

Somalia TPS Toolkit

What is Temporary Protected Status?

Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, is a temporary immigration protection that allows people from a designated country to remain in the United States while conditions in their home country make safe return impossible. The Secretary of Homeland Security can designate a country for TPS if the country is experiencing ongoing armed conflict, natural disaster, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions. TPS allows its beneficiaries to stay and legally work in the United States during the designation period. It is a life-saving protection, especially for those who are ineligible for or who have been denied asylum.

Why Does Somalia Need TPS?

Somalia has been experiencing a civil war since 1991. The United States granted TPS for Somalia at the outbreak of the war, and has renewed the designation many times since. TPS for Somalia is currently set to expire this September, but conditions there remain unsafe. In addition to armed conflict, Somalia experiences frequent terrorist attacks by Al-Shabaab, systemic human rights abuses, child soldier recruitment, rampant sexual violence, devastating climate-related events, and extreme poverty. To learn more about conditions in Somalia, check out this [country conditions chart](#) or read this [letter](#) to the Biden Administration about why Somalia should get TPS.

What Can I Do to Help?

To take action now and demand that Somalia be redesignated for TPS, see the toolkit below to email or tweet at your members of Congress and the Secretary of Homeland Security. Let them know that you want the United States to uphold its long-standing tradition of respecting human rights and providing safe haven to those facing danger in their home countries.

- 1) **Call to Action email template- Use the message below to email your representative.** [Contact your representative.](#)

SUBJECT: Urge Secretary Mayorkas to Redesignate TPS for Somalia NOW

Dear Congressperson/ Senator _____,

I am one of your constituents and I am writing to encourage you to urge Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas to redesignate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Somalia. TPS is a life-saving immigration protection that allows its beneficiaries to stay and work in the United States while conditions in their home countries make it unsafe for them to return. Somalia was first granted TPS in 1991 when its civil war broke out. Unfortunately, the civil war is ongoing and conditions in the country remain unsafe, so the government must act to protect Somalis in the United States from returning to danger.

Somalia's protracted civil war is only one of the many dangers it is facing. The country also experiences frequent terrorist attacks, including suicide bombings, by the terrorist group Al-Shabaab. Human rights




abuses are common and include arbitrary killings, detention, torture, and sexual assault. Al-Shabaab continues to recruit child soldiers, including over 500 children in just six months of 2020. Climate events such as droughts, floods, and locust infestations cause mass displacement and ruin crop yields, leading to hunger. According to the United Nations, almost 6 million people in Somalia will need humanitarian assistance this year. Given Somalia's armed conflict, natural disasters, and other extraordinary events, the country should be redesignated for TPS to keep Somalis in the United States safe.

Secretary Mayorkas has the power to redesignate TPS for Somalia. I am asking you to hold him accountable for bringing life-saving protection to Somalis and to show the rest of the world that America upholds its human rights obligation not to return people to a place where their lives would be in danger.

Sincerely,

2) Somalia TPS Instagram graphics: [Download graphics on Trello board.](#)

3) Sample Tweets:

- a. 119 organizations request an 18-month extension and re-designation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Somalia. <https://refugees.org/uscri-joins-119-organizations-to-request-extending-tps-for-somali-nationals-in-the-u-s/>
- b. I stand in solidarity with Somalis and ask the Biden administration to extend and redesignate Somalia for TPS. <https://refugees.org/uscri-joins-119-organizations-to-request-extending-tps-for-somali-nationals-in-the-u-s/>
- c. Granting TPS for Somalia would demonstrate the United States' commitment to the human rights and lives of Somalis living in our country. <https://refugees.org/uscri-joins-119-organizations-to-request-extending-tps-for-somali-nationals-in-the-u-s/>
- d. 6 million Somalis will need humanitarian assistance this year. While countries such as #Myanmar, #Syria, & #Venezuela have recently been designated or redesignated for #TPS, #Somalia, a majority-Black country, is at risk of being left behind. Learn  <http://ow.ly/obNg50F36zO>
- e. #Somalia is in an armed conflict with the terrorist group Al-Shabaab, has a corrupt government, and is facing natural disasters that have led to extreme poverty and food insecurity. Learn more about current conditions in #Somalia  <http://ow.ly/obNg50F36zO>
- f. 535 Somali children were recruited by Al-Shabaab as soldiers in 2020. #Somalia deserves to be renewed & redesignated for #TPS, giving life-saving protection to Somalis who are otherwise at risk of being deported back to extreme danger. Learn more  <http://ow.ly/obNg50F36zO>