



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 13, 2025**

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**TERMINATION OF TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR AFGHANS  
BETRAYS ALLIES AND WEAKENS U.S. MILITARY IN LONG TERM**

Denver, CO—Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning strongly denounces the decision by the Trump Administration [announced on May 12th](#) to terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Afghanistan. TPS was granted to over 9,000 Afghans who were forced to flee their home country following the withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Afghanistan in August 2021, twenty years after the U.S. invasion. The withdrawal of U.S. forces followed the political and military takeover of that country by the Taliban, creating dangerous conditions for Afghan citizens who had worked with U.S. forces and the previous Afghan government to which it was allied.

The abrupt U.S. withdrawal and the need to quickly provide visas to Afghans at high risk of being targeted for retribution by the Taliban led the Biden Administration to create a TPS designation for Afghanistan in May 2022. Previously, Afghans put in danger due to their relationship with U.S. forces had been granted Special Immigrant Visas (SIV) to relocate to the United States, providing them with similar benefits and services to resettled refugees. Due to pressure from advocacy organizations, Congress extended most SIV-style benefits to Afghans under TPS, including minimal housing and cash assistance, but with the notable exception of an automatic pathway to U.S. citizenship.

The termination of TPS for Afghans, which is set to take place on July 12, will force Afghans to either stay in the U.S. as undocumented immigrants or to return to extremely dangerous conditions back in Afghanistan that may result in their death or imprisonment. The termination of TPS for Afghanistan coincides with termination of TPS for Cameroon and follows similar decisions terminating TPS for Cuba, Venezuelan, Haiti, and Nicaragua.

“While the termination of TPS by the Trump Administration for the many deserving populations who have found refuge in the United States is both unnecessary and cruel, the decision to end the program for Afghans is unconscionable,” stated Paula Schriefer, President and CEO of Spring Institute. “This decision will force Afghans, who served side-by-side with American troops and who worked to bring democratic reform to their country during U.S. occupation, to decide between the very real dangers of living as undocumented immigrants in an increasingly hostile United States or to return to Afghanistan with targets on their backs.”

Since 1980, when the U.S. Congress passed the U.S. Refugee Act, the United States has stood by its former allies from Vietnam and other countries by providing refuge to those left behind. The United States had resettled an average of 75,000 refugees and special immigrant visa holders annually until the first Trump Administration took office in 2016.

“Betraying former allies, such as the brave men and women who worked alongside U.S. government and service members, will make it more difficult for the United States to build coalitions to achieve military aims in the future,” continued Schriefer. “We will achieve almost nothing from ending TPS for this largely well-educated and skilled population, which has brought so much to Colorado and other welcoming communities, other than shame.”

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[Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning](#) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to build a thriving intercultural community through learning, language access, and advocacy. Follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#).