



Press Statement

12/19/2025

Statement from the Ethiopian American Civic Council (EACC) and The Ethiopian Solidarity Movement (ESM) Re: Terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

The Ethiopian American Civic Council (EACC) expresses grave concern regarding the decision to terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Ethiopian nationals.

Ethiopia continues to experience widespread armed conflict, ethnic-based violence, and serious human rights violations. The country remains governed under an ethnic-based federal system that has failed to prevent mass displacement, civilian harm, and instability.

According to the U.S. Department of State, Ethiopia is currently subject to a Level 3 “Reconsider Travel” advisory due to armed conflict, civil unrest, and the risk of arbitrary detention. These conditions demonstrate that Ethiopia does not meet the safety threshold required for the safe return of individuals who sought refuge in the United States.

The continuation of TPS is consistent with both U.S. statutory law and international legal obligations. Under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. § 1254a), TPS may be designated or extended when a country is experiencing ongoing armed conflict, extraordinary and temporary conditions, or conditions that prevent nationals from returning safely. Ethiopia clearly meets these statutory criteria.

Furthermore, the principle of non-refoulement, codified in Article 33 of the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and incorporated into U.S. law through the Refugee Act of 1980, prohibits the return of individuals to countries where they face a real risk of persecution, torture, or serious harm. Forced return under current conditions in Ethiopia would raise serious concerns under this principle.

EACC fully supports the rule of law and affirms that individuals who commit serious crimes or violate U.S. laws should be held accountable. However, enforcement priorities must not override the humanitarian purpose of TPS or result in collective punishment of law-abiding individuals and families who rely on lawful protection.

The United States has long served as a global leader in advancing international human rights norms, including those reflected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and U.S. asylum and humanitarian protection laws. Terminating TPS for Ethiopians at this time undermines these commitments and places vulnerable individuals at substantial risk.

For these reasons, the Ethiopian American Civic Council respectfully urges the Administration to immediately review and reconsider the decision to end TPS for Ethiopia, consistent with U.S. law, international humanitarian obligations, and America’s longstanding commitment to the protection of human rights.