



**COALITION APPLAUDS CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR TEMPORARY
PROTECTED STATUS FOR THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AMID
HUMANITARIAN CRISIS**

*Rep. Yvette Clarke (NY-09) and Sen. Cory Booker Call on President Biden to Designate the
Democratic Republic of Congo for TPS*

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WASHINGTON, DC—Amid continued inhumane conditions in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY) and Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ), sent a congressional [letter](#) to the Biden Administration urging them to designate the DRC for Temporary Protected Status. The letter, a victory for grassroots advocates from the DRC in U.S. communities, is a major step on the path to ensuring TPS for our Congolese neighbors who are already making a life in our communities.

“TPS for the DRC is urgent,” said Nils Kinuani, Immigration Department Coordinator and Board Director for the Congolese Community of Washington Metropolitan. “Given the intolerable scenario currently in the DRC, which involves death, torture, and hunger, it would be cruel, inhumane, and dangerous to force our Congolese brothers and sisters to return. A matter of life and death, the situation is dire and warrants immediate action from President Joe Biden and DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.”

The [Temporary Protected Status Deferred Enforced Departure Administrative Advocacy Coalition \(TPS-DED AAC\)](#) commends Rep. Clarke’s and Sen. Booker’s leadership in drafting the congressional letter and echoes their call to the Biden Administration demanding a TPS designation for the DRC.

“Congolese people are up against extremely difficult circumstances,” said Diana Konaté, Policy Director for [African Communities Together \(ACT\)](#). “They should not be further punished given the U.S. immigration system’s long history of discrimination against immigrants from Black and Brown-majority countries. We join Rep. Clarke and Sen. Booker in their call to the Biden Administration to take swift action and designate the DRC for TPS to protect Congolese migrants as they navigate these perilous circumstances.”

As advocates [said to the Biden administration in a February 2023 letter](#), “[t]he DRC is experiencing one of the deadliest armed conflicts in modern human history. [...] The resurgence of armed conflict between government forces and non-state armed rebel group “Mouvement du 23 mars” or March 23 Movement (M23) has led to the displacement of over 186,000 people since the end of October 2022. The recent internally displaced are facing grave atrocities, including gender-based violence as a weapon of war, the killing of civilians, abductions, machete raids, burning of homes, and looting. [...] The insecurity has escalated the humanitarian crisis,



as relief efforts are severely hampered by violent attacks, depriving civilians of life-saving aid. Failed peace talks and negotiations reflect an emergency that makes the return of Congolese nationals from the United States life-threatening.”

A TPS designation would provide Congolese migrants in the U.S. with a lifeline, allowing beneficiaries to remain in the United States during the designation period, obtain work permits and protect them from deportation.

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The [Congolese Community of Washington Metropolitan \(CCWM\)](#) is a charitable organization that focuses on encouraging the social promotion of Congolese immigrants, promotes solidarity among them and amplifies the positive aspects of the Congolese heritage.

[African Communities Together \(ACT\)](#) is an organization of African immigrants fighting for civil rights, opportunity, and a better life for our families here in the U.S. and worldwide. ACT empowers African immigrants to integrate socially, advance economically, and engage civically. We connect African immigrants to critical services, help Africans develop as leaders, and organize our communities on the issues that matter.