended the TPS designation for 18 months on the basis of environmental disaster. This designation will be in effect from January 6, 2024 through July 5, 2025. For additional information, please see the press release announcing the extension.<sup>1</sup> On June 21, 2023, DHS published a *Federal Register* notice to provide instructions for current beneficiaries to re-register for TPS.<sup>2</sup>

In addition to TPS, USCIS also offers support that may be available upon request to assist eligible noncitizens affected by special situations in their home country. Such support may include:

- Change or extension of nonimmigrant status if the eligible noncitizen is currently in the United States, even if the request is filed after the authorized period of admission has expired;
- Expedited processing of requests for advance parole documents;
- Expedited adjudication of requests for off-campus employment authorization for F-1 students experiencing severe economic hardship;

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<sup>1</sup> *DHS Rescinds Prior Administration's Termination of Temporary Protected Status Designations for El Salvador, Honduras, Nepal, and Nicaragua*, <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2023/06/13/dhs-rescinds-prior-administrations-termination-temporary-protected-status>.

<sup>2</sup> *See Reconsideration and Rescission of Termination of the Designation of Nicaragua for Temporary Protected Status; Extension of the Temporary Protected Status Designation for Nicaragua*, 88 FR 40294 (June 21, 2023).

- Expedited adjudication of employment authorization applications, where appropriate;
- Flexibility for those who received a Request for Evidence or a Notice of Intent to Deny and were unable to appear for an interview, submit evidence, or respond in a timely manner due to the special situation; and
- Replacement of lost or damaged immigration or travel documents issued by USCIS, such as a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card).

More information on these options is available at <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/immigration-relief-in-emergencies-or-unforeseen-circumstances>.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Should you require any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ur M. Jaddou", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ur M. Jaddou  
Director