



**104 ORGANIZATIONS CALL ON ADMINISTRATION TO DESIGNATE  
AFGHANISTAN FOR DEFERRED ENFORCED DEPARTURE OR TEMPORARY  
PROTECTED STATUS**

*Strategic and ongoing use of DED or TPS critical to ensure U.S. lives up to its promises*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 8, 2021

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**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Today, 104 local, state, and national organizations led by the Temporary Status and Deferred Enforced Departure Administrative Advocacy Coalition (TPS-DED AAC) [wrote to](#) President Biden, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, and Secretary of State Antony Blinken to urge an 18-month designation of Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) or Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Afghanistan. TPS provides life-saving protection to noncitizens in the United States, including undocumented immigrants, who cannot be safely returned to their home country. DED provides similar protection to individuals, and is based on the President’s foreign relations powers.

President Biden [made a promise](#): “There is a home for you in the United States if you so choose, and we will stand with you just as you stood with us.” While the administration approved 2,500 Special Immigrant Visas, more protection is needed for the 117,000 Afghans who were evacuated and all Afghans currently living in the United States.

**Joseph Azam, Board Member of the Afghan American Foundation (AAF) stated:** “Extraordinary circumstances demand decisiveness and bold action. What we’ve seen in the initial weeks of Taliban control in Afghanistan has confirmed what many suspected would be the case: no Afghan is safe and certainly anyone with any nexus to the United States is at grave risk. There have been many junctures at which the U.S. has fallen short of meeting its commitments and holding true to its word. President Biden has the ability and the obligation to ensure that does not happen again with respect to those Afghans who were fortunate enough to reach safety in the U.S. and must now be protected at any cost. DED and TPS are tools the Biden administration can and must deploy without further delay.”

**Homaira Hosseini, Board Member of Afghan-American Community Organization (AACO) stated:** “TPS or DED status for Afghan nationals can be the difference between someone providing for their families here in the United States or being forcefully deported to a country where their lives are in danger. The United States has a moral obligation to the Afghan people, and that starts with providing TPS or DED protection which will save lives. Afghan nationals deserve an opportunity to rebuild their lives in safety without fear of uncertain immigration status.”

**Krish O’Mara Vignarajah, President & CEO of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service stated:** “In staging an emergency evacuation, the U.S. has recognized the dire conditions on the ground in Afghanistan, especially for American-affiliated allies, journalists, women’s rights activists and other at-risk Afghans. We see the impact of these conditions in the recently arrived Afghans we resettle, still reeling from the trauma of their flight from danger, and in the desperate messages we receive in our inboxes and on social media every day. It is vital that we designate TPS and DED for Afghanistan to ensure that none of these

vulnerable groups are returned and subjected to the violence, repression, persecution, and economic devastation that would surely await them. We cannot in good conscience return our Afghan neighbors in the United States to these terrifying conditions.”

**Lisa Parisio, Director of Advocacy at the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., stated:** “As blanket protections, TPS and DED uniquely fill in the gaps. They safeguard people in need of life-saving protection who might otherwise slip through cracks in the system. So long as any Afghans in the U.S. must apply for status and protection without guarantee, it is critical that either TPS or DED be in place to ensure people are able to support themselves and their families and are not at risk of being returned to life-threatening conditions in Afghanistan.”

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*The TPS-DED AAC is a national coalition of more than 100 organizations with deep expertise in law and policy surrounding TPS and DED. Member organizations range from community-based organizations directly serving impacted communities in the United States to international NGOs, working in and providing insight from affected countries.*