

## Temporary Protected Status for Syria:

The humanitarian impact of the seven year civil war, Syrian refugee crisis, and ongoing armed conflict is far reaching. Over 500,000 people have been killed.

Syria qualifies for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) because “[t]here is an ongoing armed conflict within the state and, due to such conflict, requiring the return of aliens who are nationals of that state to that state (or to part of the state) would pose a serious threat to their personal safety.” Syria is unable to adequately handle the return of Syrian nationals; and there exist extraordinary conditions in Syria that prevent Syrian nationals from returning to Syria safely.

The use of chemical weapons, irregular warfare tactics, airstrikes, bombs and cluster munition campaigns, forced conscription and child soldiers, which was relied upon as part of the rationale for TPS re-designation in 2016, is ongoing today in Syria. The starvation of civilians and targeting of medical facilities is still used as a weapon of war. Between 2016 and 2017, there was a 25% increase in attacks against health facilities. Genocide, rape, human trafficking, persecution, and torture are rampant. All Syrian communities including but not limited to Alawites, Christians, Druze, Shia and Sunni Muslims, and Yazidis have been targeted.

The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance as a result of the armed conflict in Syria is calculated at 13.1 million. As of January 2018, 5.4 million Syrians are registered as refugees, fleeing violence and risking their lives to find safety for themselves and their families. Over 6 million Syrians remain internally displaced separated from their families, with inadequate or no access to water, food, shelter, and basic necessities. In 2017 2 million Syrians were internally displaced.

## TPS Expiration date for Syria:

The current designation of TPS for Syria is set to expire March 31, 2018.

Four prior designations of TPS for Syria were granted in 2012, 2013, 2015, and 2016 because the targeting of civilians, ongoing armed conflict, and dire humanitarian conditions posed a serious threat to the personal safety of Syrian nationals if they were forced to return.

## Syrians in Need of Protection:

As of fiscal year 2017, approximately 6,900 Syria nationals in the United States benefited from TPS status. TPS would help ensure that they will be able to continue to support their families and have a chance at a stable, normal life in safety.

8 million people live under constant siege areas subject to explosive hazards and massive contamination, military raids, bombing, and violent hostilities. Over 3 million of people live in hard to reach areas or under informal sieges where aid and assistance is dire for lifesaving resources, food and water. Even where convoys carrying resources are allowed to enter or reach besieged/hard to reach areas, life-saving medical equipment and items have been removed out of convoys. Mass displacement persists with an average of 6,550 Syrians displaced by violence daily.





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I will be under siege if I go back to Syria. My mom passed away and I was unable to say goodbye. TPS provided me with a life line to be able to support my family. My wife has breast cancer. What are we going to do if TPS is terminated?

- Adil, TPS recipient in Virginia

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### **What Can I Do to Help?**

Contact your elected officials to call for the extension of TPS for Syria. Let the Trump Administration know that these gross violations of human rights are not acceptable! Click [HERE](#) to take action! You can also [SHARE](#) your story!

**In Syria, “there is an ongoing armed conflict within the state and, due to such conflict, requiring the return of aliens who are nationals of that state to that state (or to part of the state) would pose a serious threat to their personal safety.”**

- Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed as a result of the ongoing armed conflict and violence, with estimates as high as 500,000.
- In 2017, over 10,000 civilians were killed in the ongoing armed conflict and war.
- In April 2017, a car bomb in al-Rashidin (Aleppo) killed nearly 100 Shi’a Muslims including 68 children, who were internally displaced from besieged Fu’ah and Kafraya.
- On May 23, 2016, 145 civilians were killed in car and suicide bomb attacks in Latakia targeted at the Alawite community.
- Over 3,000 Yazidis were kidnapped by ISIS. Majority of Yazidi men were killed, and Yazidi women were sold into sex slavery.
- Throughout 2016 and 2017, armed groups targeted Sunni Muslim mosques in Idlib, Daraa, Aleppo, and Damascus. Sunni Muslim communities have been subject to mass enforced displacement.
- Armed conflict in Aleppo between non-state armed actors and government associated armed groups triggered the displacement of more than 10,000 residents. Since September

2017, more than 90,000 persons have been internally displaced from AsSa’an, Hamra and Oqierbat in Hama governorate and Tamanah, southern Idlib.

- Chemicals weapons have been used in violation of international law and caused death and injury to hundreds of civilians 2016 and 2017. Over 15 incidents of use of chemical weapons have been documented by the U.N.

**Syria is unable to handle the return of Syrian nationals; and there exist extraordinary conditions in Syria that prevent Syrian nationals from returning safely.**

- Polio outbreak: 75 confirmed cases with many suffering paralysis
- Destruction of the health care infrastructure and restrictions on movement and ongoing armed conflict as barriers to health care access has left 200,000 children without basic immunization and polio immunizations.
- A survey conducted in November 2017 found that approximately 12 percent of children under age 5 living in Eastern Ghouta suffer from acute malnutrition.
- Over 5 million people live in 18 besieged areas and 3 classified as hard-to-reach.
- Food and medical care access has been denied to civilians in besieged areas, namely 350,000 civilians in Eastern Ghouta.
- 6.5 million People face acute food insecurity and suffer from limited access to water.
- Over 6 million Syrians remain internally displaced. Nearly 2 million Syrians were internally displaced in 2017 alone.
- In 2017, 6,550 Syrians were displaced by violence every day.