



Our Fight for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Mali

Last updated: February 16, 2024

Background

Community members and advocates are urging the Biden administration to provide *Temporary Protected Status (TPS)* protection to Malians who are currently living in the US. This would allow temporary protection for **over 2,300 Malians who are living in the US** without permanent status.

What is Temporary Protected Status (TPS)?

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is a form of humanitarian protection that the US government will give to people from a certain country when conditions in that country make it unsafe for people to be deported back there. Conditions that the government considers unsafe are 1) ongoing armed conflict, 2) environmental disaster (like an earthquake), or 3) an extraordinary but temporary condition (like an ebola outbreak). Countries that currently have TPS protection include Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Cameroon.

Why should Mali get TPS?

There has been ongoing armed conflict happening in Mali for over a decade now as the government fights against violent extremists in the country. Recently, the fighting has gotten worse & the conditions in the country have gotten bad.

- Since December 2021, there has been a 278% increase in civilian deaths due to the violence.
- Over 400,000 people are internally displaced.
- Close to one million children under the age of five are facing acute malnutrition, with at least 200,000 children at risk of starvation.

The US government should not deport Malians back to those conditions.

What are the Benefits of TPS?

TPS provides protection from deportation, work authorization, and travel authorization. It also provides indirect benefits like access to a driver's license and, depending on your state, access to other social benefits like health care.

How long does TPS last?

TPS is not permanent. It usually lasts for 18 months and then the government has to reassess the conditions in the country to determine if it will extend TPS for another 18 months.

Will TPS lead to a green card?

TPS does not lead to a green card. It is temporary protection that the government can extend if the conditions in a country continue to be bad.

Who would be eligible for TPS?

Anyone from a country designated for TPS is eligible for TPS as long as they are *currently living in the US*. People living outside of the US would not qualify for TPS. There are some other exceptions, for example, someone who has been convicted of any felony or two or more misdemeanors might not qualify.

Would TPS affect other pending cases with USCIS?

If Mali is designated for TPS, Malians can apply for TPS with no impact on any other pending immigration application. For example, someone who has a pending asylum case can still apply for TPS.

What advocacy has happened already?

- 109 organizations [sent a letter](#) to President Biden asking him to designate Mali for TPS.
- 35 members of congress [sent a letter](#) to President Biden asking him to protect Malians.
- We regularly meet with the Department of Homeland Security and the State Department to provide them with updates on the conditions in Mali and to advocate for TPS for Mali.
- We regularly meet with Congressmembers to discuss the situation in Mali and the need for TPS protection.

How can I get involved?

- Visit our website to learn more: <https://africans.us/tpsmali>
- Call Akinde Kodjo-Sanogo (ACT Lead Organizer) to learn more: (646) 300-3717
- Spread the word about TPS for Mali by sharing this fact sheet with your friends and family.

