



ICDR International

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January 30, 2018

The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

RE: Extension of TPS Designation for Nepali Nationals

Dear Madam Secretary,

On behalf of the Nepali community in the United States and ICDR International, we write to urge you to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Nepali nationals living in the U.S.

Nepal has been devastated by a series of catastrophic events. In 2015, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake and many aftershocks killed over 8,500 people, left 500 missing, injured 23,000 and displaced 2 million. Likewise, more than 500,000 houses were destroyed and about 270,000 houses were damaged.¹ The earthquake destroyed infrastructure in both urban and rural areas. According to the *Center for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Technology*, the total economic loss is in the order of \$10 billion, which is about a half of Nepal's gross domestic product. The 2015 earthquake will have grave long-term socioeconomic impact on people and communities in Nepal [*United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs*, (2015)].

Today, at least a million Nepali people are living in camps without access to safe drinking water, security and adequate food because of the earthquake. Thousands of newborn children, mothers and elderly people are in desperate need of emergency humanitarian assistance.

Failure to extend TPS for Nepali nationals would have a negative impact on both the U.S. and Nepali economies, endangering lives, further destabilizing Nepal, and potentially separating families. Nepal's Ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Arjun K Karki recently stated that he and Government of Nepal have advised the U.S. Government that an extension of TPS will improve

¹ <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/research/everyone/nepal2015/>


living conditions for Nepalis. This request is clear evidence that conditions in Nepal warrant an extension of TPS for at least 18 months.

It is in the U.S. national interest to extend TPS for Nepali nationals. Nepali TPS holders across the U.S. make significant contributions to the U.S. economy, including key industries such as hospitality and care. In addition to major economic contributions, due to the length of humanitarian crisis and instable political situation in Nepal, many TPS holders now have U.S. citizen children. Ending TPS will break up hundreds of families and put children in harm.

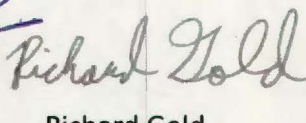
Finally, Nepali TPS holders work very hard to send money home to family members in Nepal. Ending TPS would take away this lifeline, needlessly destabilizing a country that is struggling to rebuild.

The Nepali diaspora has enriched and strengthened the U.S. in immeasurable ways. It is the moral imperative of Americans to stand with those in need, and we urge you to exercise your discretion to extend TPS for Nepali nationals until the situation stabilizes.

Sincerely,



Dil Bishkarma
President



Richard Gold
Co-Chair



Dr. Donald Zimmerman
Co-Chair Emeritus

Amanda Gant
Vice President

ICDR INTERNATIONAL

Washington, D.C.

1751 Pinnacle Drive Suite 600

McLean, VA 22102

www.icdrintl.org

www.facebook.com/ICDRINTL

www.twitter.com/ICDRFORUM

CC:

The honorable **Rex Tillerson**, U.S. Secretary of State.

His Excellency **Dr. Arjun K. Karki**, Nepal's Ambassador to the United States.



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

March 8, 2018

Ms. Amanda Grant
Vice President
ICDR International
1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 600
McLean, Virginia 22102

Dear Ms. Grant:

Thank you for your January 30, 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 Nepal. The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate or redesignate 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).

The TPS designation for Nepal is due to expire on June 24, 2018. Prior to that date, the Secretary will re-evaluate the designation and, after consultation with appropriate federal agencies, determine whether an extension, a redesignation, or a termination is warranted, in full compliance with the INA. The Secretary will fully re-evaluate the country conditions and any other factors necessary to determine whether the TPS designation should continue. That decision, once made, will be announced by DHS, and a notice will be published in the *Federal Register*.

Ms. Amanda Grant
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Thank you again for your letter and interest in these important issues. The co-signers of your letter will receive a separate, identical response. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LFC", written in a cursive style.

L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

March 8, 2018

Dr. Donald Zimmerman
Co-Chair
ICDR International
1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 600
McLean, Virginia 22102

Dear Dr. Zimmerman:

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Dr. Donald Zimmerman
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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

March 8, 2018

Mr. Richard Gold
Co-Chair
ICDR International
1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 600
McLean, Virginia 22102

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Mr. Richard Gold
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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
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March 8, 2018

Mr. Dil Bishkarma
President
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1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 600
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Mr. Dil Bishkarma
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L. Francis Cissna
Director