

Resolution in Support of Continuing Federal Temporary Protected Status for Haitian Nationals and Their Family Members

Passed on October 20, 2017

Plenary
Executive Committee
Steering Committee
Constitution and Bylaws
Grants
Health & Wellness
Outreach
Student Services
USS Advisory Committee
Advocate Advisory Board
OpenCUNY Board
Governance Task Force

WHEREAS, the Trump administration persists in tightening the national borders of the United States (U.S.) via various policy changes, including by reducing the number of refugees and other foreign nationals facing harm who are allowed into the country; and

WHEREAS, these policy changes are designed to appeal to white-supremacist voters and allied segments of the U.S. electorate who believe, falsely, that immigrants, legal or otherwise, are a direct threat to their material well-being; and

WHEREAS, these policy changes have a disproportionate impact on black immigrants and racialized peoples in the United States, who experience greater material insecurity than their non-racialized peers by dint of global racial capitalism; and

WHEREAS, a possible forthcoming such policy change is an end to the federal Temporary Protected Status (TPS) of Haitian nationals, which could happen as early as January 23, 2018, according to a statement by Homeland Security Secretary John F. Kelly issued last spring¹; and

WHEREAS, TPS allows foreign nationals located in the U.S. at moments of severe material insecurity in their home countries, such as during and after disasters or warfare, to stay in the U.S. until it is safer for them to return²; and

WHEREAS, Haiti experienced a major earthquake in 2010, which triggered TPS for Haitian nationals, a designation that has been renewed continually since then³; and

WHEREAS, there is a sizable community of Haitian people in New York City, thousands of whom have TPS, including some who are students of the City University of New York⁴; and

WHEREAS, the uncertainty regarding the renewal of their TPS designation come January, combined with the lasting effects of the 2010 earthquake, compounds the material stress of Haitian TPS designees; and

¹<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/05/22/secretary-kellys-statement-limited-extension-haitis-designation-temporary-protected>

²<https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status>

³https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/21/nyregion/haiti-immigrants-trump.html?mcubz=0&_r=1

⁴Ibid.

WHEREAS, the Doctoral Students' Council has previously approved resolutions in support of immigrants and foreign residents, no matter the circumstances by which they find themselves living in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the Doctoral Students' Council continues to advocate on behalf of all CUNY students facing challenges because of politics or policy;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Doctoral Students' Council will continue to advocate on behalf of students regardless of immigration status through organizing workshops; distributing resources and services directly to students; providing spaces for students to gather and organize; and holding administrators accountable; and, be it still further

RESOLVED, that the DSC calls Graduate Center administrators, as well as other administrators in all CUNY campuses to make resources and legal services available to students and their family regarding Temporary Protected Status; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the DSC calls upon Secretary of Homeland Security Kelly to renew TPS for Haitian nationals when the current term of TPS expires on January 22, 2018; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the DSC calls upon CUNY administrators to advocate local and national-level government officials in support of permanent residence, citizenship, and resettlement services to refugees affected by disasters, such as extreme weather events or war; and be it further

RESOLVED, that DSC rejects all policy initiatives which unfairly target and scapegoat refugees and other immigrants for the material instability or nation's economic or political insecurity.