

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 4/15/22

Contact: Adriana Rivera adriana@flic.org 786-340-8006



The Florida Immigrant Coalition Rejoices at the Designation of TPS for Cameroon and Demands an Egalitarian Approach to Protections

FLORIDA — After a long wait and countless appeals from the Cameroonian community and activists, Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have finally announced Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Cameroon. Close to 40,000 Cameroonian nationals are eligible to apply for this life-saving protection. The designation will go into effect after publication in the federal registry. Community and activists scored a win after months of pressure on the administration to extend the humanitarian protection to Cameroon, especially after TPS was swiftly approved for Ukrainians last month.

The TPS extension will allow individuals to live without fear of deportation or being separated from their families for the next eighteen months. FLIC still calls for a new TPS designation for Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador, who are still reeling from the effects of Hurricane Eta and Iota.

Tessa Petit, Co-Executive Director says:

“This is a win for Cameroonians and allies who have been pushing for months for these protections. We are relieved that DHS has finally granted TPS to Black migrants, who like their white counterparts, are fleeing from armed conflict and crisis and also deserve to be protected. Horrifying human rights violations like kidnapping, rape, torture, extrajudicial killings, and the burning of schools, infrastructure, even entire villages have become commonplace in Cameroon. The Biden administration needs to apply an egalitarian approach to protections for migrants no matter where they come from. We will continue to call on the same protections for refugees from

Central American and African countries. No matter what nationality, race, gender or religious ideology, every single human being has a fundamental right to live.”

Yareliz Mendez-Zamora, Federal Campaign Lead states:

“This decision allows us to breathe easier today knowing that over 40,000 Cameroonians will be safe from deportations to a country that is suffering from multiple humanitarian crises involving terrorist group Boko Haram, government forces, and armed non-state groups which has resulted in widespread violence and human rights violations. These conflicts, coupled with a shortage of essentials such as food, water, healthcare, and housing have made the safe return for Cameroonian nationals impossible. The Florida Immigrant Coalition applauds today’s announcement to provide temporary protections to refugees from Cameroon and will continue to push the Biden administration to deliver what we know he can, protections for the most vulnerable among us.”

###