



**119 ORGANIZATIONS CALL ON ADMINISTRATION TO EXTEND AND REDESIGNATE SOMALIA FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS**  
*Humanitarian protection is essential given violent conditions and humanitarian crises*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 7, 2021

**CONTACT:** [jose@masadc.com](mailto:jose@masadc.com)

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Today, 119 local, state, and national organizations led by the Temporary Status and Deferred Enforced Departure Administrative Advocacy Coalition (TPS-DED AAC) [wrote](#) to Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas and Secretary of State Antony Blinken to urge an 18-month extension and redesignation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Somalia. TPS provides life-saving protection to noncitizens in the United States, including undocumented immigrants, who cannot be safely returned to their home country.

The administration must decide by July 19 whether to extend or end TPS for Somalia. In the letter, advocates make clear that life-threatening conditions are ongoing in the country, making safe return impossible. Just this April, the Biden administration continued Somalia's national emergency declaration, citing acts of violence committed against civilians in Somalia and "deterioration of the security situation and the persistence of violence in Somalia."

In addition to extension, advocates call for TPS for Somalia to be redesignated which would extend this life-saving protection to Somalis in the United States who arrived since the last cut-off date in 2012.

**Diana Konaté, Policy Director at African Communities Together stated:** "Temporary Protected Status is a humanitarian tool to protect human life. The United Nations expects [5.9 million people](#) to be in need of humanitarian assistance in Somalia in this year alone, an increase of 1.7 million since 2019. The Biden administration has committed to prioritizing human rights, and a robust use of Temporary Protected Status falls squarely within those priorities. It is more important than ever that we stand in solidarity with immigrant communities in the United States, including our Somali neighbors."

**Eskinder Negash, President and CEO of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants stated:** "Temporary Protected Status is a life-saving protection for those who cannot safely return to their countries. Somalia's violence, desperate humanitarian need, and devastating poverty make it impossible for Somalis living in the United States to return in safety. Granting TPS for Somalia would demonstrate the United States' commitment to the human rights and lives of Somalis living in our country. The U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants stands in solidarity with Somalis and asks the Biden administration to extend and redesignate Somalia for TPS."

**Mustafa Jumale, Co-Founder of the Black Immigrant Collective and Immigration Policy Manager of the Brooklyn Community Bail Fund stated:** "Somali nationals in the United States have been in limbo for 30 years. There is nothing temporary about Somali TPS holders. They have built homes and businesses, and they are part of the social fabric of their communities. Every 18 months, Somali TPS holders hold their breath, waiting to see if their status will be extended, terminated, or re-designated. Although Somalia has made tremendous



progress in the past 30 years, it still is a conflict zone. Somali deportees have been killed in Al-Shabaab attacks. Somalia is in no position to repatriate TPS holders. Biden should listen to their pleas and re-designate Somali TPS, and Congress needs to create pathways for permanent residency."

**Lisa Parisio, Director of Advocacy at the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) stated:** "In addition to an 18-month extension, TPS for Somalia must be redesignated. Redesignation of TPS for Somalia will provide life-saving protection to those who arrived from the conflict and humanitarian crisis since the last cut-off date in 2012. It will also protect those who may have slipped through cracks in the U.S. asylum system—including due to systemic anti-Black racism—and would still be at risk for their lives if returned to Somalia. As a blanket protection for nationals of an entire country, TPS plays a critical role in U.S. immigration and must be used broadly and boldly to protect human life, keep families together, and serve other key domestic and foreign policy interests."

###

*The TPS-DED AAC is a national coalition of more than 100 organizations with deep expertise in law and policy surrounding TPS and DED. Member organizations range from community-based organizations directly serving impacted communities in the United States to international NGOs, working in and providing insight from affected countries.*