

2018 JAN -4 PM 1:43

January 4, 2018

The Honorable Kristjen Nielsen  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
3801 Nebraska Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20528

**RE: EXTENDING THE LIFESAVING TPS DESIGNATION FOR EL SALVADOR FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER 18 MONTHS**

Dear Secretary Nielsen,

As 386 faith leaders and faith-based organizations from many different traditions, we request that you extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for El Salvador for at least another 18 months. Our call stems from our shared values rooted in our sacred texts to love our neighbor and welcome the stranger, the sojourner among us. As Leviticus 19:33-34 reminds us: "Any immigrant who lives with you must be treated as if they were one of your citizens. You must love them as yourself, because you were immigrants in the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God."

Approximately 200,000 Salvadorans currently live in the U.S. as TPS holders, and given the impending January 8th deadline by which a decision must be made to extend it, we urge you to grant an 18-month extension.<sup>1</sup> TPS holders are an integral part of the fabric of our community. They worship in our congregations, they are our caretakers, our teachers, our entrepreneurs, and they are our neighbors. Salvadoran TPS holders not only contribute to our nation's economy, but many of them are also parents to 192,700 U.S. citizen children, as well as spouses and partners to permanent legal residents.<sup>2</sup> We cannot sit idly by while our Salvadoran brothers and sisters are separated from their families. We want to ensure that families can stay together and that they have a chance to succeed. Separating families and sending people to exploitative situations in the countries where they would face harm or have not lived for nearly 20 years is against basic principles of human dignity and mercy.

Extending TPS is vital to advancing important regional security initiatives and serves an important humanitarian role by providing for the safety, well-being, and stability of TPS holders in the United States, as well as the recovery of the designated country. In 2001, the Bush Administration designated El Salvador for TPS due to multiple earthquakes.<sup>3</sup> Subsequent administrations extended TPS for El Salvador due to conditions that prevented Salvadoran TPS holders' safe return.<sup>4</sup> Forced gang conscription, human trafficking, and sexual exploitation are among the many human rights violations to which children, families, women and men are subjected in El Salvador.<sup>5</sup> In addition, El Salvador has the highest murder rate in the world, and a staggering 6,657 homicides were recorded in the country in 2015, a 70 percent increase from the year prior.<sup>6</sup> When Salvadoran TPS was extended in 2016, the U.S. government also cited persisting dire climate conditions, which were "brought about by numerous natural disasters, including hurricanes, tropical storms, flooding, volcanic seismic activity, prolonged drought that caused widespread food and water insecurity [and] the spread of mosquito-borne illnesses."<sup>7</sup> All of the aforementioned crises continue to plague El Salvador and impeded El Salvador's recovery, and we urge you to ensure that no one is forcibly returned to the country in its current state.

We are also deeply concerned about the children who entered the United States through the Central American Minors (CAM) program, fleeing violence or persecution in El Salvador, Honduras, and

<sup>1</sup> 81 Fed. Reg. 44645 (July 8, 2016).

<sup>2</sup> TPS Holders in the United States, CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS, [https://cdn.americanprogress.org/content/uploads/2017/10/19125633/101717\\_TPSFactheet-USA.pdf](https://cdn.americanprogress.org/content/uploads/2017/10/19125633/101717_TPSFactheet-USA.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> 66 Fed. Reg. 14214 (March 9, 2001).

<sup>4</sup> Fed. Reg. 44645 (July 8, 2016).

<sup>5</sup> Children on the Run: Unaccompanied Children Leaving Central America and Mexico and the need for International Protection, UNHCR (March 13, 2014), <http://www.refworld.org/docid/532180c24.html>.

<sup>6</sup> Alan Gomez, El Salvador: World's new murder capital, USA TODAY (Jan. 8, 2016), [www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2016/01/07/el-salvador-homicide-rate-honduras-guatemala-illegal-immigration-to-united-states/78358042](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2016/01/07/el-salvador-homicide-rate-honduras-guatemala-illegal-immigration-to-united-states/78358042).

<sup>7</sup> 81 Fed. Reg. 44645 (July 8, 2016).

Guatemala to reunite with a parent in the United States. About 90 percent of CAM refugee or parolee children have a TPS holder parent. The consequences of terminating El Salvador's TPS designation would be immediate and profound, jeopardizing the lives of children the U.S. government promised to protect and threatening the sanctity of family unity. Families would be at increased risk of family separation, which could result in further interactions with the child welfare system, as primary caregivers are stripped of TPS and become eligible for removal.

We pray that you may find compassion and urge you to extend El Salvador's TPS designation for at least another 18 months, as it currently does not have the infrastructure or institutions to adequately handle the return of its nationals. Terminating TPS for El Salvador would separate families, negatively impact regional security, and have negative economic and humanitarian consequences in El Salvador and the United States. As people of faith, we implore you to think about the moral imperative to love our neighbor, welcome the sojourner, and care for the most vulnerable among us.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. If you have any questions, please contact Jill Marie Bussey at the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. at [jbussey@cliniclegal.org](mailto:jbussey@cliniclegal.org) or Meredith Owen at Church World Service at [Mowen@cwsglobal.org](mailto:Mowen@cwsglobal.org).

Sincerely,

### **Faith Leaders**

Rev. Julie Wilson, United Methodist Church

Rev Gregory Gross, United Methodist Church

Rev. Anna Lange-Soto, El Buen Pastor & NS de Guadalupe Episcopal Vicar

Rev. Cecil Prescod, Ainsworth United Church of Christ

Dr. James Croft, Ethical Society of St. Louis

Pastor emeritus Stan Verheul, Los Angeles Community Chr. Reformed Church

Rev Sandi John, First Baptist Chico

Rabbi Kim Geringer, The Chai Center

Dr Arturo Chávez, Mexican American Catholic College

Deaconess Cindy Johnson, El Buen Pastor United Methodist Church

Rev. Will McGarvey, Community Presbyterian Church of Pittsburg, CA & Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County

Rev. Dr. Karen Boehk, United Methodist

Sister Laetitia Bordes, Society of Helpers

Rabbi Michael Feinberg, Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition

Br. Michael Potvin-Frost, Order of Franciscan Hermits

Pastor Anne Hall, Lutheran Church in the San Juans

Rabbi Deborah Waxman, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College/Jewish Reconstructionist Communities

Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes, St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

Monk of Ramakrishna Order Swami Atmajnanananda, Vedanta Center of Greater Washington, DC

Mr Kevin Nelson, First United Methodist Church

Rev Stephen Quill, Retired ELCA pastor

Sister S. Mary Anne Owens, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Central Pacific Province

Sister Kristine Vorenkamp, Sisters of the Living Word

Rev. Allan Wysocki, Lutheran - ELCA

Rev. Kristin Maier, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield  
Mrs. and Rev. Barbara and Jim Dale, First United Methodist Church, Decorah IA  
Rev. Joseph Easley, Indiana Conference, United Methodist Church  
Sister Elaine Sanchez, Sisters of the Holy Family  
Sensei Abby Terris, Corvallis Zen Circle  
Sister Michelle Sinkhorn, Sisters of St. Benedict Immigration Outreach  
Rev Kristin Dollar, Buncombe Street United Methodist Church  
MaryAnn Gregory, Lay leader, St Paul's UCC Westminster MD  
Rev. Clint Collins, First Christian Church  
Rabbi Brian Zimmerman, Beth El  
Rev. David Farley, Director of Justice & Compassion Ministries for the Cal-Pac Conference of the United Methodist Church  
Sister Maryann Mueller, Felician Sisters  
Rev. Joyce Hardy, Christ Episcopal Church  
Mrs. Ida Kokial, St. Andrew United Methodist Church  
Rev. Dr. Clay Brantley, Presbyterian  
Rev. David Farrell, CSC, Congregation of Holy Cross  
Pastor Paul Hagedorn, ELCA  
Rev. Catherine Cooke, Cathedral Church of St. Paul  
Rev. Steven Klemz, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, ELCA  
Reverend Marion Wright, The United Methodist Church  
Rev. Dr. Allison Tanner, Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church  
Rabbi Ellen Jaffe-Gill, Tidewater Chavurah  
Rev. Jessica Vacketta, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer, The Interfaith Center of NY  
Reverend Dr. Neil G Cazares-Thomas, Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ  
Rev. Joel Tooley, Mosaic Compassion  
Rev. Eric Anspaugh, Antioch COB  
Rev. Sharon Williams, Nueva Vida Norristown New Life Mennonite Church  
Joseph Mas, Attorney, Columbus Mennonite Church  
Rev. Diane Mettam, United Methodist Church  
Nun Karen Van de walle, Congregation of St. Joseph  
Rabbi Neil Comess-Daniels, Beth Shir Shalom  
Rev. Dr. Russ Peterman, University Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Rev. Pamela Werner, St. James Lutheran Church/ELCA  
Rev. Amanda Gayle Reed, Gooding United Methodist Church  
Bishop Elias Galvan, United Methodist  
Sister Hortensia Del Villar, Diocese of San Bernardino  
Rev. Gary Brooks, Presbyterian  
Rev. Mary Lee-Clark, Second Congregational Church, UCC  
Sister Sharon Altendorf, Union of Sisters of the Presentation of the BVM US Province  
Rev. Nancy Ross, St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral

Rev. Doug Bland, Arizona Interfaith Power & Light  
Sister Judith Bonini, IHM, Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Monroe, MI  
The Rev. Dr. Paula Nordhem, United Church of Christ  
Co-President Marie Dennis, Pax Christi International  
Rev. Kay Woike, United Church of Christ  
Sister Frances Murray, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia  
Susan Kalloch, Member of the CE Board, First Church in Wenham, MA  
Rev. Dr. Karen Boehk, United Methodist  
Pastor Barry Kreider, Pilgrims Mennonite Church  
Sr. Rose Therese Nolta, Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters / Catholics  
Pastor George Edward Whetstone, Salem Ev. Lutheran Church  
Sister Virginia Wilkinson, Sisters of the Presentation  
Sister Mary Ellen Lacy, Daughters of Charity  
Rev. Christine Payden-Travers, retired Episcopal priest  
Sister Maureen Foltz, Carmelite Sisters, Vedruna  
Rev. Stefanie Schubert, HVZC  
Sister Lourdes Leal, Congregation Divine Providence  
Sister Carol Boschert, Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon, MO  
Rev. Eliot Moss, Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts (non-parochial)  
Rev. Frank Bergen, Episcopal Church of St. Matthew  
Rev. Robert Kittendorf, United Church of Christ  
Ms Rosalina Baldonado, Immaculate Heart Community  
Rev. Dr. Mary Shields, PC (USA); Indianola Presbyterian Church, Columbus, OH  
Sister Maura McCarthy, Sisters of the Presentation  
Chairperson Vonny Eckman, St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Mechanicsburg, PA  
Mr. John Howard, Jr, St Paul's UMC  
Pastor Don Benton, UMC  
Rev. Charles Bahn, Brentwood Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Reverend Wendy Taylor, The United Churches UCC/Presby  
Rev. Mary Kay Will, United Methodist Church  
Rev. Dr. David Hindman, The United Methodist Church  
The Rev. Dr. James Boston, St. George Episcopal Church, Roseburg, OR  
Rev. Lindsay Louise Biddle, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Sister Carol De Angelo, Sisters of Charity of New York  
Rev. Linda Jones, United Methodist Church  
Sister Joan Lang, Congregation of St Joseph  
Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ, Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia  
Rabbi Ellen Lippmann, Kolot Chayeinu/Voices of Our Lives  
Rev Phillip Grigsby, Schenectady Inner City Ministry  
Rev Patricia Ashley, Presbytery of Tropical Florida  
Rabbi Michael Feinberg, Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition

Sister Marge White, Sisters of St. Joseph, TOSF  
Sister Betty Cawley, CSJ, Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston  
Rev. Merle Showers, University United Methodist Church  
Rev. Anne Gilson, Episcopal  
Reverend Don Wahlig, Silver Spring Presbyterian Church  
Reverend Luis-Alfredo Cartagena Zayas, Park Avenue Christian  
Father John Duffell, The Church of the Blessed Sacrament  
Claudia Lucero, Executive Director, Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America - CRLN  
Nancy Oetter, Regional Coordinator, Pax Christi Illinois  
Sister Mary McCauley, Crossing Borders - Dubuque  
Rev Joseph Keesecker, Guadalupe Presbyterian Church  
Sr. LaDonna Manternach, BVM  
Brother Anthony Zuba, Church of the Good Shepherd  
Sister Kathryn Mulcahy, Dominican Sister  
Rabbi Judith Edelstein  
Yanira Chacon, Outreach Worker, St Brigid's Church  
Sister Diane Bardol, Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart  
Rabbi Renee Bauer, Jewish Social Services of Madison  
Sister Ceil Roeger, Dominican Sisters of Houston  
Chaplain/Pastoral Counselor Patricia Hollinger, Quaker/Church of the Brethren  
Rev Mary Schmotzer, Shiloh United Church of Christ  
Rev. Ralph Sommer, St Bernard's. Levittown NY  
Sr. Alice Gerdeman, CDP, Congregation of Divine Providence of KY.  
The Rev. Canon Margaret D'Anieri, Episcopal Diocese of Ohio  
Reverend Steve Hickle, Open Table United Methodist  
Sister Mary Looby, Grey Nuns of the Sacred heart  
Rev. Ross Carmichael, St. Andrew Lutheran Church  
Sister Sheila Stone, Roman Catholic  
Sister Maureen O'Hara, Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart  
Sister Judy Stephens, Sisters of St. Joseph  
Sister Dorothy LeBlanc, Congregation of St. Joseph  
Rev. Kyle Meyaard-Schaap, Christina Reformed Church in North America  
Dr. Sister Bridget Connor, Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart  
Rev. James Hug, Adrian Dominican Sisters  
Sister Sally Duffy, SC, Sister of Charity Cincinnati  
Rabbi Michael Howald, Temple Israel, Staten Island  
Rev. Martha Sims, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Geri Eekhoff, Mission Team, First Presbyterian Church  
The Rev. Susan Champion, Christ the Lord Episcopal Church  
Rev. Kris Van Engen, New Community Fourth Reformed Church  
Rev. Kate Kooyman, Christian Reformed Church in North America

Sister Patricia Gardner, Sisters of St. Francis  
Karen Hartman, Director of IJPC US Area, Franciscan Sisters of the Poor  
Sister Fidelis Rubbo, Sisters of St. Francis  
Sister Sr. Janice Perrault, Sisters of the Presentation of Mary  
Rev. Martha Brimm, Chapel of the Cross  
Dr. John Sniegocki, Associate Professor of Christian Ethics, Xavier University  
Sister Judith Ann Zielinski, Sisters of St Francis Sylvania OH  
Sister Rebecca La Point, Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio  
Rev Ingrid McIntyre, United Methodist Church  
Sister Anna Marie Reha, School Sister of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province  
Rev. Sandra Strauss, Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
Donna Horn, Connection Coordinator/Caring and Hospitality, Lancaster United Methodist Church  
Pastor Adlerette Kebreau, Jesus is Lord Church  
Franciscan Sister Brigid O'Shea Merriman, Sisters of St. Francis  
Sister Rita Heywood, Sister of Notre Dame de Namur  
Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Fr. Jim Hoffman OFM, Catholic OFM Franciscan Friars Sacred Heart  
Rev Kathy La Point-Collup, Elk Grove United Methodist Church, Elk Grove, CA  
Sister Josephine Patti, Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart  
Sister Joy Peterson, Sisters of the Presentation  
Sister Elizabeth Mackowiak , Felician Sisters of North America  
Sister Antonelle Chunka, Felician Franciscans of No.America  
Sr Carol Spiegel, BVM  
Sister Lauren Lapinski, Felician Sisters  
Dr. Samira Towfic, BVM  
Rev. Horace Huse, Lakewood Church of the Brethren  
Sister Rosemarie Goins, Felician Sisters of North America  
Rabbi Sarah Bracha Gershuny, Nevei Kodesh, Jewish Renewal  
Sister Jacquelyn Cramer BVM, Sisters of Charity BVM  
Sr. Brigid Hart, BVM  
Sister Mary A. Klawinski, Felician Sisters  
Sister Christine Stankiewicz, Felician-Franciscan Sisters  
Bishop Elias Galvan, United Methodist  
Marguerite Polcyn OSF, Sisters of St. Francis  
Sister Donna Lord, Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart  
Mary Faith Balawejder, Justice and Peace Local Coordinator, Felician Sisters  
Sr. Elizabeth Moynier, Felician Franciscan Sisters of North America  
Sr. Rose Mary Meyer, Sisters of Charity, BVM  
Sister Margaret Clark, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Sister Nancy Jamroz, Felician Franciscan Sisters of North America  
Sr. Sister Michaelleen Pardowsky, Felician Sisters

Sister Margretta Wojcik, Sisters of St. Francis (Sylvania, Ohio)  
Rabbi Nancy Kasten  
Sister Lynn Marie Zawacka, Felician Franciscan Sisters of North America  
Sister JT (Doris) Dwyer, Daughters of Charity  
Sister Victoria Indyk, Felician Sisters  
Dr. Will Hine, Central Christian Church  
Sister Dorothy Moczygemba, Felician Sisters  
Sister Diane Rapozo, Sisters of Charity, BVM  
Sister Julia Lanigan, Grey Nuns of the Sacred/Roman Catholic  
Sr. Aquinas Szott, Felician Sisters  
Elder Maria Studer, FPC Levittown, NY/ PC USA  
Rev. Joel Gibson, Micah Institute  
Sister Ann Marie Chmielewski, Sisters of St. Francis Sylvania, OH  
Sister Mary Pellegrino, Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden  
Sister Noel Marie Gabriel, Felician Sisters of North America  
Sister Maria Spino, Sisters of St. Francis/Sylvania  
Sister Colleen Dauerbach, SSJ, Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA  
Sr. Mary Anne Bradish, Sisters of Charity, BVM  
Rev. Rebecca Zelensky, Central Christian Church (DOC)  
Sister Deanna Carr, Sisters of Charity BVM  
Minister Margaret Jack, American Baptist  
Sister Jeann Hayen, BVM, BVM  
Bishop Anthony Taylor, Catholic Diocese of Little Rock  
Rev. Lowell Greathouse, United Methodist Church  
Rev John Boonstra, United Church of Christ  
Assistant Minister Tyler Heston, University Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Sister Margaret Mear, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Sister Andrea Koverman, Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati  
Rev John Scannell, St Michael & All Angels  
Sister Jeri Cashman, Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, WI  
Rev. Melanie Oommen, United Church of Christ  
Joanne McClarty, Journey Koinania Catholic Community  
Rev. David Eppelsheimer, Community of Christ Church (ELCA)  
The Rev. Cecil Prescod, Ainsworth United Church of Christ  
Rev. Ruben Ortiz, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship  
Sister Laverne Dolphin, Sisters of Charity, BVM  
Dr. Mary Hunt, Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER)  
Sister Louise Alff, Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities  
Rev. Ron Werner, Jr, Oregon Synod, ELCA  
Rev. Dave Bean, Pioneer United Methodist Church  
Sister Kate O'Donnell, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia



Sister Bernadine Karge, Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, WI  
Sister Peg Regan, School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Rev. Christine Core, Bethel Lutheran Church  
Rev. Dr. David L. Wheeler, First Baptist Church of Portland  
Sister Carmela Trujillo, Sisters of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration  
Reverend Rev John Long, Presbyterian Church  
Sr. Annie Klapheke, Sisters of Charity  
Rev. M. Lynne Smouse, Ainsworth United Church of Christ  
Rabbi Hannah Laner, Jewish  
Rev. Dr. Janet Wolfe, Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Rev. Anthony Stanganelli, Saint Brigid's /Roman Catholic Church  
Ms Kathlyn Myers, ROMAN Catholic sisters and brothers of immigrants  
Sister Betty Voss, Sisters of Charity, BVM  
Director Gerry Lee, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Br. Mike Dorn, Capuchin Franciscans- Province of St. Joseph  
Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Jr., Allen Temple Baptist Church, PNBC & ABC/USA  
Sister S Rose Ann Ficker, School Sister of Notre Dame  
Sister Judith Garson, Religious of the Sacred Heart  
Brother Michael Sullivan, OFM Cap.  
Deacon Thomas Mariconda, Episcopal Church in Connecticut  
Sr. Josephine Roche, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Sister Carmella Campione, Congregation of Saint Joseph  
Margaret Feit Clarke, Facilitator, Peace & Justice Committee, St. Nicholas Parish  
Rev. Jeanne Randall-Bodman, Kairos-Milwaukie United Church of Christ  
Sister Janet Luecke, Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate  
Rabbi Mordechai Liebling, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College  
Kaira Jewel Lingo, Dharma Teacher, Order of Interbeing  
Rev. Dr. Stan Duncan, United Church of Christ  
Marcia Lee, Coordinator of the Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Office, Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph  
Sister Mary Brigid Clingman, OP, Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids  
Sister Beatrice Hernandez, Wheaton Franciscan JPIC Office  
Rabbi Benjamin Barnett, Havurah Shalom  
Sister Sara Aldridge, Sisters of St. Francis  
Sr. Christina Brodie, Director, Hands Across our Community, Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, KS  
Rabbi Elizabeth Richman, Jews United for Justice  
Rabbi Maurice Harris, Jewish Reconstructionist Communities  
Rev. Maria Swearingen, Calvary Baptist Church  
Promoter of Social Justice Sister Benita Coffey OSB, Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Ed Crump, Lay Leader, Foundry United Methodist Church  
Rabbi Michael Feinberg, Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition  
Rev Kristin Dollar, Buncombe Street UMC



Rev. Laura Martin, Rock Spring UCC  
Rev. Charles Booker, Bethesda Presbyterian Church  
Student Pastor Chelsea Spyres, St. Matthew's UMC  
Pastor Sandra Miller, Seekers Church  
Bette Hoover, Clerk, Peace Committee, Sandy Spring Friends (Quakers) Meeting  
Guillermo Torres, Senior Faith Rooted Organizer, Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice  
Imam Ali Siddiqui, Muslim Institute for Interfaith Studies & Understanding  
Reverend Cynthia Lapp, Hyattsville Mennonite Church  
Dr. Mary E. Hunt, Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER)  
Fr. Jacek Orzechowski, Franciscans Friars  
Rev Stephen Price, First Baptist Church of Hyattsville  
Rabbi Deborah Bodin Cohen, Beth Chai  
Patricia Nemore, Servant Leader, Seekers Church  
Pastor Trenton Stokes, Fellowship Greenville  
Dharma Teacher Kaira Jewel Lingo, Order of Interbeing  
Dr. Fritz von Fleckenstein, New York Avenue Presbyterian Church  
Associate Pastor Michelle Burkholder, Hyattsville Mennonite Church  
Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster, T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
Rabbi Rachel Ackerman, Temple Shalom  
Father Frederick LaBrecque, Diocese of Charleston  
Sister Nancy Miller, Franciscan Peace Center  
Rev Sarah Caine, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax  
Deacon Martha Davis, New York Avenue Presbyterian Church  
Rev Brandon Lazarus, Memorial UMC, Charlotte  
Rev. Robert Hardies, All Souls Church, Unitarian  
Rev. Maybelle Bennett, Covenant Christian Community  
Rev. Karen Brau, Luther Place Memorial Church  
Rev. Mary Jo Bradshaw, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

### **Faith Organizations**

Adorers of the Blood of Christ  
All Souls Church Unitarian Social Justice Ministry  
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)  
American Jewish Committee (AJC)  
Anti-Defamation League  
Bethesda Presbyterian Church  
Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph, Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation  
Carmelite Sisters, Vedula Intercontinental Commission for Justice with Peace  
Catholic Charities, Diocese of San Diego  
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Boston  
Catholic Charities of Diocese of Pueblo

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh  
Catholic Charities of West TN  
Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.  
Catholic Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami  
Catholic Migration Services  
Centro Comunitario CEUS  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Refugee & Immigration Ministries  
Church World Service  
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester  
Community Resource Center NY  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces  
Daughters of Wisdom JPIC USA  
Dominicans of Sinsinawa  
El Refugio Ministry  
Franciscan Action Network  
Friends Meeting of Washington  
Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition  
Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart  
HIAS  
HIAS Pennsylvania  
Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters  
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC  
Hope Border Institute  
Hug "For The Making Of New Americans"  
Immigrant Family Support Network - Wichita  
Immigrant Hope-Wyoming Idaho  
Immigration & Refugee Services/Catholic Social Service of RI  
Institute Justice Team- Sisters of Mercy of the Americas  
Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center  
Interfaith Welcome Coalition  
IUC Ministerios Rios de Agua Viva / Joy Like a River UCC  
Jefferson County Immigrant Rights Advocates (JCIRA)  
Jews United for Justice  
Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission, Priests of the Sacred Heart, US Province  
Kino Border Initiative  
La Comunidad, Inc.  
Latino Pastoral Action Center  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
LUCHA Ministries, Inc.  
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Massachusetts Communities Action Network  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Justice for Our Neighbors  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
NH Conference UCC Immigration Group  
NYS Interfaith Network for Immigration Reform  
Office of Life, Justice & Peace, Archdiocese of Portland  
Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity, Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth  
Office of Social Justice, Christian Reformed Church in North America  
OLA RAZA INC  
Oregon Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIrJ)  
Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church  
Pax Christi Florida  
Pax Christi Illinois  
PICO National Network  
Rock Spring Congregational UCC  
Schenectady Inner City Ministry  
School Sisters of Notre Dame - Central Pacific Province  
Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants, Inc.  
Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of New York  
Sisters of Charity, BVM  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Institute Justice Team  
Sisters of St. Francis  
Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania OH  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden  
Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis  
Sisters, Home Visitors of Mary  
Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities  
St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee in Latin America (IFCLA)  
The Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart  
The Interfaith Center of New York  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville  
UNITED SIKHS  
Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland - Social Justice Office  
UUCR  
UURISE - Unitarian Universalist Refugee & Immigrant Services & Education  
Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER)

cc: Rex Tillerson, United States Secretary of State  
L. Francis Cissna, Director, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

March 2, 2018

Ms. Jill Marie Bussey  
Director of Advocacy  
Catholic Legal Immigration Network  
8757 Georgia Avenue, Suite 850  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Ms. Bussey:

Thank you for your January 4, 2018 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for El Salvador. The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate a country for TPS and to extend or terminate a country's existing designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

At least 60 days before the current expiration date for a TPS designation, the Secretary must review conditions in the foreign country and, after consultation with other appropriate federal agencies, determine whether the statutory conditions for TPS continue to be met. Under the INA, if the Secretary determines that the conditions for designation are no longer met with respect to a country, the Secretary is required to terminate the designation. *See* INA § 244(b) (1),(3).

Secretary Nielsen decided to terminate the TPS designation for El Salvador after considering information from several U.S. Government sources, with a delay of 18 months to allow for an orderly transition before the designation terminates on September 9, 2019. DHS is committed to an orderly transition that will allow time for El Salvador to prepare for the return and reintegration of its citizens. USCIS will work with the State Department and the government of El Salvador to help inform relevant stakeholders in-country and in the United States to ensure an orderly return and reintegration of El Salvador's citizens. Additional details on the Secretary's decision and the process for current El Salvador TPS beneficiaries to renew their work authorization documentation until TPS terminates on September 9, 2019, can be found on the USCIS website and in the notice that was published in the *Federal Register* on January 18, 2018.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Please feel free to share this information with your co-signers. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LFC", written over a horizontal line.

L. Francis Cissna  
Director