

DHS cancels TPS for Nepal and Honduras

On April 26, 2018, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that it would end the temporary protected status (TPS) designation for certain nationals of Nepal as of June 24, 2019. A week later, on May 5, 2018, DHS announced that it would end TPS for Honduras as of January 5, 2020. Since President Trump took office in January of 2017, his administration has announced plans to terminate TPS for nationals of several countries, including El Salvador, Haiti, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Nicaragua.

TPS allows nationals of designated countries who are in the United States to remain in the U.S. for a specified period of time because the conditions in their home countries prevent a safe return. The conditions that can result in a TPS designation include environmental disasters, armed conflicts, earthquakes, epidemics, and other extraordinary, temporary conditions. Individuals who are granted TPS are protected from removal from the U.S. and may apply for employment and travel authorization. TPS is a temporary status and does not lead to a green card.

Nepal was granted TPS by President Obama in April of 2015, after a massive earthquake destroyed much of the country. Press reports indicate that country conditions are still quite poor. According to official reports, many children remain out of school and a high percentage of families lack adequate shelter and access to clean water and medical facilities. Nevertheless, in its statement terminating TPS for Nepal, DHS stated that the problems caused by the earthquake have "decreased to a degree that they should no longer be regarded as substantial."

Honduras was granted TPS by President Clinton in January of 1999, after Hurricane Mitch destroyed large parts of the country and left more than 10,000 people dead. Honduras' TPS designation was renewed several times over the years, and approximately 50,000 Hondurans are currently living and working in the United States under TPS protection.

The Hondurans and Nepalese who have seen their TPS designation withdrawn now join the 200,000 Salvadorans, 45,000 Haitians, and 2,500 Nicaraguans whose status will be terminated in the near future.