

New York, February 9, 2024

**The Honorable
Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington D.C.**

RECEIVED
By ESEC at 3:12 pm, Mar 05, 2024

RE: TPS for Ecuador, implementation of new requirement

Dear Secretary, Mayorkas,

Please accept a warm greeting from those who make up the organization 1800Migrante.com. Based in New York City, we have been working – for 16 years – with migrant communities and their families, in both Ecuador and the United States.

The possible approval of temporary protected status (TPS) for Ecuadorians has given hope to hundreds of thousands of families in need of this immigration benefit, and we hope and ask you to approve it.

We would like to inform you of an extremely important matter related to TPS for Ecuadorians.

Since its inception, 1800Migrante.com has done much pro bono work on behalf of migrant children, as well as the missing, the kidnapped and those who have died at the borders of the region. We know, firsthand, the suffering of our people, the current Ecuadorian migration it's a tragedy to all of us.

We know of dozens of cases where mothers, or even the children of migrants, who dared to cross the border into the United States with the intention of working and helping feed their families, because their husbands/fathers, already in the United States, FORGOT them and does not send money to support them, to educate them, to buy medicine or whatever is necessary. These men came to the USA and chose to take the easy way out, not fulfilling their obligations.

We have documented cases of minors and several women who have died because their fathers/husbands have already formed a new family in the USA - they have new children and partners. Many even commit bigamy, and many may have more than one child support lawsuit pending in Ecuador. However, there are no legal mechanisms to collect these debts in the USA.

We need your help, along with DHS, to make a difference in TPS for Ecuadorians, in the process helping the children and youth of Ecuador with simple, but very effective step.

If TPS is approved for Ecuador, it will have to meet certain requirements. We SUGGEST an additional requirement: in order to receive TPS, Ecuadorians will have to PROVE, through a certificate issued by a Court of Children and Adolescents (the equivalent of a family court), that they have no outstanding debts for child support in Ecuador. The certificate will have to be current, notarized, apostilled, and translated in order to be accepted in the process; this way, those parents who have thousands of

dollars in child support debt will have to pay what is owed in order to access the TPS. This requirement could also be implemented in other immigration processes (visas, residency, asylum, etc.).

We have informed the former Ecuadorian Ambassador in Washington, Ivonne Baki, of this proposal, but we are coming to you to ensure that it is considered in the appropriate process.

Dear Mr. Mayorkas, we thank you for your attention to this letter, and we know that the additional requirement that we propose will help avoid suffering, deaths, missing persons and irregular immigration. However, above all, it will help to find justice for Ecuadorian children.

Yours sincerely



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WM/al/archive

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office of the Director (MS 2000)
Camp Springs, MD 20588-0009



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

March 29, 2024

William Murillo
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Dear Mr. Murillo:

Thank you for your February 9, 2024 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regarding Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Ecuador. I am responding on behalf of the Department.

I appreciate your concerns and the information you shared about conditions in Ecuador. Please be assured that DHS continues to monitor conditions in Ecuador and remains committed to administering its programs, including TPS, in an equitable manner.

The Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a country for TPS and extend or terminate a country's existing TPS designation based upon specific statutory criteria. To designate a country for TPS or extend a country's TPS designation, the Secretary must find one or more of the following facts: (1) there is an ongoing armed conflict within the country that would pose a serious threat to the personal safety of the country's nationals if they were returned; (2) there has been an environmental disaster resulting in a substantial, but temporary, disruption of the living conditions in the area affected, the country is temporarily unable to handle adequately the return of its nationals, and the country has officially requested TPS designation; or (3) there exist extraordinary and temporary conditions in the country that prevent nationals from returning in safety, and the Secretary does not find that permitting the country's nationals to remain temporarily in the United States would be contrary to the national interest of the United States.

To determine TPS eligibility, USCIS relies upon specific requirements found in federal statutes and policies. You can find more information about these requirements under the "Eligibility Requirements" heading at uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status.

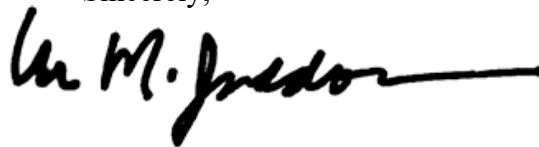
I appreciate your concerns and the information you shared about conditions in Ecuador. Please be assured DHS continues to monitor conditions in Ecuador and remains committed to administering its programs, including TPS, in an equitable manner. DHS also offers immigration relief and applies flexibilities that may be available upon request to eligible individuals in the United States affected by emergencies or unforeseen circumstances. Such relief and flexibilities may include:

- Change or extension of nonimmigrant status, if eligible nationals are 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 eligible F-1 students experiencing severe economic hardship;
- Expedited adjudication of employment authorization applications, where appropriate;
- Assistance if applicants 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 because of the circumstances; and
- Expedited replacement of lost or damaged immigration or travel documents issued by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, such as a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card).

More information 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. Please share this response with the cosigner of your letter. Should you require any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Citizenship, Partnership, and Engagement at public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ur M. Jaddou", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Ur M. Jaddou
Director