

**A SOLIDARITY MESSAGE TO THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF TPS BENEFICIARIES AND THE PEOPLE OF EL SALVADOR IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNITED NATIONS' INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE MIGRANT**

We, the 70 undersigned community, religious, human rights, immigrant rights, and labor organizations based in the United States wish to communicate to the family members of TPS beneficiaries and the people of El Salvador our absolute commitment to continue advocating for and defending the rights of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) beneficiaries and to redouble our efforts in the coming year to defend all undocumented people in the United States.

Since the Trump Administration signaled in May 2017 that it sought to end TPS for Haiti, we have worked tirelessly to defend TPS and have won the support of many elected officials. Approximately 25 city councils and state governments have passed strong resolutions in support of TPS beneficiaries and their families. Over 130 Members of Congress have called on the Administration to extend TPS for El Salvador and other countries.

Like us, these elected officials recognize the tremendous and invaluable contributions that TPS beneficiaries have and continue to make to the United States. We are happy to report that there are several bills that have been introduced in the House of Representatives and in the Senate that would allow TPS beneficiaries to apply for legal permanent residency as they deserve the opportunity to do.

To the Salvadoran people anxiously anticipating an announcement from the Department of Homeland Security regarding TPS renewal for El Salvador, and on this day that the United Nations has chosen to affirm the dignity and rights of migrants and immigrants, we reaffirm our commitment to:

- 1) Mobilize maximum pressure on the government of President Donald Trump and Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen to renew the TPS designation for El Salvador for the maximum time that the law allows
- 2) Continue to organize across the country to pressure Members of Congress to pass legislation to create a pathway to citizenship for TPS beneficiaries and DACA recipients
- 3) Pursue a just, humane and comprehensive immigration reform that will create a pathway to citizenship for the approximately 11 million immigrants in the United States currently unable to adjust their status

Additionally, it has come to our attention that various media outlets in El Salvador have been publishing misleading statements from members of the National Republican Alliance (ARENA) and the Great National Alliance (GAN) party suggesting that the Trump Administration's cruel decisions regarding DACA and TPS are related to the current FMLN government's policies.

As experts in this field, we wish to clarify that the Administration's changes in immigration policy represent an attack on all immigrants and have nothing to do with the political orientation of the governments in their country of origin. We see our brothers and sisters from Haiti, Nicaragua and Honduras – countries with very different governments – suffering the same fears regarding TPS. It is painfully clear to us, as it has been since the early days of Trump's campaign, that this Administration's

immigration policies are driven by xenophobia and racism. This reality requires us all to redouble our efforts to challenge these deep social harms.

We call on the U.S. Ambassador in El Salvador to counter and clarify any untruthful statements that are made in El Salvador regarding the Trump Administration's decisions regarding TPS and other immigration policies, lest the issue be misconstrued by anyone who would seek to exploit the fears of immigrants and their families for political gain.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to commend the efforts of the Government of El Salvador, which, through its Foreign Minister Hugo Martínez has carried out a permanent effort to advocate for a renewal of TPS. We reiterate our commitment to pursue a long-term legislative solution for TPS beneficiaries and other immigrants who are currently unable to adjust their status and reunite with their family members.

In this holiday season of love and peace, we celebrate the unique and important contributions of TPS beneficiaries, DACAmented, and undocumented people to our communities and to our society and express our heartfelt respect, solidarity, and commitment.

In solidarity,

Adhikaar, Arlington-Teosinte Sister City, Asociación Salvadoreña de Carolina del Norte, Bay Area Labor, Committee for Peace & Justice, Cambridge-San Jose Las Flores Sister City, Cambridge United for Justice with Peace, CARECEN-Los Angeles, CASA in Action, Central Americans For Empowerment, Centro de Educación Crítica para el Desarrollo de la Alfabetización y el Medio Ambiente (CECDAMA/CCEGL), Centro Legal de la Raza, Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America, CIP Americas Program, Clínica Martín-Baró, Clínica Monseñor Oscar A Romero, Clinicians for Healthy Families, Colectiva Legal del Pueblo, Coloradans For Immigrant Rights (AFSC Colorado), Columbia County Sanctuary Movement, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), Community Alliance for Global Justice, Community to Community Development, Community Organizing Center for Mother Earth, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity-US Provinces, Denver Justice and Peace Committee, Doctors For Global Health, Dreams United (Suenos Unidos), El Salvador Sister Cities of New Jersey, Franciscan Action Network, Fundación SHARE/SHARE Foundation, Global Exchange, Greater Boston Health and Law Immigrant Solidarity Network, Haitian Bridge Alliance, Immigrant Allies of Marshalltown, Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, JASS (Just Associates), Jobs with Justice, Just Neighbors, Koreatown Immigrant, Workers Alliance (KIWA), LCLAA-San Francisco, Long Island Wins, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Organization, Massachusetts Peace Action, National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, National Justice for Our Neighbors, National Lawyers Guild, Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA), Nicaragua Center for Community Action, NJ State Industrial Union Council, North American Climate Conservation and Environment (NACCE), Novato Haitian SDA, Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace, Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (PCASC), Presbytery of Des Moines Compassion Peace & Justice, Program Group on Global Partnership Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy, RENASE-East Bay, Salvadoran Enterprises for Women, School of the Americas Watch Oakland/East Bay-California, Solidarity-Bay Area, South Bay

Sanctuary Covenant, St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (IFCLA), Student Immigrant Movement, Task Force on the Americas, The Fairest and Best, The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society, U.S.-El Salvador Sister Cities, US Labor Against the War, UU College of Social Justice, Veterans For Peace-Chapter 92, Voices on the Border, Washington Ethical Society/Global Connections, Watertown El Salvador Sister City, Workers United (WSRJB).