



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

May 25, 2023

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Norton:

Thank you for your May 9, 2023 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in support of a designation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Nigeria. I am responding on behalf of the Department.

The Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a country for TPS and extend or terminate a country's existing TPS designation based upon specific statutory criteria. In order to designate a country for TPS or extend a country's TPS designation, the Secretary must find one or more of the following: (1) there is an ongoing armed conflict within the country that would pose a serious threat to the personal safety of the country's nationals if they were returned; (2) there has been an environmental disaster resulting in a substantial, but temporary, disruption of the living conditions in the area affected, the country is temporarily unable to handle adequately the return of its nationals, and the country has officially requested TPS designation; or (3) there exist extraordinary and temporary conditions in the country that prevent nationals from returning in safety, and the Secretary does not find that permitting the country's nationals to remain temporarily in the United States would be contrary to the national interest of the United States.¹

I appreciate your concerns and the information you shared about conditions in Nigeria. Please be assured DHS continues to monitor conditions in Nigeria and remains committed to administering its programs, including TPS, in an equitable manner. DHS also offers support that may be available upon request,² to assist eligible individuals residing in the United States affected by conditions in their home country. Such support may include:

- Change or extension of nonimmigrant status, if eligible nationals are currently in the United States, even if the request is filed after the authorized period of admission has expired;
- Expedited processing of requests for advance parole documents;

¹ See Immigration and Nationality Act § 244(b)(1).

² Additional information is available at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website at: <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations>.

- Expedited adjudication of requests for off-campus employment authorization for eligible F-1 students experiencing severe economic hardship;
- Expedited adjudication of employment authorization applications, where appropriate;
- Assistance if applicants received a Request for Evidence or a Notice of Intent to Deny and were unable to appear for an interview, submit evidence, or respond in a timely manner because of the conditions; and
- Expedited replacement of lost or damaged immigration or travel documents issued by USCIS, such as a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card).

Thank you, again, for your letter and interest in this important issue. The cosigners of your letter will receive a separate, identical response. Should you require any additional assistance, please contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs at (240) 721-3801.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ur M. Jaddou", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ur M. Jaddou
Director