



## Fact Sheet: Deferred Enforced Departure (DED)

### What is Deferred Enforced Departure?

**A form of relief from removal.** Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) (formerly [Extended Voluntary Departure](#)) allows certain individuals from designated countries and regions facing political or civic conflict or natural disaster to [stay](#) in the United States.

DED is a temporary immigration benefit. It provides an administrative [stay](#) of removal designated for specific period of time.

### Which countries are currently designated for DED?

**Only Liberia.** Liberia is the [only country](#) currently designated for DED. President George W. Bush [granted](#) DED to about [10,000 Liberians](#) in the U.S. after their TPS expired in 2007. Liberia's DED designation had been extended until March 27, 2018 when President Trump issued a [memorandum](#) directing DHS to start a 12-month wind-down period of the program that was set to expire on March 31, 2019. However, on March 28, 2019, President Trump issued a [new memo](#), extending the wind-down period for an additional 12 months, due to concerns over the overall situation in West Africa. The memo set a new termination date of March 31, 2020, after which all Liberian DED holders will have to leave the U.S.

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) enacted on December 20, 2019 includes a provision, Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness, making certain Liberians eligible for lawful permanent resident status (green cards). Liberian DED holders could apply for permanent resident status through this law so they will no longer need to depend on extensions of DED to be able to stay in the U.S.

The Act also [requires](#) that Liberian nationals must 1) have been [continuously physically present](#) and 2) otherwise be eligible and admissible for permanent residence. The applicant's spouse, minor children, and unmarried adult children are also eligible.

An applicant must apply through USCIS no later than December 20, 2020. Applicants can apply for work authorization while their applications are being processed, and USCIS must approve any work authorization application pending for more than 180 days. If granted lawful permanent resident status, it would be post-dated as of the date of arrival in the United States allowing those years on a different status to count toward the five years needed on permanent resident status before applying for citizenship.

### How many Liberians currently hold DED?

**Unclear but likely ranges from 840 to 3,600.** While the actual number of Liberian DED holders is [unclear](#), there were about [840](#) Liberian nationals with approved employment authorization under the DED directive in March 2018. This number, however, does not include all Liberians with DED as some of them may not have applied for work permits. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) [estimates](#) about 3,600 Liberians were TPS holders at the time

DHS terminated their status in 2007. Only Liberians who held TPS before its termination are [eligible](#) for DED.

### **Who designates countries for DED?**

**The President.** The President of the United States has the [discretion](#) to designate countries or regions for DED as part of the president's power to conduct foreign relations. The president generally grants DED, which has no [statutory basis](#), by issuing a presidential directive through an executive order or presidential memorandum.

### **Who is eligible for DED?**

**Individuals meeting the criteria in the president's directive.** Eligibility criteria for DED are [country or region-specific](#) areas set forth in the president's directive together with any additional requirements issued by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The eligibility criteria typically [include](#) demonstration of continuous presence in the U.S. since a specific date.

### **How long do individuals generally receive DED?**

**It depends on each country's or region's designation.** The president establishes the initial time frame for DED and may decide to [extend](#) the protection before its expiration date.

### **Are DED holders allowed to work?**

**Yes.** The president's directive can provide individuals, eligible for DED, work authorization.

### **Can DED holders travel abroad?**

**Not without advance parole.** While the presidential directive may include travel authorization, currently DED holders [must file and be approved](#) for advance parole if they want to travel abroad. Advance parole is a travel document that allows individuals who do not have a visa to be readmitted to the U.S. after travelling abroad during a specific approved time period.

### **Does DED differ from Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and deferred action?**

**Yes.** The following table summarizes the differences between DED, TPS and deferred action:

	<b>DED</b>	<b><a href="#">TPS</a></b>	<b><a href="#">Deferred Action</a></b>
<b>Type of relief</b>	Protection from deportation.	Temporary immigration benefit.	Protection from deportation.
<b>Permanency</b>	Not permanent. Designated for specific timeframe.	Not permanent. Designated for specific timeframe.	Not permanent. Designated for specific timeframe.
<b>Designation</b>	By U.S. President.	By DHS Secretary.	By DHS.
<b>Consultation with Secretary of State</b>	Not required.	Required.	Not required.
<b>Eligibility</b>	Country or region-specific.	Country-specific.	On individual case-by-case basis or for specified population categories.

<b>Expiration</b>	Country or region-specific with option for extension.	Country-specific with option for extension.	On case-by-case basis usually with option for extension.
<b>Work authorization</b>	Yes, with limited expiration date and option for renewal if DED is extended.	Yes, with limited expiration date and option for renewal if TPS is extended.	Yes, with limited expiration date and option for renewal if Deferred Action is extended.
<b>Travel abroad</b>	Not automatically allowed and only with advance parole.	Not automatically allowed and only with advance parole	Not automatically allowed and only with advance parole.

**Which other countries or regions were previously granted DED?**

**China, Persian Gulf, El Salvador and Haiti.** DED was [first granted](#) in 1990 and has been granted [five times](#) to provide an administrative stay of removal for certain individuals from China, the Persian Gulf, El Salvador, Haiti and Liberia.