



# Standing with our TPS neighbors: What TPS is and how Catholics can help

*“Collective and arbitrary expulsions of migrants and refugees are not suitable solutions, particularly where people are returned to countries which cannot guarantee respect for human dignity and fundamental rights.”*

POPE FRANCIS

## What is TPS?

Temporary Protected Status allows nationals of another country to temporarily remain in the United States. If during the time they were in the U.S., a natural disaster, epidemic, war or other extraordinary temporary circumstance occurred in their country preventing them from safely returning home. TPS holders are protected from deportation and receive work authorization to support themselves while they remain in the United States. TPS does not provide a path to citizenship.

## Why is TPS in the news?

The Department of Homeland Security must decide to extend or terminate each country's TPS 60 days prior to its expiration date. DHS has announced that TPS for El Salvador, Haiti, and Nicaragua will terminate in 2019 and that TPS for Honduras is extended until only July 5, 2018.

## Who will be affected by these decisions?

These decisions affect our sisters and brothers who are leaders in their communities, hard workers in their professions, and loving members of their families. Many TPS holders, particularly those from Central America, have lived, worked, and been part of our communities for nearly two decades.

## Why should I care about TPS?

TPS embodies core tenets of Catholic social teaching on immigration. People have the right to migrate to sustain their lives and the lives of their families and a country must regulate its borders with justice and mercy. To learn more about Catholic social teaching and immigration, visit [www.cliniclegal.org/CST](http://www.cliniclegal.org/CST).

## Where can I go for more information about TPS?

Visit [www.cliniclegal.org/tps](http://www.cliniclegal.org/tps) and follow CLINIC on social media for the latest updates on TPS: [@cliniclegal](https://twitter.com/cliniclegal).

## Quick facts about Temporary Protected Status

Country	Population in the U.S.	Reason TPS was granted and year	Expiration Date
Haiti	50,000	Earthquake in 2010	Termination effective July 22, 2019
El Salvador	195,000	Earthquake in 2001	Termination effective Sept. 9, 2019
Syria	5,800	Armed conflict in 2012	March 31, 2018
Nepal	8,950	Earthquake in 2015	June 24, 2018
Yemen	1,000	Armed conflict in 2015	Sept. 3, 2018
Somalia	270	Civil war in 1991	Sept. 17, 2018
Sudan	450	Armed conflict in 1997	Termination effective Nov. 2, 2018
South Sudan	75-200	Armed conflict in 2011	May 2, 2019
Honduras	57,000	Hurricane in 1999	July 5, 2018
Nicaragua	2,550	Hurricane in 1999	Termination effective Jan. 5, 2019

## How can I help?

### *Educate*

- Help others hear what TPS holders have to say. Invite a TPS holder to tell their story with your congregation or school, share one of the TPS holder [stories CLINIC has collected](#) on our TPS page, or post our video of [three TPS holders from El Salvador](#) speaking about their experiences to your social media (find it on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/cliniclegal](https://youtube.com/cliniclegal)).
- Use CLINIC resources at [www.cliniclegal.org/tps](http://www.cliniclegal.org/tps) to educate your community on the TPS program, who is protected by it, and how people are affected by the recent decisions on TPS.

### *Support*

- Raise money to help members of your community pay for TPS re-registration fees.
- Connect TPS holders to quality immigration legal services: [www.cliniclegal.org/directory](http://www.cliniclegal.org/directory) and warn people against unscrupulous service providers: [www.cliniclegal.org/notario](http://www.cliniclegal.org/notario).

### *Advocate*

- Hold a prayer vigil for the families that will be affected by the TPS decision. A sample interfaith prayer vigil program can be found in the interfaith toolkit at [www.interfaithimmigration.org/issues/tps](http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/issues/tps).
- Invite local, state, and federal lawmakers to any events in support of TPS holders or accompany TPS holders on their visits to those representatives as they share their stories. Use the hashtag #SaveTPS to show your solidarity on social media. Don't forget to tag your congressional representatives!