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By ESEC at 3:20 pm, Dec 01, 2022



**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY
GENERAL OF THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA**



**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS**

President Joseph Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

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

December 1, 2022

Re: Redesignation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status

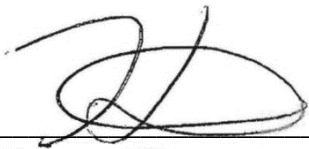
Dear President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas:

As the Attorneys General of the District of Columbia and the State of Illinois, and as the only two attorneys general of Haitian descent, we respectfully call on the Department of Homeland Security to redesignate Haiti for Temporary Protected Status (TPS). Haitian immigrants are essential members of many communities and embedded in the fabric of American society. They enrich the cultural diversity and vibrancy of our country. Unfortunately, conditions within Haiti continue to deteriorate and the redesignation of Haiti's TPS status is imperative.

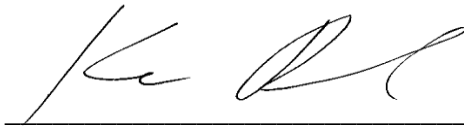
Our offices have been heavily involved in issues related to Haitian migrants and the Haitian community in the United States. We have jointly led [amicus briefs](#) arguing that the U.S. government cannot expel non-citizens to a country where they might face persecution or torture, as well as letters calling on the administration to [engage in humanitarian solutions](#) to address the Haitian refugee crisis at the U.S border and [in support of the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program](#). We know all too well the challenges that Haitian immigrants face and are saddened by the continued and severe crises within Haiti including extreme political instability, gang violence, a cholera outbreak, and food insecurity.

We recognize and applaud the Department's recent decision to extend TPS for current holders through June 30, 2024. However, we urge the Department to ensure that Haitian migrants who have arrived since the TPS eligibility date of August 3, 2021 are also eligible for protected status. These migrants, like those before, have risked their lives to escape violence and acute poverty. If forced to return to Haiti, these individuals and families would face a country whose conditions have only worsened since they fled. Redesignating Haiti for TPS would provide critical protection against removal and make these immigrants eligible for work authorization in the United States. We urge the administration to adopt this path forward.

Sincerely,



KARL A. RACINE
Attorney General for the District of Columbia



KWAME RAOUL
Attorney General of Illinois



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

January 11, 2023

The Honorable Karl A. Racine
Attorney General of the District of Columbia
400 6th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Attorney General Racine:

Thank you for your December 1, 2022 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requesting a redesignation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haiti. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program, and Secretary Mayorkas asked that I respond on his behalf.

I appreciate the concerns you have outlined regarding the situation in Haiti and your interest in its redesignation for TPS. On December 5, 2022, after careful consideration, including a thorough review of the country conditions and consultation with interagency partners, Secretary Mayorkas announced the extension of TPS for Haiti for an additional 18 months, from February 4, 2023, through August 3, 2024. The Secretary also redesignated Haiti for TPS, enabling Haitian nationals (and individuals without nationality who last habitually resided in Haiti) who have been continuously residing in the United States since November 6, 2022, to file applications to register for TPS. For additional information, please see the press release announcing the extension and redesignation of TPS for Haiti.¹

Pending applications that are approved after publication of the *Federal Register* notice (FRN) announcing the extension and redesignation will be approved through August 3, 2024. Those who have initial applications currently pending with USCIS do not need to file a new application under the redesignation.

DHS estimates that approximately 110,000 additional individuals may be eligible for TPS under the redesignation of Haiti. Haiti's 18-month redesignation will go into effect on the publication date of the forthcoming FRN, which will provide instructions for applying for TPS and an Employment Authorization Document. The FRN will also provide information about fees and how applicants may request a fee waiver, if necessary. DHS is committed to publishing the FRN as soon as possible.

¹ <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/12/05/secretary-mayorkas-extends-and-redesignates-temporary-protected-status-haiti-18>.

In addition to TPS, USCIS also offers support that may be available upon request to assist eligible Haitian nationals (and individuals without nationality who last habitually resided in Haiti) who have been affected by conditions there, including the following:

- Change or extension of nonimmigrant status if 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;
- Expedited adjudication of employment authorization applications, where appropriate;
- Assistance if applicants were unable to appear for a scheduled interview or appointment, or respond in a timely manner to a Request for Evidence or Notice of Intent to Deny due to unforeseen circumstances such as a natural disaster; 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 under “Special Situations” on our website at <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations>.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. The cosigner of your letter will receive a separate, identical response. Should you require any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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