



The Bridge



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U.S. COMMITTEE  
FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

# Mauritania TPS and DED Now!

April 6, 2021: Day of Action

## Toolkit Contents:

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## Current Conditions in Mauritania:

In Mauritania, slavery is a real and ongoing practice. The United Nations estimates that as many as [680,000 people](#) are currently enslaved. In addition to the risk of bondage, other human rights abuses, including state-sanctioned violence and torture, mass food insecurity, and compounding COVID-19 make safe return to the country impossible. Learn more about country conditions in Mauritania [here](#).

## Why Temporary Protected Status and Deferred Enforced Departure?

Temporary Protected Status and Deferred Enforced Departure are both “blanket protections” for entire countries, providing protection from deportation and work permits for a certain amount of time. The Secretary of Homeland Security has the power to designate TPS and the White House has the power to designate Deferred Enforced Departure.

Many Mauritians currently at risk of deportation have been in the United States since the late 1990s, arriving after being violently expelled and stripped of their citizenship by the Mauritanian government on account of their race and ethnicity. While some received asylum, without a blanket protection like Temporary Protected Status or Deferred Enforced Departure in place, many slipped through the cracks in the system.

Deportations of Mauritians -- which, prior to the Trump administration, had not occurred for an estimated 20 years -- began again and ramped up under the previous administration and are continuing under the Biden administration. These deportations are conducted via an agreement with the Mauritanian government to issue one-time passes for entry, called “laissez-passers.” These passes provide no recognition of Mauritanian citizenship or a right to reside or work in the country. Deported individuals have reported that they are arrested and [jailed](#) upon arrival in Mauritania.

Given these risks and life- and freedom-threatening conditions, TPS or DED for Mauritania is needed NOW to protect lives and keep families together.

### Stories:

- [Click here to listen](#) to an audio clip from a man recently deported to Mauritania.

### April 6 Events and Actions:

Event	Time	Details
<b>Social media action: Mauritania TPS and DED NOW!</b>	11 am ET - 12 pm ET	Join the Mauritania TPS Working Group in calling on the Biden administration to designate TPS or DED for Mauritania NOW by <a href="#">tweeting 6 times between 11 am ET and noon ET on April 6.</a>  <b>Please see sample tweets in the toolkit below.</b>
<b>Mauritanian Network for Human Rights and Ohio Immigrant Alliance webinar: “Your Story is My Story The U.S. Failed Black Mauritanian Refugees, But Solutions Exist to Help Them and Others Heal”</b>	12 pm ET -1:30 pm ET	<b>Link to register:</b> <a href="https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjclciopzluH9wyNDGnLXCGJ_TQxZU5ELV9">https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjclciopzluH9wyNDGnLXCGJ_TQxZU5ELV9</a>  <b>Facebook event:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/MNHRUSApril6">https://bit.ly/MNHRUSApril6</a>  On April 6, the Mauritanian Network for Human Rights in US (MNHRUS) invites you to learn how the U.S. “humanitarian protection” system failed Black Mauritians--in the 1990s and 2000s and again today--and what the U.S. must do so

		people can move forward and heal. Houleye Thiam, President of MNHRUS, will moderate.
<b>Call on the White House to establish a dedicated Task Force for Black Immigrants!</b>	3 pm ET - 4 pm ET	<p><b>Click here to call on the White House!:</b> <a href="https://p2a.co/kLq2c90">https://p2a.co/kLq2c90</a></p> <p><b>Sample tweet to share campaign widely!:</b> To meaningfully address systemic racism in America - as the <a href="#">#Biden</a> admin has pledged - immigration must be included. A dedicated Task Force and resources are needed. Call on <a href="#">@POTUS</a> to establish a Task Force on Black immigrants now:  <a href="https://p2a.co/kLq2c90">https://p2a.co/kLq2c90</a>  <a href="#">#Act4BlackImms</a></p>
<b>Support the <a href="#">Mauritanian Network for Human Rights in the U.S.</a> and other Black-led immigrant advocacy orgs!</b>	4 pm ET to 5 pm ET	<p><b>Action:</b> Give a like on Twitter, make a donation, or whatever else you can do to directly support Black immigrant-led organizations! See a list of organizations below in this toolkit in “Organizations to Support and Follow.”</p> <p><b>Sample tweet:</b> I just donated to <a href="#">[insert organization’s handle]</a> for their leadership and tireless work fighting for the rights of Black immigrants! Join me!  <a href="#">#MauritaniaTPSNow</a>  <a href="#">#Act4BlackImms</a></p>
<b>Congressional briefing</b>	April 8, 12 pm ET	TBD

### Sample social media:

In [#Mauritania](#), slavery is real and ongoing yet deportations from the U.S. continue. The UN estimates 680,000 people are currently enslaved. [@POTUS](#) and [@SecMayorkas](#) - we are calling on you to immediately designate either [#TPS](#) or [#DED](#) for Mauritania to protect people from bondage.

In addition slavery, other human rights abuses, including state-sanctioned violence and torture, mass food insecurity, and compounding COVID-19 make safe return to [#Mauritania](#) impossible. [@POTUS](#) and [@SecMayorkas](#), we need [#TPS](#) or [#DED](#) NOW! Read more: <http://bit.ly/3vRI683>

The call for [#TPS](#) and [#DED](#) for Mauritania is supported by 165 organizations, including [\[INSERT YOUR ORG. HANDLE IF YOU JOINED THIS LETTER\]](#)! Read the letter here: <http://bit.ly/3f39x7D>

A man recently deported to [#Mauritania](#):

"Anybody who can hear me. I'm here in Mauritania..help me..help anybody like me..They have genocide here, they have slavery here. Every day you fear for your life."

LISTEN: <https://bit.ly/3tHwjpl>

[#TPS](#) and [#DED](#) for [#Mauritania](#) NOW!

A man recently deported to [#Mauritania](#):

"My oldest is 19, my son is 17, my daughter is 13 years old, my little baby daughter is 6 years old. They are American citizens. So why can this happen?"

LISTEN: <https://bit.ly/3tHwjpl>

We need [#TPS](#) and [#DED](#) for [#Mauritania](#) NOW!

[\[INSERT HANDLE FOR YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVE\]](#) - Hear the words of a man recently deported to [#Mauritania](#) and call on the [#Biden](#) admin to designate [#TPS](#) or [#DED](#) now! Lives hang in the balance!

LISTEN: <https://bit.ly/3tHwjpl>

[@POTUS](#) & [@SecMayorkas](#) - an immediate designation of [#TPS](#) or [#DED](#) is necessary to safeguard vulnerable [#Mauritanians](#) in the U.S. and send a clear message to the world that the U.S. condemns slavery and will not return people to conditions where they may be enslaved.

The [#Biden](#) admin has stated that a pillar of its foreign policy will be "championing...human rights."

Designating #TPS or #DED for #Mauritania NOW and protecting #BlackImmigrants from risk of slavery + human rights abuses is essential to meet that goal.

The #Biden admin has pledged to address anti-Black systemic racism yet deportations of Black Mauritians to slavery in #Mauritania are continuing!

@POTUS & @SecMayorkas - You must designate #TPS or #DED for Mauritania NOW!  
#Act4BlackImms

THREAD: Deportations of #Mauritians – which, prior to the Trump administration, had not occurred for an estimated 20 years – began again and ramped up under the previous administration and are continuing under the #Biden administration.

1/4

These deportations are conducted via an agreement with the Mauritanian government to issue one-time passes for entry, called “laissez-passers.” These passes provide no recognition of Mauritanian citizenship or a right to reside or work in the country.

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Deported individuals have reported that they are arrested and jailed upon arrival in Mauritania:  
<http://reut.rs/3scAaLd>

3/4

In #Mauritania, deportees face risk of enslavement, torture, hunger, and much more. @POTUS and @SecMayorkas must act NOW and designate #TPS and #DED to safeguard #Black Lives.

4/4

#TPS or #DED for #Mauritania is needed to stop the separation of Black families.

Hear the words of a father of 4 U.S. citizen children, recently deported to Mauritania:  
<https://bit.ly/3tHwjpl>

@POTUS & @SecMayorkas we call on you to designate #TPS and #DED for Mauritania NOW!

Land grabbing or land slavery in #Mauritania is an ongoing practice built on systemic racism. The human consequences are devastating, with Black Mauritians losing access to agriculture, their sole livelihoods, as well as the land of their ancestors. <https://bit.ly/3ficyRA>

Ongoing land grabbing in [#Mauritania](#) contributes to the lack of stability that makes safe return impossible and [#TPS](#) necessary. [@StateDept](#) should urge the Mauritanian government to protect and respect land rights and human rights! More here: <https://bit.ly/3ficyRA>

## Organizations to Support and Follow:

Organization	Website	Social Media
Mauritanian Network for Human Rights in the US	<a href="https://www.mauritaniannetwork.org/">https://www.mauritaniannetwork.org/</a>	@MauritanianFor
UndocuBlack Network	<a href="https://undocublack.org/">https://undocublack.org/</a>	@UndocuBlack
African Communities Together	<a href="https://africans.us/">https://africans.us/</a>	@AfricansUS
Haitian Bridge Alliance	<a href="https://haitianbridge.org/">https://haitianbridge.org/</a>	@HaitianBridge
Black Immigrant Collective	<a href="https://blackimmigrantcollective.org/">https://blackimmigrantcollective.org/</a>	@mnbtweets
Black Alliance for Just Immigration	<a href="https://baji.org/">https://baji.org/</a>	@BAJItweet
Ohio Immigrant Alliance	<a href="https://ohioimmigrant.org/">https://ohioimmigrant.org/</a>	@tramontela

## Resources:

- [NGO letter calling for TPS and DED for Mauritania](#)
- [Backgrounder: Slavery and Land Grabbing in Mauritania](#)
- [USCRI Backgrounder: Mauritania](#)