

December 3, 2018

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

We, the 118 undersigned national, state, and local organizations, respectfully request that Congress support an investigation by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of the Inspector General (IG) into the administration's various regulatory irregularities and problematic conduct regarding Temporary Protected Status (TPS) decisions. As you know, DHS terminated TPS for over 300,000 people (cumulatively 98% of TPS holders), representing an unprecedented level of terminations never before seen in the history of TPS.<sup>1</sup> Before, during, and subsequent to these terminations, DHS and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), engaged in questionable and potentially unlawful conduct.<sup>2</sup>

An investigation conducted by the DHS IG is critical in order to provide a necessary level of accountability into allegations of mismanagement and violations of existing policy, regulation, and statutes regarding administration of TPS. These irregularities and deficiencies include:

- The Secretary of DHS's failure to re-designate Syria, Somalia, and Yemen for TPS, resulting in thousands of individuals ineligible to apply for TPS despite home country conditions still warranting TPS;<sup>3</sup>
- Upwards of 30,000 Haitian, El Salvadoran, and Syrian nationals suffering unreasonable delays by USCIS in adjudication of their re-registration applications for TPS;<sup>4</sup>
- USCIS' reversal of long standing policy of utilizing Federal Register Notices (FRN) to extend employment authorization and instead employing the costly mailing of tens of thousands of physical notices;<sup>5</sup>
- Historic delays in the publication of FRN following TPS decisions, contravening Congress's requirement that DHS publish a decision at least 60 days before the end of a TPS designation;
- Publication errors, leading to the unintended expiration of work authorization for TPS recipients; and
- Any other issues that members of Congress or the DHS IG deems appropriate to investigate.

We ask that you support efforts to request an investigation by the DHS IG to facilitate the issuance of recommendations and appropriate disciplinary action; and comprehensive policy, guidance and training to prevent similar unlawful or wasteful conduct from reoccurring in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact Jose Magaña-Salgado at [jose@masadc.com](mailto:jose@masadc.com).

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<sup>1</sup> Jill H. Wilson, CONG. RESEARCH SERV., RS 20844, TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS: OVERVIEW AND CURRENT ISSUES 5 (Oct. 10, 2018) *available at* <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/homesecc/RS20844.pdf><https://fas.org/sgp/crs/homesecc/RS20844.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) catalogued these issues in a memorandum issued to USCIS. This memorandum provides an overview of many of the issues raised in this letter. *See* Memorandum from Jill Marie Bussey, Director of Advocacy, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. to Matthew King, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of International Engagement, Office of Policy, U.S. Department of Homeland Security on Irregularities and Procedural Errors in TPS Implementation (Aug 6, 2018), *available at* <https://cliniclegal.org/resources/memorandum-irregularities-and-procedural-errors-tps-implementation>.

<sup>3</sup> GAO has already agreed to conduct a review regarding the government's failure to re-designate Syria. Letter From Orice Williams Brown, Managing Director, Congressional Relations, Government Accountability Office to Congressional Requestors (Oct. 4, 2018) (on file with author).

<sup>4</sup> Letter from Jill Marie Bussey, Director of Advocacy, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. to L. Francis Cissna, Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (Oct. 26, 2018) (on file with author).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

Sincerely,

**National Organizations**

Alianza Americas  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Friends Service Committee  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee  
Anti-Defamation League  
AsylumConnect  
Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Church World Service  
Community Change  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces  
Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)  
Faith in Public Life  
Families Belong Together  
Franciscan Action Network  
Freedom for Immigrants  
Hispanic Federation  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
Latin America Working Group  
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service  
MALDEF  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
NAACP  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Domestic Workers Alliance  
National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)  
National Partnership for New Americans  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
People's Action  
Salvadoran American National Network (SANN)  
San Francisco LCLAA  
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership  
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership  
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)  
The Black Alliance for Just Immigration  
The National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)  
United for a Fair Economy  
United We Dream

## **State and Local Organizations**

AB540 Ally Training Project  
Adhikaar  
African Advocacy Network  
Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice  
American Civic Association  
Americans for Immigrant Justice  
Arkansas United  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta  
Association of Mexicans in North Carolina, Inc. (AMEXCAN)  
Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC, Inc.  
CASA  
Catholic Charities Eastern Washington  
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh  
Causa Oregon  
Central American Resource Center  
Centro Latino Cuscatlan  
Centro Romero  
Church of Our Saviour/La Iglesia de Nuestro Salvador  
Church Women United in New York State  
Cleveland Jobs with Justice  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition  
Colorado People's Alliance  
Comunidades Unidas / Communities United  
CRECEN  
Dominican Development Center, Inc.  
Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose  
Dominican Sisters of San Rafael  
El Centro de Igualdad y Derechos  
El Vínculo Hispano/The Hispanic Liaison  
Florida Immigrant Coalition  
Friends of Broward Detainees  
Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition  
Guatemala Solidarity Boston  
Houston's Americas For All  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project  
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement  
Jesuit Social Research Institute/Loyola University New Orleans  
Junta for Progressive Action  
Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)  
Latin American Coalition  
Legal Aid Justice Center  
Maine People's Alliance  
Make the Road NY  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute  
Michigan United  
Migrant and Immigrant Community Action Project  
Mission Graduates  
Mississippi Center for Justice  
Nebraska Appleseed  
New Hampshire Alliance for Immigrant Rights  
North Carolina Justice Center  
Oakland Catholic Worker  
Ohio Immigrant Alliance  
OneAmerica  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition  
Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste  
Progressive Leadership Alliance Of Nevada  
Promise Arizona  
Reedley Social Services  
Rio Grande Valley Equal Voice Network  
Salvadoran American Leadership & Educational Fund  
Services, Immigrant Rights & Education Network (SIREN)  
Somos Un Pueblo Unido  
Sunflower Community Action  
Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition  
Texas Organizing Project  
The New York Immigration Coalition  
Voces de la Frontera  
Wallingford Indivisible  
Wilco Justice Alliance (Williamson County, TX)  
Workers Defense Project