


Hear Our Voice



TPS YEMEN

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An in-depth look at Temporary Protected Status for Yemen

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is set to expire for Yemen on September 3, 2018. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is expected to make a decision on Yemen's TPS designation on or about July 7, 2018.

Current country conditions in Yemen warrant re-designation and extension of TPS for Yemen.

The Secretary of DHS may designate a country for TPS due to ongoing armed conflict, environmental disaster, and other exceptional circumstances. The constant state of war, refugee and humanitarian crisis in Yemen demonstrates that the country conditions that warranted TPS designation for Yemen in 2015 still exist today.

A COLLECTIVE CALL TO CARE




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Since 2014, 4 years, the country of Yemen has been in a constant state of war. The civil war is also an international armed conflict with foreign countries involved.

The conflict has left 20.7 million people, three quarters of the population, in need of protection or humanitarian assistance.

DHS reports that 1,200 Yemenis in the United States are potentially eligible for TPS. We cannot allow our Yemeni friends and neighbors to be sent back to war.

A CALL TO ACTION

-  **Share Your Story!**
Share your story on social media and online at www.tpsrelief.com.
-  **Speak up!**
Demand Congress Act! Urge Congress to support TPS Holders and #SaveTPS.
-  **Raise Awareness!**
Host a community dinner, town hall, or organize a petition to raise awareness.



Yemeni nationals will be forced out of the United States if Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is not re-designated on July 5, 2018. Approximately 1,200 Yemeni TPS beneficiaries will be directly impacted by this decision made by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in consultation with the U.S. Department of State to re-designate TPS for Yemen. It is unfathomable to send Yemenis' back to violence, war, and death.

The voices of Yemeni TPS Beneficiaries must continue to be uplifted and supported. The support and re-enforcement of their stories is crucial because of the fear that is felt by Yemenis in the United States and around the world. We recognize that the fear of retaliation of speaking out is real. Whether at the hands of a government entity, private individuals in the street, school officials, or an employer, we know that Yemeni nationals in the United States live in a state of limbo and fear for their safety and livelihood.

Freedom, safety, and protection of their human rights is what Yemeni nationals sought when they left Yemen, only to be denied the full and complete respect of their human rights in the United States. The Arab and Muslim Ban's impact on the Yemeni community has been devastating from the effective prohibition of refugees from Yemen needing safe haven to the winners of the diversity lottery visa, who have had their opportunity at a U.S. visa stolen.

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) communicated with over

twenty-five (25) Yemeni nationals with TPS. All remain scared to be identified publicly, with only three (3) Yemeni TPS beneficiaries allowing us to share their story. Through the Yemeni TPS beneficiaries' personal accounts documented by ADC lawyers, ADC intends to provide a platform to open hearts and minds to the challenges faced by the community.

The brave group of persons whom have entrusted their story with ADC share: who they are, where they are from, what caused them to flee Yemen, how they have contributed to the United States community, and why they need Temporary Protected Status.

Wida S.

In February 2015, my grandmother came to visit my family in New York. We had waited for so long to get her approved for a visitor visa and were anticipating her stay with us. What was intended as a visit changed in a matter of months and changed our lives forever. Protests to what felt like an overnight escalation of violence into outright civil war occurred in March 2015. Leading into September 2015, there were political issues and conflict, but we did not expect war throughout the country at the rising intensity level that occurred..

Yemen was my grandmother's home, but now she cannot go back. We were so scared from March until September 2015, because we had applied for my grandmother's visa extension but did not receive an answer. July came and went, without a decision from immigration. My family and I were afraid that our grandmother would be forced to go back to Yemen and be killed in the war. Thankfully on September 3, 2015, Yemen

received a TPS designation. My grandmother applied for and was granted TPS. My grandmother is part of my daily life, we all live together and I cannot imagine her going back to Yemen. She has nowhere to go and nowhere to live, what will she possibly do in Yemen? What will we do without her here with us?

Mahreeb H.¹

Before coming to the United States, my son and I only lived in Aden, Yemen. My son is Yemeni and lived in Yemen all his life, but my son is also Algerian based on his father's blood line. After the outbreak of the war in Yemen, I applied for TPS in the United States. However, every day for nearly one year while my TPS application was pending, I lived in fear under constant threat that my child would be put into removal proceedings.

The attorney that filed my TPS application informed me that my child was not eligible for TPS, as the U.S. government will deem he had a third party country, Algeria, to live in safely due to his father's citizenship. I did not understand how and why my son would be disqualified from TPS because of his father's nationality when I had full custody of him and raised him as his primary care giver since birth. I do not have any legal status in Algeria to live or work, so how could anyone expect my child to live safely in Algeria without me.

The impending forced separation of my child either by placement in child detention center in the United States or placement in orphan system in Algeria constantly

¹Pseudonym used to protect identity

weighed on my mind and heart. After my TPS was approved, I applied for TPS for my son. I was so thankful that my son was approved. But I heard stories where parents were approved for TPS but not their children and vice versa. It is heart breaking that a legal protection that is supposed to keep families safe, can be used to break families apart, this actually threatens the safety of our children. We need TPS.

Ammar M.

My wife and I arrived in the United States in the summer of 2013. We were both studying and completing our graduate research study programs in Vermont. Around March 2015, we learned that we were having a baby. About this same time, Yemen erupted into chaos and war. While my wife and I were both physically far removed from the violence, we remained inherently interconnected to everything that was happening to our home and our community.

We have now lived in the United States for over 5 years. To think that I would now have to tear my child from the only home she has ever known if TPS is not redesignated is extremely troubling. That feeling that I experienced back in March 2015, that feeling of not having a home, I would never wish that feeling on anyone, especially my child. It is devastating. We have rebuilt our lives here in the United States. My wife and I provide a great life for our daughter in the United States, but most importantly she is safe. She does not grow up hearing bombs over her head at night while she tries to sleep, nor does she breathe in the debris and smoke from weapons being fired around where she should be able to

play. She does not have worry about where her next meal will come from or if an ear infection will mean deafness for her this time because she cannot get access to necessary medical assistance. War is no place for a child, our children must be protected.

#SaveTPS for Yemen:



**Share your story on
social media and online at
www.tpsrelief.com**



**Speak Up and
Demand Congress Act,
<http://www.adc.org/2018/06/take-action-congress-must-urge-dhs-to-extend-tps-for-yemeni-nationals-in-america/>**



**Host a
community dinner, town hall, or
organize a petition to raise
awareness. Call us and we can
help you with your ideas at 202-
244-2990!**