



Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet

Carondelet Center ❖ 11999 Chalon Road ❖ Los Angeles, CA 90049-1524 ❖ 310-889-2100 ❖ Fax 310-476-8735

April 17, 2018

Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen
Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Secretary Nielsen:

The Leadership Team of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet is requesting that you extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Honduras for at least 18 months. As persons of faith, we are called to provide hospitality and protect those who are in need of safety. These same values have been confirmed and codified through international agreements and in U.S. law, which recognizes that people have a right to seek safety from dangerous conditions that threaten their lives.

Most Hondurans are living productive lives here in the US and have established families who are American citizens. Returning those who have Temporary Protective Status will disrupt families and communities.

Life threatening conditions remain today that prevent the safe return of nearly 60,000 Honduran TPS holders. We believe Honduras should be redesignated due to widespread gang violence and security concerns in the country.

We thank you for taking all these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

The Leadership Team of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

Sr. Theresa Kvale *Sr. Suzanne Jabro* *Sr. Mary Ann Martin*
Sr. Theresa Kvale, CSJ Sr. Suzanne Jabro, CSJ Sr. Mary Ann Martin, CSJ

Sr. Angela Faustina
Sr. Angela Faustina, CSJ

Sr. Sandra Williams
Sr. Sandra Williams, CSJ

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Kamala Harris
Representative Ted Lieu

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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

June 11, 2018

Sr. Theresa Kvale
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
Carondelet Center
11999 Chalan Road
Los Angeles, California 90049

Dear Sister Kvale:

Thank you for your April 17, 2017 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate a country for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and to extend or terminate a country's existing designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

Prior to the current expiration date for an existing TPS designation, the Secretary of Homeland Security reviews conditions in the foreign country and, after consultation with other appropriate federal agencies, determines whether the statutory conditions for TPS continue to be met. Under the INA, if the Secretary determines that the conditions for designation continue to be met with respect to a given country, the Secretary extends the designation. But if the Secretary determines that the conditions are no longer met with respect to that country, she is required to terminate the designation. Additional information regarding TPS designations is available in the *Federal Register* and on the USCIS website. Recent TPS decisions are the subject of ongoing litigation; therefore, we are unable to comment further.

Thank you for your letter and interest in this important issue. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Francis Cissna".

L. Francis Cissna
Director