

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**RECEIVED**

By ESEC at 2:41 pm, Dec 19, 2022

December 19, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
301 7<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Secretary Blinken:

We urge you to redesignate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Yemen and extend the designation by 18 months. Yemen's TPS designation is set to expire March 3, 2023, and conditions there necessitate extending and redesignating TPS for Yemen. Continued armed conflict, the end of a United Nations (UN)-brokered ceasefire on October 3, 2022, and ongoing famine make safe return to the country impossible. It is vital for the lives and safety of Yemeni nationals currently in the United States to extend and redesignate TPS for Yemen.

Congress created TPS to protect nationals of countries experiencing ongoing armed conflict, environmental disaster, or other extraordinary conditions preventing the safe return to their country of origin.<sup>1</sup> Yemen is in its eighth year of a war that has claimed an estimated 377,000 lives; caused severe famine; energy shortages; and more.<sup>2</sup> The United Nations Population Fund (UNPF) estimates 23.4 million people—nearly 75 percent of Yemen's population—have required some form of humanitarian assistance in 2022.<sup>3</sup> 19 million Yemenis need food assistance, of which 7.3 million are coping with emergency levels of hunger, including 2.2 million children that are acutely malnourished.<sup>4</sup> As the war continues to afflict the country, redesignating and extending TPS protections for Yemenis in the United States remains of paramount importance. Failure to do so would force the more than 1,000 Yemenis currently under TPS to face insurmountable circumstances.

Since its initial designation in 2015, TPS for Yemen has been extended four times and redesignated twice, including under this Administration. The history of consecutive bipartisan TPS extensions underscores the severity of the ongoing war and humanitarian crisis in Yemen. The same extraordinary and temporary conditions that led to these determinations—including armed conflict—remain, rendering the safe return of Yemenis residing in the United States impossible.

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<sup>1</sup> P.L. 101-649, Sec. 302a, Sec. 422A. (b)(1)(a)

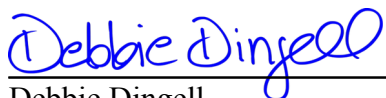
<sup>2</sup> UNDP. "Assessing the Impact of War in Yemen: Pathways for Recovery" *Report by UNDP in Yemen*, 2021, November <https://www.undp.org/yemen/publications/assessing-impact-war-yemen-pathways-recovery>.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations. (n.d.). Yemen: One of the world's largest humanitarian crises. United Nations Population Fund. Retrieved November 3, 2022, from <https://www.unfpa.org/yemen>

<sup>4</sup> United Nations. (2022, October 2). Yemen crisis. UNICEF. Retrieved November 3, 2022, from <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/yemen-crisis>

Accordingly, we urge you to extend TPS for Yemen for the 18-month maximum; redesignate TPS for eligible Yemeni nationals; publish a timely Federal Register Notice; and launch a public information campaign to notify the impacted community of the decision and any actions they must take by January 2, 2023. We call for a minimum 180-day registration period for both current TPS holders and those who would benefit under redesignation. This determination would directly demonstrate the United States' enduring commitment to human rights and honors the dignity, humanity, and contributions of the Yemeni community in the United States. We thank your administration for its commitment to the safety and security of Yemeni people residing in the United States.

Sincerely,



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Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



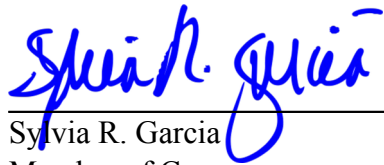
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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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David E. Price  
Member of Congress



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



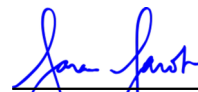
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Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



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André Carson  
Member of Congress



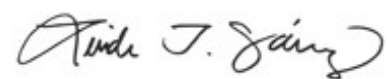
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



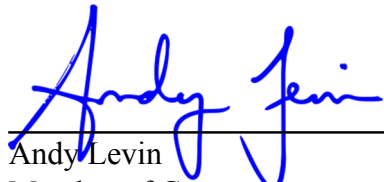
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Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



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Andy Levin  
Member of Congress



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress



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David J. Trone  
Member of Congress



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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



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Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



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Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



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Cori Bush  
Member of Congress



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Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress




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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



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Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



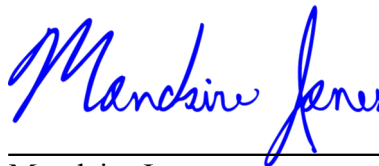
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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



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Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



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Mondaire Jones  
Member of Congress



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



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Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



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Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

February 6, 2023

The Honorable Debbie Dingell  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dingell:

Thank you for your December 19, 2022, letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requesting extension and redesignation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Yemen. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising Secretary Mayorkas on TPS issues, and he asked that I respond on his behalf.

I appreciate your concerns regarding the situation in Yemen and your interest in its redesignation for TPS. On December 30, 2022, after careful consideration that included a thorough review of country conditions and consultation with interagency partners, Secretary Mayorkas announced the extension of TPS for Yemen for an additional 18 months, from March 4, 2023, through September 3, 2024. The Secretary also redesignated Yemen for TPS, enabling Yemeni nationals (and individuals without nationality who last habitually resided in Yemen) continuously residing in the United States since December 29, 2022, to file applications to register for TPS.

On January 3, 2023, DHS published a *Federal Register* notice (FRN), *Extension and Redesignation of Yemen for Temporary Protected Status*,<sup>1</sup> providing information for existing beneficiaries to re-register and apply for renewal of their Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) with USCIS, or for Yemeni nationals (or individuals without nationality who last habitually resided in Yemen) to submit an initial registration application under the redesignation and apply for an EAD). The FRN also provides information about fees and how applicants may request a fee waiver, if necessary.

In addition to TPS, USCIS offers support that may be available upon request to assist eligible noncitizens affected by special situations, including:

- 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;

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<sup>1</sup> 88 FR 94.

**The Honorable Debbie Dingell**

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- Expedited adjudication of requests for off-campus employment authorization for F-1 students experiencing severe economic hardship;
- Expedited adjudication of employment authorization applications;
- 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 a special situation; and
- Replacement of lost or damaged immigration or travel documents issued by USCIS, such as a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card).

More information is available at <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations>.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. The cosigners of your letter will receive a separate, identical response. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs at (240) 721-3801.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ur M. Jaddou", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ur M. Jaddou  
Director