

# HAITIAN TPS UPDATE

On November 20, 2017, Homeland Security (DHS) Acting Secretary Duke announced the termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians with an 18-month grace period (until July 22, 2019) and the requirement that Haitians reapply for work permission in order to continue working. The end of this important program means that 59,000 people from Haiti who have lived in the United States legally for years, will lose their permission to live and work here and could face deportation.

DHS granted Haitians in the U.S. TPS status after a 2010 massive earthquake that killed more than 316,000 people and left more than 1.5 million homeless, making the country unsafe for Haitians to return. Shortly after, Haiti suffered the worst cholera epidemic in recent history, killing thousands more. And most recently, the country suffered yet another disaster after an October 2016 hurricane killed a thousand more people.

This announcement comes at a time when Haitians should be enjoying Thanksgiving with families and friends, but instead are in fear of losing their jobs, homes and being separated from their family. The termination of TPS for Haiti is a continuation of the Trump administration's anti-immigrant assault on hardworking people who contribute to and are part of our communities. But we will not back down. The fight to protect people with TPS and all immigrant families continues.

This is a list of important things Haitians with TPS should know and do now:

- 01 Don't panic. You continue to have authorization to live and work in the U.S.**  
 The DHS statement provides that TPS for Haitians will end on July 22, 2019. That means that if you extend your work authorization, you will have permission to live and work in the U.S. until July 22, 2019. But after July 22, 2019, Haitian TPS holders will no longer be protected from arrest and deportation.
- 02 Be prepared to apply for work authorization before January 22, 2018**  
 You will be required to apply for work authorization in order to continue working with permission. Work authorization for Haitians with TPS currently ends on January 22, 2018. The Federal Register notice that explains the rules for applying for work authorization, has not yet been issued but we expect Haitian TPS holders will have a 60-day window to apply for an extension of work authorization. VISIT [IAMERICA.ORG/TPS](http://IAMERICA.ORG/TPS) FOR THE LATEST UPDATE.
- 03 The announcement should not cause your employer to re-verify your work authorization now**  
 Your employer does not need to re-verify your employment authorization until after January 22, 2018. You continue to have work authorization until that date and your employer should not ask for additional documents in order for you to continue working.
- 04 Find out if you qualify for another type of immigration status. Do this now!**  
 Many TPS holders have been in the U.S. for years and may be eligible for other types of immigration status and benefits. To see a partial list of possible immigration options use the checklist at [iAmerica.org/TPS](http://iAmerica.org/TPS) and then consult with a reputable immigration attorney or legal services organization. You can also use the online immi tool to find a path that's right for you at [iAmerica.org/immi](http://iAmerica.org/immi)
- 05 Carry proof of TPS status**  
 It's important to keep proof that you have TPS status with you. A copy of your employment authorization card, or a notice of approval will prove that you have TPS status.
- 06 You have rights under the U.S. Constitution**  
 All people in the U.S. have certain rights under the U.S. Constitution. Visit the Know Your Rights section on [iAmerica.org](http://iAmerica.org).
- 07 Beware of notarios! Get reputable legal help.**  
 Find reputable immigration attorneys and legal services organizations at [iAmerica.org/legalhelp](http://iAmerica.org/legalhelp). Avoid scammers and notarios who claim to be able to help you.
- 08 Take action and make your voice heard!**  
 Get your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers involved in the fight to protect immigrants. Ask friends and family to join you in calling your members of Congress to demand they protect people with TPS and support efforts to allow TPS holders to stay in the U.S. legally: 1-888-204-8353

The fight to protect people with TPS continues.

