

Deferred Enforced Departure for Liberia Fact Sheet

What is DED?

Deferred Enforcement Departure or DED is a discretionary decision made by the President to protect a class of individuals within the United States. Many Liberians have been between TPS or other DED status and so have been present and protected and had work authorization here in the U.S. since 1991. The latest iteration of DED has been extended for over the last decade by Presidents Bush and Obama.

Impact of DED expiration on Liberian immigrants

On March 27, 2018, President Trump announced the termination of DED for Liberians effective March 31, 2019. Liberians with DED had previously been on TPS waiting in limbo for a longer permanent solution. It is at the discretion of the President and/or the power of Congress to reinstate DED or create a pathway to residency for Liberians. Without this intervention, individuals who do not qualify for another type of immigration status will lose their DED and work authorization.

Many Liberian Americans have gone to school, have developed careers and have families in the United States. They risk losing all this; and either being deported to a country they have not been in decades, or living as undocumented Americans.

Impact of Liberian DED expiration on the United States

- Our country is strongest and safest when families are kept together
- These immigrants are contributors to the economy and culture of cities and towns across the US, many of them having lived here over twenty-five years. They work in the healthcare industry, own homes, have children in our schools, patronize our restaurants and create art and music that enriches Minnesota.
- Liberian immigrants contribute to a cross-sector of American industries including education and healthcare

Liberia Today and why Liberians on DED need reprieve

- Recovering and rebuilding from the several Liberian civil wars- the country is still developing basic infrastructure like healthcare, banking, housing, education, security and food systems.
- The 2014 Ebola crisis which claimed the lives of over 11,000 people, has had a devastating long term impact on the fragile healthcare system. Studies are showing that some of the indirect repercussions include: loss of access to basic healthcare needs like Malaria and prenatal care for women.
- High unemployment rates, as well as electricity outages and food and water shortages, make the conditions for American Liberians difficult to adjust.

Redesignating DED and creating a path to citizenship for Liberian nationals who have lived in this country for decades is the ethical thing to do. Immediately, we need the White House to reinstate DED for Liberians. We encourage the co-sponsoring of H.R. 6 - Dream and Promise Act of 2019