

September 21, 2026

The Honorable Shisir Khanal
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Government of Nepal
Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

RE: Urgent Request for a New TPS Designation to Support Nepali Nationals in the U.S. Following the August 26, 2026 Catastrophe

Dear Honorable Minister Shishir Khanal:

On behalf of United for TPS Nepal (UTPSN) and Asian American Advancing Justice Southern California (AJSOCAL), we respectfully request your immediate leadership and advocacy to support a new Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Nepali nationals in the U.S. following the August 26, 2026, catastrophe. UTPSN is a community-led national organization that works to protect and maintain Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Nepali nationals while advocating for permanent relief through community mobilization, policy engagement, and public education. AJSOCAL is a social justice organization that protects and strengthens the rights and dignity of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, especially those that are most disadvantaged.

We come together to ask for a new TPS designation for Nepal to protect community members from deportation to disaster zones where families, livelihoods, and communities may no longer exist. Nepali nationals who receive TPS can also be relied upon to send remittances home, which are historically pivotal in successful recovery efforts following natural disasters.

THE DESTRUCTION IN NEPAL WARRANTS A NEW TPS DESIGNATION

On August 26, 2026, catastrophic flooding and mudflows throughout the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli river systems swept away villages, destroyed homes, severed transportation routes,

and isolated entire communities. Thousands of individuals are missing, dead, and injured with approximately 93,000 people urgently requiring aid, according to the International Red Cross.¹ This is compounded by ongoing concerns of additional flooding, which could further impact affected areas, disrupting rescue operations and the distribution of aid due to the loss of access routes.^{2,3} The scale of this natural disaster and subsequent humanitarian crisis is immense.

These conditions support a TPS designation under INA § 244(b)(1)(C), 8 U.S.C. §1254a(b)(1)(C), which authorizes TPS where extraordinary and temporary conditions prevent a country's nationals from returning in safety.⁴ The widespread destruction of housing, transportation infrastructure, and community support systems, combined with ongoing emergency-response operations, unresolved missing-person cases, and severe population displacement demonstrates that current conditions prevent affected Nepali nationals from safely returning.

NEPALI NATIONALS IN THE U.S. PROVIDE CRUCIAL AID

For Nepali nationals living in the U.S, including thousands of former TPS beneficiaries, this catastrophe has produced immediate humanitarian hardship. Families are searching for missing loved ones, attempting to determine whether homes and villages still exist, and providing financial support to relatives struggling to survive in disaster-affected areas. Deporting individuals to regions where housing is destroyed, communities are displaced, and essential services remain disrupted would exacerbate human suffering and significantly hinder recovery efforts.

Moreover, Nepali nationals in the U.S. are playing a critical role in Nepal's recovery through remittances and direct family assistance. Nepal is one of the most remittance-dependent countries in the world, with about 26% of its overall GDP represented by remittance.⁵ These resources help provide food, shelter, healthcare, education, and support for affected families. Supporting the ability of Nepali nationals in the U.S. to work lawfully would strengthen both family stability at home and recovery efforts abroad.

¹ <https://go-api.ifrc.org/api/DownloadFile/96511/MDRNP022EA>

² <https://www.timesnownews.com/world/asia/nepal-halts-rescue-operations-amid-reports-of-dam-burst-in-tibet-alert-issued-article-155999742>

³ <https://kathmandupost.com/province-no-3/2026/09/07/people-in-flood-hit-rasuwa-villages-call-for-help-after-supplies-run-out>

⁴ <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2024-title8/pdf/USCODE-2024-title8-chap12-subchapII-partV-sec1254a.pdf>

⁵ <https://thehimalayantimes.com/opinion/domestic-and-foreign-remittances-in-nepal-contributions-disruptions-and-policy-implications>

A new TPS designation could benefit an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 individuals. In 2025, UTPSN surveyed some of these Nepali nationals residing in the U.S. and found that nearly half have lived in the country for over 16 years, more than 28% are homeowners, and many operate businesses or work in vital sectors.⁶ These individuals are deeply integrated into American communities and contribute significantly to the nation's economy and civic life.

TPS FOR NEPAL IS APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY

A new TPS designation would not create a new immigration pathway or confer permanent immigration status. Rather, it would provide temporary humanitarian protection while Nepal continues to recover from an unprecedented natural disaster and while conditions remain unsafe for return.

Following the devastating 2015 earthquake, Dr. Arjun Karki, the then Ambassador of Nepal, requested TPS designation on May 12, 2025.⁷ The Nepali government, working with then President Barak Obama, with the support of Congress, successfully obtained TPS for Nepal the next month. Over the course of the following 10 years, Nepali TPS holders in the U.S. sent increasing funds to families in Nepal to support reconstruction and recovery efforts. In the final year of this TPS designation, Nepal received \$16.19 billion, an increase by 28.1% from the previous year. While these figures represent remittances from around the world and cannot be attributed specifically to TPS holders in the U.S., this recent history is evidence of the generosity and support Nepali TPS holders provide communities at home.

As a critical source of financial support and aid, TPS designation will allow remittances to flow to impacted areas and facilitate recovery efforts once again. Accordingly, AJSOCAL and UTPSN respectfully request the Nepali government support current bipartisan Congressional efforts to create a new TPS designation for Nepal and engage the U.S. government to assure TPS designation be instated as soon as possible.

Nepal's current circumstances represent precisely the type of humanitarian emergency for which TPS was intended. The combination of mass displacement, loss of life, infrastructure destruction, disrupted essential services, and ongoing emergency conditions warrants immediate consideration of both a new TPS designation and interim humanitarian relief.

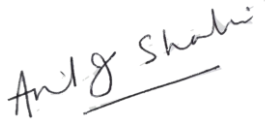
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https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mBPNPVtNKsQPEzKDmAGLaMIOkEgs5ytMib0AfgY3cm8/edit?usp=s_haring

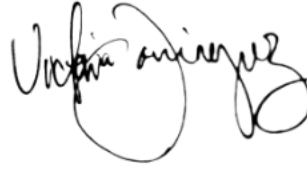
⁷ https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/foia/TPS_Nepal_-_Paudel.pdf

We appreciate your consideration of this urgent request and stand ready to provide additional information, community testimony, or further engagement.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anil Shahi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Anil Shahi
Founding Coordinator
United for TPS Nepal (UTPSN)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria Dominguez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "V" and "D".

Victoria "Nikki" Dominguez
Managing Director, Policy
*Asian Americans Advancing Justice
Southern California (AJSOCAL)*