

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 4, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Secretary Noem and Secretary Rubio,

We write to express deep concern regarding this administration's recent termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Burma.<sup>1</sup> Currently, it is estimated that over 4,000 Burmese citizens reside in the U.S. with TPS, relying on this legal designation as a lifeline to support their families, contribute to the economy, and avoid return to a country plagued by civil unrest, violence, corruption, and instability. Accordingly, we urge the administration to immediately reverse its decision to end TPS for Burma and instead redesignate status for the thousands of Burmese nationals currently living and working in the U.S. lawfully.

As you know, in February 2021, a military junta in Burma seized power from a democratically elected government, thrusting the country into a civil war, political upheaval, and dire humanitarian conditions. Four years later, ethnic groups and pro-democracy coalitions continue to clash with the junta in efforts to fight back against military rule, and as such, the conditions in Burma continue to deteriorate. As recently as last month, a United Nations independent council that investigates crimes in Burma warned that "the frequency and severity of international crimes" continues to escalate.<sup>2</sup> This includes abuses during military detention, attacks on hospitals, places of worship, and schools, and civilian starvation as a result of continued conflict. Additionally, a 2024 report by the U.S. Department of State concluded similar findings of abuses, including disappearances, unlawful killings, forced labor, and illegal recruitment of children, among others.<sup>3</sup>

Further compounding an already devastating humanitarian crisis, earthquakes hit central Burma in March of this year, leaving roughly 200,000 people homeless. Following the natural disaster, military forces reportedly blocked humanitarian aid, threatened relief workers, and capitalized on

<sup>1</sup> Federal Register, CIS No. 2839-25. "Termination of Designation of Burma (Myanmar) for Temporary Protected Status." Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. November 24, 2025.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations News. *Myanmar at a Crossroads: A Choice Between Impunity and Justice*. October 29, 2025. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/10/1166221>

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State, *2024 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Burma*. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/burma>

the already delicate situation to conduct civilian airstrikes, leaving more than half of western Rakhine state families unable to meet basic needs.<sup>4</sup> In addition to an estimated 21.5 million Burmese citizens in need of humanitarian assistance such as food, shelter, sanitation, and water, the United Nations projects that 3.5 million individuals are internally displaced.<sup>5</sup>

Since 1990, the law has allowed foreign nationals from countries with severe civil unrest, violence, or natural disasters to remain in the country legally under TPS. Just weeks after the military takeover in February 2021, the federal government designated TPS for Burma and renewed the status for individuals in the U.S. twice thereafter due to worsening conditions in the country.<sup>6</sup> This lifesaving designation has allowed an estimated 4,000 Burmese individuals to remain in the U.S. safely and lawfully, protected from forced return to a country wrought with life-threatening conditions.

As evidenced above, this humanitarian crisis has not changed despite the administration's cancellation of TPS, making Burma unsafe for return. As a result, 4,000 Burmese nationals living in the U.S. and covered by TPS will face deportation on January 26, 2026, back to a country that they likely will no longer recognize, and where they will have little to no quality of life. Further, this administration's justification for TPS cancellation is purely based on speculation that conditions in the country may improve. In its recent decision, DHS cited the end of a state of emergency, a "timeline" for elections, and a "credible" ceasefire agreement as promises for Burma's future, with a total disregard for the current devastating humanitarian conditions on the ground.<sup>7</sup>

In communities across the U.S., Burmese nationals with TPS contribute to their local economies, start businesses, and raise families, working towards a future they could not currently sustain safely in their home country. From Western New York to Indianapolis, regions with thriving Burmese communities risk being upended should this administration continue with its cancellation of TPS. Accordingly, we urge the Trump administration to immediately reverse the cancellation of TPS for Burmese nationals and redesignate status in line with continued conflict and humanitarian devastation in Burma.

Sincerely,

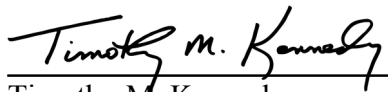
---

4 Ibid.

5 European Commission, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations: Myanmar/Burma. [https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/where/asia-and-pacific/myanmarburma\\_en](https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/where/asia-and-pacific/myanmarburma_en)

6 Department of Homeland Security. *Secretary Mayorkas Designates Burma for Temporary Protected Status*. March 21, 2021. <https://www.dhs.gov/archive/news/2021/03/12/secretary-mayorkas-designates-burma-temporary-protected-status>

7 Federal Register, CIS No. 2839-25. "Termination of Designation of Burma (Myanmar) for Temporary Protected Status." Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. November 24, 2025.



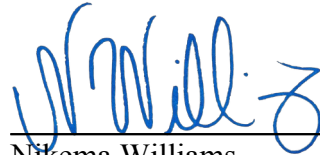
---

Timothy M. Kennedy  
Member of Congress



---

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



---

Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



---

Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress




---

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



---

Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



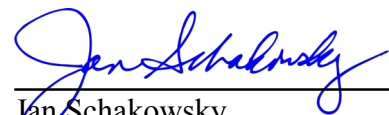
---

Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



---

Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



---

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



---

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



---

Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

*James P. McGovern*

---

James P. McGovern

Member of Congress