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Get the facts on TPS and what it means for people who cannot return to their home countries due to safety concerns.

What is Temporary Protected Status (TPS)?

The U.S. Congress established TPS in [1990](#) as a protective immigration status for people from countries affected by ongoing armed conflict, an environmental disaster, an epidemic, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions that make a safe return to their home countries impossible. For more than 30 years, TPS has enjoyed bipartisan support,

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DHS can also decide to redesignate the status, allowing individuals who arrived in the U.S. after the prior designation date—but were already living in the U.S. before the redesignation—to apply for protection.

How have TPS protections changed under the Trump administration?



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> **How is TPS different from refugee resettlement?**

TPS is a program for people already living in the United States. It is also temporary, meaning holders are not given a pathway to permanent status or citizenship.

Refugee resettlement helps those outside the U.S. who had to flee their countries due to persecution by allowing them to rebuild their lives in the U.S., with a pathway to **lawful permanent resident status** and eventually citizenship. Yet, fewer than one percent of refugees across the globe have a chance to resettle.

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Entering 2026, ten countries have TPS designations: Myanmar (Burma) (ending in late January 2026), El Salvador, Haiti (ending in early February 2026), Ethiopia (ending in mid February 2026), Lebanon, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Ukraine, and Yemen, while Syria's TPS termination **remains paused** [↗](#) as the case moves through the court system.



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immigration programs, the IRC helps eligible individuals apply for and renew their TPS status, identifies whether TPS holders are eligible for other forms of humanitarian protection or immigration status, and assists with legal services where applicable.

The IRC also responds to the world's most urgent humanitarian crises including in countries with TPS designations like [Sudan](#) and [Ukraine](#). Founded at the call of [Albert Einstein](#) over 90 years ago, the IRC remains dedicated to helping people affected by crises to survive, recover and rebuild their lives.

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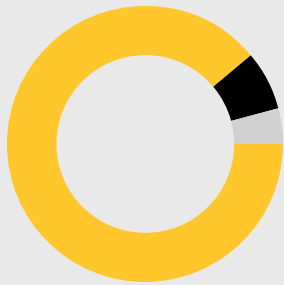
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