July 25, 2020 marks one year since the Venezuela TPS Act of 2019 ([H.R. 549](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/549)) passed with bipartisan support in the U.S. House of Representatives. A Senate version of the bill ([S. 636](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/636/cosponsors?searchResultViewType=expanded&KWICView=false)) has been stalled since failing to pass by unanimous vote last year. In this time that the Senate has failed to pass the Venezuela TPS Act, more than one million additional people have been forced to flee Venezuela’s protracted crisis. To date [over 5.2 million Venezuelans](https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/platform) have fled their homes, putting the Venezuelan refugee crisis on track to surpass Syria as the world’s largest displacement crisis by the end of 2020.

While the need for TPS was already urgent, the public health crisis caused by the COVID-19 outbreak makes the situation even more dire. Venezuela’s crumbling public health system is ill-equipped to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, as there are only [84 ICU beds](https://www.rescue.org/report/covid-19-humanitarian-crises-double-emergency) for a population of 28 million, and [one in three hospitals](https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/05/26/venezuela-urgent-aid-needed-combat-covid-19) in the country lack basic resources such as running water and disinfectant. Additionally, Venezuela is considered [one of the top five countries](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-52379956) in the world most at risk of famine in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. It is essential that Venezuelans living in the U.S. are protected from being deported back to such conditions in the midst of a global pandemic.

Congress designed TPS to address the exact kind of humanitarian crisis that Venezuela currently faces. A TPS designation for Venezuela would extend temporary regular status to [an estimated 200,000 Venezuelans](https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2019-06/hr549.pdf) living in the U.S., providing temporary work authorization and protection from detainment or deportation.

Although deportations to Venezuela are currently suspended due to travel restrictions amid the pandemic, hundreds of Venezuelans are being detained in U.S. detention facilities, where COVID-19 is spreading like wildfire. Venezuelan deportation cases have increased nearly threefold since 2018, and Venezuelans, who now make up nearly one third of U.S. asylum requests, have been subjected to a host of new, insurmountable barriers to safety and have suffered [family separation](https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/trump-venezuela-asylum-border/2020/02/27/c9c827cc-54de-11ea-9e47-59804be1dcfb_story.html), [prolonged detention](https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/venezuela/article238072964.html), and [forcible return](https://www.npr.org/2020/01/09/794587498/this-migrant-won-in-immigration-court-and-the-u-s-sent-him-to-mexico-anyway) to dangerous and precarious conditions as a result of U.S. asylum policies that leave them utterly unprotected.

Today, on July 24, 2020, we are launching a ‘Day of Action’ around the anniversary of the passage of the Venezuela TPS Act in the House. The signing organizations join together in urging your office to express its support for a TPS designation for Venezuela by cosponsoring this important piece of legislation. **Are you able to join in today’s Day of Action by cosponsoring the Venezuela Temporary Protected Status Act?**

The crisis in Venezuela is unprecedented and demands immediate action. U.S. officials and policymakers on both sides of the aisle have expressed their solidarity with the Venezuelan people. If the U.S. truly stands with the Venezuelan people, then this solidarity must start at home with an extension of protected status for Venezuelans forced to flee their homes. In this time of a global public health crisis, the need to extend protection to Venezuelans is more urgent than ever.

**Signing organizations:**

1. Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) *United States*
2. Alianza Americas *United States*
3. America’s Voice *United States*
4. Amnesty International USA *United States*
5. Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Boston *United States*
6. Catholic Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami *United States*
7. Center for Victims of Torture *United States*
8. Central American Resource Center *United States*
9. Church World Service *United States*
10. Franciscan Action Network *United States*
11. Franciscan Sisters of the Poor *United States*
12. Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology *United States*
13. Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) *United States*
14. Médicos Unidos Venezuela (MUV) USA *United States*
15. National Council of Jewish Women *United States*
16. Oxfam America *United States*
17. Refugees International *United States*
18. Venezuelans and Immigrants Aid (VIA) *United States*
19. Win Without War *United States*
20. International Rescue Committee *International*
21. Serviço Jesuíta a Migrantes e Refugiados *International*
22. Red Jesuita con Migrantes Latino América y el Caribe *International*
23. Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries *International*
24. Jesuit Refugee Service - Latin America and the Caribbean *International*
25. Centro para la Observación Migratoria y el Desarrollo Social en el Caribe (OBMICA) *International*
26. GobiérnaTec *International*
27. Canada Venezuela Democracy Forum *International*
28. Creemos Alianza Ciudadana *International*
29. Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos CSMM *International*
30. Acción Solidaria *Venezuela*
31. Alerta Venezuela *Venezuela*
32. Baruta en Movimiento (BEM) *Venezuela*
33. Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad Católica Andrés Bello *Venezuela*
34. Centro de Justicia y Paz (CEPAZ) *Venezuela*
35. Clima21 - Ambiente y Derechos Humanos *Venezuela*
36. Consejo Comunal Colinas de Santa Rosa *Venezuela*
37. Fe y Alegría *Venezuela*
38. Fundación Centro Gumilla *Venezuela*
39. Labo Ciudadano *Venezuela*
40. Laboratorio de Paz *Venezuela*
41. Monitor Social A.C. *Venezuela*
42. Movimiento Ciudadano Dale Letra *Venezuela*
43. Movimiento Vinotinto *Venezuela*
44. Observatorio DDHH ULA *Venezuela*
45. Observatorio Electoral Comunicación y Democracia *Venezuela*
46. Oportunidad Acciones Ciudadanas *Venezuela*
47. Padres Organizados de Venezuela *Venezuela*
48. Programa Venezolano de Educación-Acción en Derechos Humanos (PROVEA) *Venezuela*
49. PROMEDEHUM *Venezuela*
50. Vecinos Naguanagua *Venezuela*
51. Conectas Dereitos Humanos *Brazil*