



November 17, 2017

## Letter to President Trump Urging an 18-Month Extension of Haiti's TPS Designation from Organizations and Persons Serving the Haitian American Community

Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States  
 The White House  
 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
 Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

On May 18, 130 organizations and 200 individuals serving the Haitian American community wrote urging you to extend Haiti's Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for 18 months due to recent extraordinary blows, including the 2010 earthquake, from which recovery is incomplete; the still-unchecked cholera epidemic, which has killed 10,000 Haitians and sickened over 800,000; and October 2016's Category 4 Hurricane Matthew, the worst to hit Haiti in 52 years, which cost Haiti \$2.8 billion, 22% of its GDP, leaving 1.5 million food insecure. Little has changed since we wrote in May, and we respectfully incorporate that letter herein.

These three blows — each “extraordinary” per the TPS statute — make an 18-month extension beyond January 22 essential, as urged by Haiti's government, which won't be able to safely assimilate 50,000 more deportees or replace their remittances to an estimated 300,000 relatives before mid-2019, in addition to dealing with hurricane and quake recovery and cholera, which before its 2010 introduction by UN peacekeepers hadn't existed in Haiti for at least a century.

Recently the U.S. Conference of Mayors, 41 mayors of major U.S. cities, the Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade county commissions and the Philadelphia City Council; U.S.

Senators Rubio and Nelson joined by eight U.S. Representatives from Florida of both parties, the entire Massachusetts congressional delegation and all 49 members of the Congressional Black Caucus, the four U.S. senators from New York and New Jersey, U.S. Representatives Mia Love and Dan Donovan, three major reports from Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), NYU School of Law's Global Justice Clinic, and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration; and others have all urged an 18-month extension, among 100 US senators and representatives of both parties, 416 faith leaders, 550 US doctors, Governors Rick Scott and Charlie Baker, and the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Miami Herald*, *Boston Globe*, *Orlando Sentinel*, *Palm Beach Post*, *Sun Sentinel*, and *New York Daily News* editorial boards in urging such a course.

Mr. President, you referenced Haiti's "turmoil and pain and suffering that so many people are going through" in September, 2016 remarks in Miami, when you said, "The 2010 Haitian earthquake unleashed a horrible and catastrophic devastation: over 300,000 dead, unbelievable, 300,000, millions displaced or injured, homes, businesses, schools reduced to rubble; amid the suffering Haiti showed the world so much heart and so much incredible resilience, but the truth is Haiti is still suffering very badly, maybe as badly, after all of the tears and all of the money and all of the work."

You continued, in words that we appreciated, "whether you vote for me or you don't vote for me, I really want to be your greatest champion, and I will be your champion whether you vote for me or not.... we are going to do things for you folks that you have really deserved for a long time. You're an amazing community, and it's an honor to be with you."

We respectfully ask that you protect the most vulnerable among us — including U.S.-born children who shouldn't have to choose between their future as Americans and their parents — by reviewing these extraordinary current conditions in Haiti and acting accordingly. The TPS statute contemplates the kind of blows Haiti suffered in October 2016 and since 2010: nearly 40,000 earthquake victims remain in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, with 200,000 more in a camp simply renamed a "settlement" (Canaan); the UN has raised only \$10 million of \$400 million it recently targeted to address the cholera epidemic, which continues to claim lives; and recovery from last Fall's Hurricane Matthew is far from complete, with food insecurity from its destruction of crops, livestock and infrastructure still a reality. As FEMA can attest, recovery from such disasters often takes years.

We have suggested to members of your Administration that they meet with nationally and internationally respected experts on these conditions, so that their recommendations and decisions may be fully informed, and we would be honored to meet with you, Mr. President, to discuss this issue of tremendous importance to our community, which DHS must decide by November 23.

Sincerely,

Organizations:

NAACP, Hilary O. Shelton, Director, Washington Bureau and Senior Vice President for Policy and Advocacy, Washington, DC

Oxfam America, Marc J. Cohen, Senior Researcher, Aid Effectiveness, Washington, DC

Central American Resource Center, Abel Nunez, Executive Director, Washington, DC

National Immigrant Justice Center, Heidi Altman, Director of Policy, Chicago, IL

National Immigration Law Center, Avideh Moussavian, Senior Policy Attorney, Washington, DC

Presbyterian Church (USA), Rev Jimmie Hawkins, Office of Public Witness Director, Louisville, KY

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Javier Cuebas, Director for Advocacy, Washington, DC

Center on Race, Inequality, and the Law, NYU School of Law, Vincent M. Southerland, Executive Director, New York, NY

Lott Carey, Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley, Secretary-Treasurer, Landover, MD

Church World Service, Meredith Owen, Policy Advocate, Washington, DC

Haitian Apostolate Inc, Bishop Guy Sansaricq, Executive Director, Brooklyn, NY

Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America, Claudia Lucero, Executive Director, Chicago, IL

Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project, Susan Roche, Executive Director, Portland, ME

Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston, Nahma Nadich, Deputy Director, Boston, MA

National Justice for Our Neighbors, Rob Rutland-Brown, Executive Director, Springfield, VA

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Lawrence Couch, Executive Director, Silver Spring, MD

Peace with Justice Ministries, Great Plains Conference, The United Methodist Church, Andrea Paret, Peace with Justice Coordinator, South Sioux City, NE

The Office of Social Justice, Christian Reformed Church in North America, Rev. Reginald Smith, Director, Grand Rapids, MI

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces, Brigid Lawlor, Provincial Advocacy Liaison, Silver Spring, MD

Farmworker Justice, Bruce Goldstein, President, Washington, DC

Franciscan Action Network, Marie Lucey, Associate Director, Washington, DC

New American Economy, Jeremy Robbins, Executive Director, New York, NY

Pangea Legal Services, Bianca Z. Santos, Director of International Human Rights Program, San Francisco, CA

World Renew, Christian Reformed Church in North America, Carol Bremer-Bennett, US Director, Grand Rapids, MI

MADRE, Yifat Susskind, Executive Director, New York, NY

Grassroots International, Mina Remy, Solidarity Program Officer, West Africa & Haiti, Jamaica Plain, MA

Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, University of California Hastings College of the Law, Blaine Bookey, Co-Legal Director, San Francisco, CA

OneAmerica, Rich Stolz, Executive Director, Seattle, WA

Detention Watch Network, Mary Small, Policy Director, Washington, DC

Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries, Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director, Indianapolis, IN

CARECEN-Los Angeles, Arturo Viscarra, Director of Organizing, Policy, & Advocacy, Los Angeles, CA

San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium, Laura Moreno, Chair, San Diego, CA

Arkansas United Community Coalition, Mireya Reith, Founding Executive Director, Springfield, AR

Migrant Center for Human Rights, Sarah Ramey, Immigration Attorney & Executive Director, San Antonio, TX

The Bar Association of San Francisco, Avantika Shastri, Senior Supervising Attorney, San Francisco, CA

Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN), Priya Murthy, Policy and Advocacy Director, San Jose, CA

Voz Hispana Cambio Comunitario, Alejandra Lily, Executive Director, Salem, OR

Haitian Lawyers Association, Lody Jean, Esq., President, Miami, FL

Haitian American Lawyers Association of Illinois, Darryl Auguste, President, Chicago, IL

Haitian American Lawyers Association of New York (HALANY), Emmanuel Depas, Board Member, Brooklyn, NY

Global Justice Clinic, NYU School of Law, Ellie Happel, Haiti Project Director, New York, NY  
(This endorsement does not purport to represent the institutional views, if any, of NYU.)

Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH), Brian Concannon, Executive Director, Boston, MA

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Hannah Hafter, Senior Program Leader for Activism, Cambridge, MA

National Lawyers Guild - Los Angeles Chapter, Gilbert Saucedo, Co-President, Los Angeles, CA

United We Dream, Sanaa Abrar, Policy & Advocacy Manager, Washington, DC

Hope for Haiti: Education-HHE, Tom Luce, Coordinator, Emeryville, CA

Americans for Immigrant Justice, Adonia R. Simpson, Program Director, Miami, FL

Fanm Ayisyen nan Miyami, Inc. (Haitian Women of Miami), Marleine Bastien, Executive Director, Miami, FL

Sant La, Haitian Neighborhood Center, Inc., Gepsie M. Metellus, Executive Director, North Miami, FL

Pax Christi USA, Sister Patricia Chappell, Executive Director, Washington, DC

Pax Christi Florida, Phyllis Turner Jepson, PCF Media Coordinator, Augustine, FL

Pax Christi Metro New York, Rosemarie Pace, Director, New York, NY

Pax Christi Illinois, Nancy Oetter, Regional Coordinator, Woodridge, IL

Pax Christi South Dakota, Josh Grode Wolters, Chair, Sioux Falls, SD

Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, Fr. Terrence J. Moran, Director, Convent Station, NJ

EqualHealth, Michelle Morse, MD, MPH, Founding Co-Director, Boston, MA

Mobilization for Justice, Inc, Jeanette Zelhof, Executive Director, New York, NY

NH Conference United Church of Christ Immigration Working Group, Nancy Pape, Pembroke, NH

UNITEHERE, D. Taylor, President or Maria Elena Durazo, General Vice President, Los Angeles, CA

Youth Envision, Deborah Dimmett, Executive Director, Tucson, AZ

Palm Beach Community Resources Coalition, Anne Pierre, Director, Boynton Beach, FL

Long Island Wins, Maryann Slutsky, Executive Director, Syosset, NY

Instituto de Educacion Popular del Sur de California (IDEPSCA), Maegan E. Ortiz, Executive Director, Los Angeles, CA

Immigrant Youth Coalition, Marcela Hernandez, Deportation Defense Organizer, Los Angeles, CA

Equality California, Valerie Ploumpis, National Policy Director, CA

African Advocacy Network, Joe Sciarrillo, San Francisco, CA

AB 540 Ally Training Project, Elena V. Macias, Director, Cerritos, CA

Vote Allies, Brett Shears, Founder, Los Angeles, CA

California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance, Anakaren Alcocer, Development Manager, Los Angeles, CA

March And Rally Los Angeles, Maro Kakoussian, Organizer, Pasadena, CA

SOMA Action, Linda Mastrodonato, Executive Director, South Orange/Maplewood, NJ

Haiti Global Youth Partnership, Wildie Ceccherini, President, Boston, MA

Haitian-Americans United for Progress, Elsie Saint-Louis, Executive Director, Cambria Heights, NY

Marie Louise Community Foundation, Marie K Seide, CEO, Boynton Beach, FL

Association of Haitian Women in Boston (AFAB), Carline Desire, Executive Director, Boston, MA

Haitian Bridge Alliance, Inc, Guerline Jozef, President, and Martine Jean, Chairwoman, San Diego, CA

Haiti in Action, Philippe Louisjeune, CEO, Lakeworth, FL

Oregon Immigration Group, PC, Anna Ciesielski, Attorney at Law, Portland, OR

Haitian American Caucus, Samuel Darguin, Founder, Brooklyn, NY

The Haitian Ministry Theophile Church In Christ, Inc, Rev. Dr. J. Billy Beaufils, President, Atlanta, GA

Federalsburg Church of Nazarene, Jean Willeme Thomas, Senior Pastor, Federalsburg, MD

New Bridges for Haitian Success, Inc, Bernard Georges, Founder and Executive Director, Providence, RI

Alternative Chance, Michelle Karshan, Executive Director, New York, NY

Defenders against Rooted and Enforced Anti-immigrant Measures, Joseph A. Beauvil, City of North Miami, FL

Fondasyon Mapou, Eugenia Charles, Executive Director, Washington, DC

Konbit Lakay, Eugenia Charles, Host & Executive Producer, Washington, DC

The Haitian-Americans United, Inc, Wilner Auguste, Board Member, Boston, MA

Ayiti Demain Organization, Moise Garcon, Vice President, Sunrise, FL/Jonesboro, GA

Federation des Associations Regionales Haitiennes de la Diaspora, Kenol Aris, President, Pembroke Pines, FL

Immigration Advocacy & Research Group, Inc., Cinelynn Zamor, Esq., New York, NY

Li, Li, Li! Read, Michelle Karshan, Executive Director, New York, NY

Haiti Cardiac Alliance, Owen Robinson, Executive Director, Burlington, VT

Diaspora in Action, Joel Leon, Executive Director, Philadelphia, PA

Haitian Diaspora for Democracy and Development, Jimmy Mertune, President, Orlando, FL

We Belong Together, Anna Duncan, Campaign Organizing and Program Director

Haitian Community Partners Foundation, Marline Amedee, President, Brockton, MA

Individuals:

Florida State Senator Daphne Campbell, District 38, North Miami Beach, FL

Hon. Rodneyse Bichotte, Assembly Member and State Committee Woman/District Leader, New York State's 42nd Assembly District, Brooklyn, NY

Massachusetts State Representative Daniel Cullinane (12th Suffolk), Boston, MA

Alix Desulme, Councilman (District 4) and former Vice Mayor, City of North Miami, FL

Harry Fouche, Economist and Former Consul General for Haiti in New York, Chicago, IL

Anna Kelles, Legislator, District 2, Tompkins County, NY

Martha Robertson, Legislator, District 13, Tompkins County, NY

Will Burbank, Legislator, District 12, Tompkins County, NY

Dooley Kiefer, Legislator, District 10, Tompkins County, NY



Leslyn McBean-Clairborne, Legislator, District 1, Tompkins County, NY

Dabouze Antoine, Mayor Pro-Tem/City Councilman Ward 2, Forest Park, GA

Alan Epstein, Director, Religious Studies, Oakland University, Rochester, MI

Irwin P. Stotzky, Professor, School of Law, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL

Rick Swartz, President, Strategic Solutions, Washington, DC

Bradford E. Brown, PhD, Third Vice President, Miami-Dade Branch, NAACP, Miami, FL

James J Hinde, Carmelite Catholic Priest, El Paso, TX

Rachelle Martinez, Community Organizer/Activist, Philadelphia, PA

Linsay Christelle Etienne, Community Activist, San Francisco, CA

Cheryl Moore, Board Member, Just Neighbors, Arlington, VA

Kysseline Jean-Mary Cherestal, Esq., Washington, DC

Phil Barber, P.C., Denver, CO

Vaneskha Wilson, Immigration Attorney, Orlando, FL

Kathleen Bergin, Human Rights and Disaster Lawyer, Ithaca, NY

Jeanne Allen, Member, Pax Christi, Western Mass, MA

Jane Hale, Professor, Marshfield, MA

Danielle Legros Georges, Poet Laureate and Professor, Boston, MA

Napoleon Lherisson, Educator, Boston, MA

Pietro G. Poggi, Educator, San Rafael, CA

Nunotte Zama, Attorney & Professor, Boston, MA

Mary Liston Liepold, ofs, Silver Spring, MD

Ms. Kristina Knapp, Jamaica Plain, MA

Ms. Valerie Senatu, Silver Spring, MD

Ian Warthin, Senior Manager, US Pharmacopeia, Washington, DC

Michael Shannon, New York, NY

Christopher Ndubuizu, Oakland, CA

Graciela Lopez, Southern California Organizer, Los Angeles, CA

Eleanore Lee Grochowska, Retired ELL teacher, Cambridge, MA

Gilbert Saucedo, Attorney at Law, South Pasadena, CA

Frederic Aurelien, Esq., Hackettstown, NJ

Teresa A. Statler, Immigration Law Office of Teresa A. Statler, Portland, OR

Reverend James Barry

Karen Keegan, Sister of the Good Shepherd, Toledo, OH

cc:

Hon. Elaine Duke, Acting Secretary U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Hon. Rex Tillerson, Secretary U.S. Department of State

Hon. John F. Kelly, Chief of Staff to the President