

Temporary Protected Status for Afghanistan

August 2025

What is Temporary Protected Status?

[Temporary Protected Status](#) (TPS) is a temporary immigration status that provides protection from deportation, as well as eligibility for work authorization, for certain eligible individuals from designated countries experiencing crises. Individuals must register for TPS and may apply for work authorization based on a grant of TPS.

What can TPS provide?

TPS provides protection from removal or deportation on a temporary basis for foreign nationals already in the United States. It can also provide access to work authorization so recipients can lawfully work in the United States.

If TPS is granted, the beneficiary may also seek a TPS travel authorization document which may be used for travel abroad.

Who can qualify for TPS?

The federal government, specifically the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), can 'designate' certain countries for TPS due to conditions in their territories, such as conflict or disasters, that prevent safe returns of their nationals or stateless individuals who last resided there. The federal government also determines who is eligible by setting cut-off dates for people to qualify—dates that people must have been physically present or maintained a continued residence in the United States to qualify for TPS.

With some [notable exceptions](#), TPS applicants must also demonstrate that they are admissible to the United States.

Why is Temporary Protected Status important?

TPS keeps people from falling out of status and facing removal to clearly unsafe conditions in their home countries. TPS also helps people remain self-sufficient by providing access to work authorization.

In recent years, TPS has also been a critical status for those who have entered the country on temporary humanitarian parole, such as certain Afghans, Ukrainians, Venezuelans, and Haitians. Individuals with humanitarian parole can be granted TPS on top of an active grant of parole.

What is the history of TPS for Afghanistan?

In the spring of 2022, DHS [designated](#) Afghanistan for Temporary Protected Status for the first time due to humanitarian and economic conditions after the August 2021 U.S. and coalition military withdrawal and the Taliban takeover. DHS [extended and redesignated](#) Afghanistan's TPS designation in September 2023.

Countries can be designated for TPS in increments of 6, 12, or 18 months. In the case of Afghanistan, [the last TPS designation made by the government was](#) an 18-month designation that began November 21, 2023.

Afghan TPS applicants had to meet the requirements of the designation in the [Federal Register Notice](#) as Afghan nationals or stateless individuals from Afghanistan who have resided in the United States continuously since September 20, 2023, and remained physically present in the United States since November 21, 2023.

Who was protected through the Afghanistan TPS designation?

Approximately 11,700 Afghans received TPS.

Many of these individuals were evacuated from Afghanistan in August 2021 and were granted parole on a case-by-case basis during Operation Allies Welcome. Some Afghans have also sought and been granted TPS while they apply for a more permanent status, such as asylum or a green card based on a Special Immigrant Visa if they worked directly for the U.S. government or military during the war.

What happens when a designation is close to ending?

By law, DHS is supposed to review the country conditions of a designated country and the Secretary of DHS—in consultation with the Department of State and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)—is tasked with making a decision about an ending designation.

The decision to extend or terminate a TPS designation must be made at least 60 days before a TPS designation expires and be published in the Federal Register. If a decision is not published at least 60 days before the TPS designation expires, the designation is automatically extended for six months.

With the Afghanistan designation formally ending on May 20, 2025, a decision was expected by March 21, 2025. However, no information was released about Afghanistan's designation by Sec. Noem or DHS by that time—in the Federal Register or elsewhere. Agency statements in news reports beginning April 11 indicated that DHS would terminate the designation. However, those reports did not amount to an official notice of termination.

What did the government decide to do on TPS for Afghanistan?

On May 12, DHS [announced](#) it would terminate the TPS designation for Afghanistan, arguing that country conditions had improved and that a continued designation was no longer in the national interest. A [notice was published in the Federal Register](#) on May 13, declaring that the designation would terminate on July 14.

Is there litigation over this decision?

Yes. In May, CASA [sued](#) Sec. Noem over the reported TPS terminations of Afghanistan and Cameroon. The lawsuit was amended to reflect the termination of Afghanistan's TPS designation in the Federal Register.

The future of this lawsuit— and its potential relief for Afghan TPS beneficiaries—is unclear.

What is the latest on TPS for Afghanistan?

TPS for Afghanistan is currently terminated.

On July 14, a seven-day extension of TPS for Afghanistan was granted by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. However, the court declined to take further action on July 21. Thus, at 11:59 p.m. on July 21, the termination of TPS for Afghanistan went into effect.

Have country conditions in Afghanistan improved? Is it safe for returns?

No. Afghanistan remains one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world. The Taliban continue to rule the country through violence and repression, particularly for those who were associated with the United States or coalition mission in Afghanistan that began in 2001.

The Federal Register Notice included selective information on GDP growth and tourism rates for Afghanistan, while omitting any information on Taliban reprisals against Afghans associated with the United States, gender apartheid policies repressing Afghan women and girls, or religious persecution against Christians and Hazara Muslims.

What are the effects of this termination?

Afghan nationals may accrue unlawful presence in the United States if their TPS has lapsed and they have no other status. Afghan nationals have lost access to TPS-based work authorization and have lost their jobs with the passing of their employment authorization document's validity date.

What should Afghan nationals with TPS do?

Afghan nationals with TPS should consult with a qualified immigration legal service provider about their options and potential protections that are best suited for their circumstances. Afghan nationals with TPS or another temporary status like parole should avoid international travel at this time. They should retain all records that demonstrate their status or notes of receipt for applications with USCIS.

What can I do to advocate on TPS and protections for Afghan nationals?

If you're concerned about the termination of TPS for Afghanistan, you can reach out to your member of Congress to express support for temporary and permanent protections for Afghans in the United States. You can use this [action alert](#) to email the White House directly about the termination of TPS for Afghanistan.

You can also urge members of Congress to authorize additional Special Immigrant Visas for Afghans or to pass a [reintroduced Afghan Adjustment Act](#) to provide a pathway to permanency for Afghan parolees evacuated in 2021. [This action alert](#) allows you to email your lawmakers about an additional Afghan SIV visa authorization for Fiscal Year 2026.