



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

October 5, 2020

Jill Marie Bussey
Director of Advocacy
Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc
8757 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Bussey:

Thank you for your September 17, 2020 letter to the White House and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requesting an 18-month designation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Lebanon or Deferred Enforced Departure (DED). Acting Secretary Wolf asked that I respond on his behalf.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) mourns the loss of life from this horrible tragedy that caused such tremendous destruction. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) provides a number of humanitarian programs and protections to assist individuals who have been affected by disasters, emergency medical issues and other urgent circumstances. The immigration and humanitarian options available to individuals may vary depending upon their specific circumstances.

At this time, Lebanon is not a TPS designated country. TPS provides temporary relief to eligible nationals of designated countries who are present in the United States. The Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a country for TPS when conditions temporarily prevent that country's nationals from returning safely, or in certain circumstances, where the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals adequately. The Secretary considers several temporary conditions that may exist such as when there is an ongoing armed conflict, an environmental disaster, an epidemic, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions.

DED is an administrative stay of removal that may be authorized at the discretion of the President for a designated group of aliens. The authority to grant DED arises from the President's constitutional authority to conduct the foreign relations of the United States. *See* Executive Order 12711 (April 11, 1990).

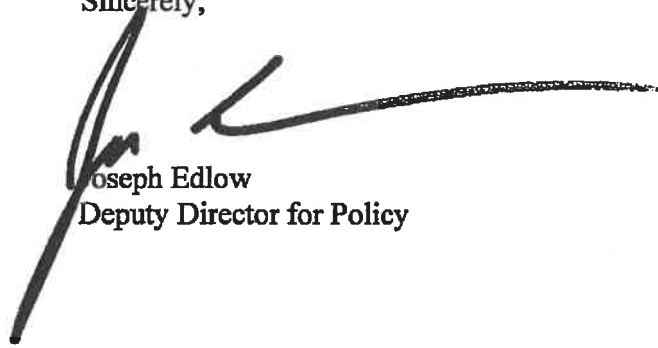
We trust that your constituents with ties to Lebanon will find the USCIS website helpful in understanding the humanitarian options, flexibilities that USCIS is able to provide for special

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situations, as well as methods for reaching out to the USCIS Contact Center for any case specific questions.¹

Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Joseph Edlow', written over the typed name.

Joseph Edlow
Deputy Director for Policy

¹ For additional information, please see the USCIS website regarding Special Situations:
<https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations>.