

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2025

Secretary Kristi Noem
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

Secretary Marco Rubio
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Noem and Secretary Rubio,

We write to emphasize the urgent and continuing need for the United States to extend and redesignate Syria for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for at least the next 6 months. Over six thousand Syrian nationals currently reside in the United States and will face imminent arrest and deportation on November 21, 2025, 60 days after TPS expired on September 30, 2025.¹ Without prompt action to redesignate and extend TPS, these individuals, many of whom have established families, careers, and homes in the United States, will face life-threatening risks if forced to return to Syria under current conditions.

Despite the recent fall of the Assad government, the situation on the ground in Syria remains exceptionally dangerous, and the conditions necessary for safe and dignified return are currently absent. Rather, many of the underlying drivers of instability that resulted in the establishment of Syria's first TPS program in 2012 persist today. These ongoing conditions include continued armed violence, torture, enforced disappearance, displacement, societal fragmentation, and a lack of access to basic services,² with notable, deadly eruptions of violence on the coast during March 2025 and later in Suwayda that resulted in numerous rights violations and countless lives lost.³ Additionally, the Israeli military continues to illegally occupy parts of southern Syria, subjecting residents to forced displacement, home seizures and demolitions, and unlawful detention and

¹ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, *Temporary Protect Status Designated Country: Syria*, accessed October 3, 2025, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status/temporary-protected-status-designated-country-syria>.

² Syria Justice and Accountability Centre, *Revenge Killings Targeting Assad Regime Affiliates (December 2024-May 2025)*, May 22, 2025, <https://syriaaccountability.org/revenge-killings-targeting-assad-regime-affiliates-december-2024-may-2025/>; Syria Justice and Accountability Centre, *The Syrian Government Must Investigate the Targeting of Alawite Civilians in Homs*, May 13 2025, <https://syriaaccountability.org/the-syrian-government-must-investigate-the-targeting-of-alawite-civilians-in-homs/>.

³ Syria Justice and Accountability Centre, *Verified Evidence Reveals Rights Violations in Suwayda*, July 30, 2025, <https://syriaaccountability.org/verified-evidence-reveals-rights-violations-in-suwayda/>.

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

transfer,⁴ and has conducted a series of airstrikes across the country, including a July 2025 strike in one of the most densely populated neighborhoods in Damascus, killing three civilians and wounding 34 others.⁵

In addition to ongoing violence, Syria continues to face a growing humanitarian and economic crisis. According to the United Nations, more than 16 million people require humanitarian assistance, including over 7 million internally displaced persons and 6.9 million refugees abroad.⁶ Infrastructure within the country remains devastated after over a decade of conflict, with critical services like electricity, water, schools, and healthcare severely limited across the country.⁷ Meanwhile, food insecurity continues to escalate, with half the population (23.7 million) facing food insecure and nearly 3 million of these people are projected to be severely food insecure.⁸ Access to safe housing also remains limited. Over 6 million homes were damaged or destroyed during the conflict, and the earthquake in 2023 compounded these problems as it displaced hundreds of thousands and destroyed essential infrastructure.⁹

U.S. law permits TPS designation when extraordinary conditions prevent safe return to the home country or when ongoing armed conflict poses a serious threat to life.¹⁰ As conflict continues to threaten Syrian lives and as safe and dignified returns to Syria remain impossible,¹¹ Syria should be redesignated for TPS immediately. The lack of safety in Syria is further underscored by U.S. policy: Syria is currently classified as a Level 4 zone by the U.S. Department of State (“Do Not Travel”), which states that “no part of Syria is safe from violence.”¹² We note that the Administration is already being sued for its decision to terminate TPS for Syria, based on allegations that this termination violates the TPS program’s statutory requirements and the

⁴ Human Rights Watch, *Syria: Israel Forcibly Displaces Villagers in Occupied South*, September 17, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/09/17/syria-israel-forcibly-displaces-villagers-in-occupied-south>.

⁵ Syrian Network for Human Rights, *Three Civilians Killed and 34 Others Wounded in Israeli Bombing Targeting the Ministry of Defense Headquarters in Damascus on July 16, 2025*, July 19, 2025, <https://snhr.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/S250713E.pdf>.

⁶ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), *Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview 2025*, <https://www.unocha.org/syria>.

⁷ ACHR, *Return Without Guarantees: Syrian refugee return policies from neighboring countries* July 22, 2025, <https://achrights.fr/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Return-without-guarantees.pdf>.

⁸ World Food Programme, *WFP Syria Emergency Response: External Situation Report*, September 2025, <https://www.wfp.org/publications/syria>.

⁹ Assistance Coordination Unit, *Syria Earthquake Impact*, March 20, 2024, <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiMzczN2M2NWItZTczMi00N2E4LWE4ZmUtOTc1NDY4MGM1ODVklwiidCI6ImZiMTU5MTUzLTIhNTYtNDRIYS04MWMzLTNiM2NkNGJkMmQ2NyIsImMiOiI9&pageName=ReportSectionacfed2148f51fece9657>

¹⁰ 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(C) (2022).

¹¹ Syria Justice and Accountability Centre, *Conditions for Safe and Dignified Voluntary Return Currently Absent in Syria*, September 11, 2025, <https://syriaaccountability.org/conditions-for-safe-and-dignified-voluntary-return-currently-absent-in-syria/>.

¹² U.S. Department of State, *Travel Advisory: Syrian Arab Republic (Syria)*, Apr. 2025, “Syria – Level 4: Do Not Travel,” <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/syria-travel-advisory.html>.

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Administrative Procedure Act and that it was at least partly motivated by racial, ethnic, and national-origin-based animus, in violation of the U.S. Constitution.¹³

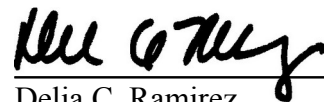
Moreover, Syrian TPS holders in the United States are vital members of their communities. Many work in essential sectors including healthcare, education, and public service. They pay taxes, support local economies, and care for family members both here and abroad. Revoking TPS would place these individuals in immediate danger and disrupt the communities and institutions that rely on their contributions and presence. Continued delay of the redesignation and/or inaction will put lives at risk, force families into precarious circumstances, and jeopardize the integrity of a program designed to protect vulnerable populations.

As such, we urge the Administration to immediately redesignate and extend TPS for Syrian nationals for at least six months. A six-month extension would serve multiple objectives: it would provide affected individuals with the ability to assess options and prepare logistics for relocation and give the U.S. government an opportunity to monitor conditions in Syria, while also providing the Syrian government with more time to address ongoing security and humanitarian concerns. We urge you to take this critical step to save lives.

Sincerely,



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

¹³ *Doe v. Noem, No. 1:25-cv-08686 (S.D.N.Y. 2025)*, October 20, 2025, <https://muslimadvocates.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/ECF-1-Complaint-Syrian-TPS-25cv08686.pdf>.

Congress of the United States

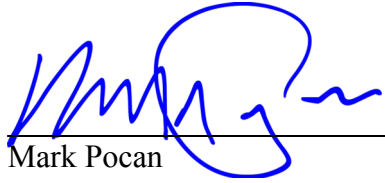
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Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



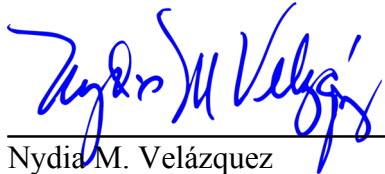
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



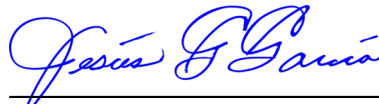
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

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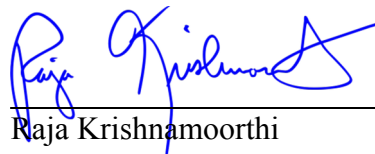
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



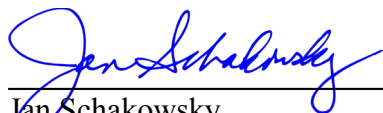
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



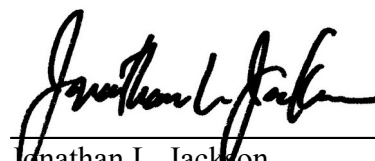
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alexia Ocasio-Cortez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a horizontal line underneath the entire name.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress