

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2018
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-D001
TITLE: Haitian Temporary Protective Status
PROPOSER: Mr. Joe McDaniel
TOPIC: Immigration

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-D074 Extend Temporary Protective Status to Immigrants Fleeing Abuse
2009-A036 Commend and Encourage Efforts in Support of Haiti
2006-A017 Adopt the Principles of “The Alien Among You” as the Church Policy

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

2012-D059 Halt Unjust Immigration Enforcement
2009-B006 Advocate for Immigration Reform
1982-A063 Encourage Relief for Refugees

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1976 through 2015, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.

D001 Haitian Temporary Protective Status

Proposer	Mr. Joe McDaniel
Topic	Immigration
Endorsed by	Mance, Ms. Diane; Webley, Mrs. Alice
Sponsored by	
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RESOLUTION TEXT

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That this 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognizes that a six-month extension will not allow Haitian Temporary Protective Status (TPS) recipients living in the United States time to attain travel documents and make other necessary arrangements for their ultimate departure from the United States, and will also not provide the Haitian government with the time it needs to prepare for the future repatriation of all current TPS recipients; and be it further

2 *Resolved*, That this 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognizes the arguments for extending this “temporary” status stressed that Haiti is in no condition to take back the estimated 50,000 or so people benefitting from this amnesty program and that its not like the expiration of the amnesty would mean all 50,000 would be rounded up and sent home the next day. Rather, they would all simply return to their prior status – mostly illegal aliens, plus some who were here on student or tourist visas when the earthquake hit. Those who were illegal and came to the attention of ICE would be deported, just like other Haitian illegal aliens; and be it further

3 *Resolved*, That this 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church requests that the Administration hereby extends the TPS designation for Haitians for another 18 months.

EXPLANATION

The Trump administration has decided the designation of "Temporary Protected Status" (TPS) for Haitians who were here illegally or on a visitor visa at the time of the 2010 earthquake would be extended yet again, but for only six months; and

TPS is far from a permanent solution to the vast challenges facing Haitian immigrants and Haiti itself, it offers an important refuge for a group that has been victimized by natural disasters and harmful Western interventions; and

The Caribbean nation had yet to fully recover from the 2010 earthquake when contamination at a UN base caused a cholera epidemic that has killed 10,000 people and, last October, Hurricane Matthew ripped through the country, killing hundreds more, destroying crops and homes, and displacing

thousands; and

After the earthquake, the Obama administration gave Haiti a Temporary Protected Status designation. First introduced in 1990, the TPS program provides humanitarian relief to nationals of countries coping with a severe conflict or natural disaster. By providing recipients with legal status and work authorization, TPS designations—typically granted in 6- to 18-month cycles that can be renewed indefinitely—have become a crucial means of aiding people who face unsafe conditions should they be sent back to their home country; and

The TPS program has allowed thousands of Haitian immigrants to work and children to attend school, providing social and economic stability for families and communities; and

In May of 2017, the Associated Press reported that the Administration was looking for evidence of crimes by Haitians in the United States and trying to tabulate how many TPS holders had used public benefits, potentially as fodder to justify ending TPS. The requests for criminal information—which coincided with the launch of a DHS office that will focus on crimes committed by immigrants—are particularly unorthodox; and

The behavior of TPS recipients has never factored into the decision on a country's designation, and even if it did, criminal history is already a criterion in determining whether a TPS applicant qualifies for the program; and

America has a moral obligation to support Haitian immigrants by extending Temporary Protected Status without delay and the Department of Homeland Security must also fundamentally alter its perception of black immigrants as criminals and instead implement long term programs that allow immigrant families to live and thrive in the U.S.; and

This decision is a sounding alarm for what's to come in the fight against the current administration's intensifying criminalization of Black people and immigrants. The Department of Homeland Security's recent hunt for evidence of crimes committed by Haitian immigrants was not only unorthodox but also shows the determination of officials to carry out its racist and xenophobic immigration policy; and

The unprecedented request for criminal data for Haitians protected by TPS suggests that we can only predict that there will be more policies that will expand the criminalization of black and brown communities; and

The U.S. has a long history of providing protection and assistance to persons affected by natural disasters, and those experiencing humanitarian crisis and fleeing violence. The current administration has sent a signal around the world that those seeking humanitarian protection are not welcome in this country; and

Extending TPS for Haitians for only six months only foreshadows negative outcomes for other groups in the United States who have fled from crisis. Some 13 countries are currently designated for TPS status, including Honduras, El Salvador, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, and both Sudan and South Sudan up for renewal later this year. The decision has sent a message to other groups that there is reasonable fear in losing their TPS status as well; and

Losing TPS could have ripple effects beyond the Haitians currently in the program. According to a recent report from the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, if Honduras, El Salvador, and Haiti—the three countries with the largest number of TPS recipients—are all removed from the program, the US economy would lose \$45.2 billion over the next decade. And it could cost some \$3.1 billion to deport

all TPS holders from those three countries, according to the report; and
In December of 2016, at the request of Secretary of State John Kerry, the US Citizenship and
Immigration Services (USCIS) recommended that Haiti's TPS designation be extended. "While Haiti
continues to make progress in a variety of fields, the pace and scope of recovery has been uneven, and
the country remains vulnerable to external shocks and internal fragility," the agency noted. "Many of
the conditions prompting the original January 2010 TPS designation persist;" and
No TPS grant to a large group of people has ever been allowed to end.



Resolution Number: 2015-D074
Title: Extend Temporary Protective Status to Immigrants Fleeing Abuse
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the General Convention of The Episcopal Church welcome and affirm the bipartisan initiative of Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Eliot Engel (D-NY), Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Albio Sires (D-NJ), Carlos Curbelo (R-FL), Tony Cardenas (D-CA), Robert Dold (R-IL), Juan Vargas (D-CA), David Valadao (R-CA), and Joaquin Castro (D-TX), urging President Obama to immediately extend Temporary Protective Status (TPS) to Guatemalans living in the United States with the hope of creating a path to citizenship for this group; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church advocate through education, communication, and representation before legislative authorities for TPS for all immigrants fleeing for refuge from violence, environmental disaster, economic devastation, or cultural abuse or other forms of abuse; and be it further

Resolved, That this Resolution be communicated to the President of the United States and to the members of Congress of the United States.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 407-408.



Resolution Number: 2009-A036
Title: Commend and Encourage Efforts in Support of Haiti
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention stand in solidarity with the people of Haiti as they struggle to recover from recent natural disasters, political turmoil, economic hardship, social dislocation and environmental degradation; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention commend to all Episcopalians the Diocese of Haiti as a model of faithful ministry through its extensive and exemplary network of educational, medical and cultural institutions serving the people of Haiti; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention commend the non-violence work of the Diocese of Haiti in collaboration with the Episcopal Peace Fellowship; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention commend the efforts of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of Government Relations for their contribution to the negotiations that led to the cancellation of \$1.2 billion in indebtedness; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention urge the National Association of the Episcopal Schools in the United States to partner with the Diocese of Haiti in supporting its 253 educational institutions serving over 80,000 Haitian students; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention urge the Society for the Increase of the Ministry to recognize and support the Theological Seminary of Haiti in its continuing efforts to instruct and counsel the next generation of Episcopal clergy in the Church's largest diocese; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention urge congregations and dioceses within the Church to support the Diocese of Haiti through companion relationships; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention support the Presiding Bishop and the Office of Government Relations in their continuing efforts to work with the United States Government to increase disaster and developmental assistance to Haiti; to extend trade preferences for Haitian exports to the United States; and to designate Temporary Protected Status to Haitian immigrants living in the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$25,000 for the ongoing implementation of non-violence training.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 370-371.



Resolution Number: 2006-A017
Title: Adopt the Principles of “The Alien Among You” as the Church Policy
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church receive “The Alien Among You” in the Blue Book Report of the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns; and, while recognizing the duty and right of a sovereign nation to protect and defend its borders, adopt the following fundamental principles included in “The Alien Among You” as the policy of The Episcopal Church.

1. **Undocumented aliens should have reasonable opportunity to pursue permanent residency.**
2. **Legal workers should be allowed to enter the United States to respond to recognized labor force needs.**
3. **Close family members should be allowed to reunite without undue delay with individuals lawfully present in the United States.**
4. **Fundamental U.S. principles of legal due process should be granted all persons.**
5. **Enforcement of national borders and immigration policies should be proportional and humane; and be it further**

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church deplore any action by the Government of the United States which unduly emphasizes enforcement, including militarization of the border between the United States and Mexico, as the primary response to immigrants entering the United States to work; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church undertake a campaign to educate Episcopalians as to the plight of refugees, immigrants, and migrants, which will include information about the root causes of migration; and be it further

Resolved, That this campaign call the Church to commit to welcoming strangers as a matter of Christian responsibility, to advocate for their well being and protection and to urge its members to resist legislation and actions which violate our fundamental beliefs as Christians, including the criminalization of persons providing humanitarian assistance to migrants.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 532-533.