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5 December 2024

The Hon. Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I'm writing you today out of grave concern for the many friends, neighbors, and work partners across the country who are currently under Temporary Protected Status. As a faith leader in Nebraska, I am connected to immigrant communities and congregational leaders who walk with them, and many are deeply afraid that under the Trump Administration, their TPS status will be rescinded or simply allowed to expire.

Here in Nebraska, we have thousands of longtime TPS residents who contribute much to our economy and local communities. My hometown, Wakefield, Nebraska, has grown by almost 50% over the last 30 years largely due to migration by workers under TPS. We cannot afford to lose these partners in our daily lives - they are an integral part of our communities, and as I'm sure you're aware, there are no statistical models which show that eliminating the migrant workers from American workplaces will bring any benefit or increase to the national economy.

There are currently approximately 1,000,000 immigrants from 16 countries who live here under TPS. I am asking you, where possible, to extend their status now. Please take action where you can to provide this ongoing protection for our friends and neighbors who are TPS designees.

Yours in gratitude,

The Rev. Scott Alan Johnson, Bishop
Nebraska Synod - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

RECEIVED
By ESEC at 3:18 pm, Dec 12, 2024



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

January 10, 2025

The Rev. Scott Alan Johnson, Bishop
Nebraska Synod - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
6757 Newport Ave, Ste 200
Omaha, NE 68152

Dear Bishop Johnson:

Thank you for your December 5, 2024 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requesting the extension and redesignation of countries currently designated for Temporary Protected Status (TPS). I am responding on behalf of the Department.

I appreciate the concerns you have outlined in your letter. Please be assured U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is reviewing conditions in TPS-designated countries to determine whether they continue to meet the criteria for designation and considers whether non-designated countries meet the conditions for initial designation. DHS makes these decisions in consultation with interagency partners and after careful consideration of each individual country's circumstances, in accordance with statutory requirements.¹

USCIS also offers support that may be available upon request to assist eligible noncitizens affected by emergencies or unforeseen circumstances.² Such support 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 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 emergency or unforeseen circumstances; and

¹ See Immigration and Nationality Act sec. 244(b)(1), (b)(3), 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(1), (b)(3).

² Additional information is available on the USCIS website at uscis.gov/newsroom/immigration-relief-in-emergencies-or-unforeseen-circumstances.

Bishop Scott Alan Johnson

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- Replacement of lost or damaged immigration or travel documents issued by USCIS, such as a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card).

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact the USCIS Public Engagement Division by email 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