

June 20th is World Refugee Day.

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World Refugee Day 20 June

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A group of rescued people on the deck of an Italian naval vessel as the sun sets in the Mediterranean.

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"I've met so many who have lost so much. But they never lose their dreams for their children or their desire to better our world. They ask for little in return – only our support in their time of greatest need" — *UN Secretary-General, António Guterres*

In a world where violence forces thousands of families to flee for their lives each day, the time is now to show that the global public stands with refugees.

To do this, the UN Refugee Agency launched the [#WithRefugees petition](#) in June 2016 to send a message to governments that they must work together and do their fair share for refugees.

On World Refugee Day, held every year on June 20th, we commemorate the strength, courage and perseverance of millions of refugees. This year, World Refugee Day also marks a key moment for the public to show support for families forced to flee.



Background

January 15, 2010, the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitian nationals who were in the United States as of January 12, 2010, the date of the devastating earthquake in Haiti.

TPS designation allows eligible Haitian nationals to temporarily continue living and working in the United States.

Haiti's TPS designation was extended and the previous extension of TPS occurred on January 23, 2016 and expires on July 22, 2017. The current extension expires on January 22, 2018.

Haiti has not yet recovered from the 2010 earthquake; the nation suffers from economic and political crises, rampant Zika, the effects of a devastating cholera epidemic which has killed 10,000 and sickened 900,000, and most recently, the destructive effects of Hurricane Matthew, which cost Haiti \$2.7 billion or 32% of its GDP per a March, 2017 United Nations report.

October 4, 2016, Hurricane Matthew was the first Category 4 hurricane to hit Haiti in 52 years.

Hurricane Matthew affected 2 million Haitians, left at least 1.4 million in need of emergency aid, killed 1,000 people, rendered 806,000 people extremely food insecure, left 1,250,000 Haitians—including a half-million children—without safe water, wiped out livestock and crops in broad areas, damaged or destroyed 1,663 schools, dramatically increased the number of cholera cases in Haiti, and left entire towns completely destroyed and cut off from the outside world by flooding and damage.

Nearly six months later the United Nations estimates that hundreds of thousands of Haitians remain “extremely food insecure,” some have died as a result

of malnutrition, and thousands may starve to death in what experts describe as a looming humanitarian disaster.

In “Desperate Haitians living in caves, eating toxic plants in post-hurricane Haiti,” by Jacqueline Charles, *Miami Herald*, March 24, 2017, Food for the Poor’s President/CEO is quoted as saying, “They have no food. They have no water. They have no shelter...It really is a crime against humanity.”

Two out of three farmers in the Grand’Anse region lost three-fourths of their crops as a result of Matthew, the U.N. humanitarian agency also noted that 95 percent of farmers were unable to plant for the February or May harvest.

Such reports are many and proliferating, indicating a worsening humanitarian crisis affecting hundreds of thousands of Haitians with which Haiti’s government is unable to cope.

The 50,000 Haitians with TPS have been in the US for at least six and a half years, the vast majority since well before the January 2010 earthquake, and have strong community ties including families with U.S.-born, American-citizen children.

The \$1.3B per year in remittances sent to Haiti from Haitians in the U.S. are crucial to sustain hundreds of thousands of loved ones back home in Haiti.

Haiti’s government is in no position to insure safety to or assimilate the 50,000 Haitians with TPS, nor to make up for their remittances should they be curtailed by their deportation, and it remains unsafe to deport them.

Their deportation would consequently tend to destabilize Haiti, which is contrary to the national security interest of the United States.

There continue to be extraordinary and temporary conditions that prevent Haitian nationals from safely returning to Haiti.

Information on forms to file to re- register can be found at:

<https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status/temporary-protected-status-designated-country-haiti>

The Secretary of Homeland Security will re-evaluate the policy at least 60 days before January 22, 2018 to determine action going forward. Possibilities include: Terminate TPS and send people back to Haiti; continue the extension of TPS for another period of time; or determine a re-designation with a new policy.

THANK YOU!!!

- Catholic Legal Services
- Patrice Schwermer, Catholic Charities
- Pastor Jonathon Carey and Glad Tidings Church
- Pastor Jean Jean
- Mr. Renel Mernir

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: TPS INFORMATIONAL PROGRAM

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CATHOLIC LEGAL SERVICES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

Mr. Peterson St. Philippe, Esq., Managing Attorney with Catholic Legal Services of the Archdiocese of Miami, will provide updated information and answer questions about the changes in the TPS Policy for Haitians including the recent six month extension

Temporary Protective Status

Friday, June 23rd @ 5:30 P.M.

**The Basilica of St. Mary Star of the Sea
Klaus Murphy Center 724 Truman Ave., Key West**

For more information:
Patrice Schwermer 305 807 4503 or pschwermer@ccadm.org

KONNEN DWA W: TPS INFORMATIONAL PWOGRAM

KE ÒGANIZASYON KATOLIK CHARITE, MINISTÈ MONROE AK
KATOLIK SÈVIS LEGAL ACHIDYOSÈZ MIYAMI

**Mesye Peterson St Philippe, Esq., Des avoka ak sèvis Legal Katolik
achidyosèz Miyami, pral pran enfòmasyon ak reponn kesyon osijè
chajmann nan politik Estati jilèt pwoteksyon tanporè (TPS)
la pou Ayisyen ki enkli Pwolonjman dènye sis mwa**

Temporary **P**rotective **S**tatus

Vandredi, mwa Jen an 23rd nan 5:30 P.M.

**The Basilica of St. Mary Star of the Sea
Klaus Murphy Center 724 Truman Ave., Key West**

Pou plis enfòmasyon:
Patrice Schwermer 305 807 4503 or pschwermer@ccadm.org