

From: CIS Ombudsman <CIS.ombudsman@messages.dhs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 3:03 PM
To:
Subject: Reinstatement of Deferred Enforced Departure for Liberians

February 4, 2021



Homeland Security

Reinstatement of Deferred Enforced Departure for Liberians

Dear Stakeholder,

[The Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman](#) (CIS Ombudsman) is sending this message to inform you that on January 20, 2021, President Joseph Biden issued a [Memorandum to the Secretary of State and Secretary of Homeland Security](#) to reinstate Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) and employment authorization through June 30, 2022, for eligible Liberians and certain other individuals without nationality who had DED as of January 10, 2021.

On January 25, 2021, USCIS announced that it “will publish a Federal Register notice as soon as possible to implement the President’s memorandum, including the continuation of appropriate employment authorization documents.” This action will allow DED-covered Liberians to maintain work authorization while they apply to adjust

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status under the Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness (LRIF) law.

Background

Since 1991, the U.S. government has designated Liberia for either Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or DED due to ongoing in-country civil unrest, as well as the Ebola epidemic. On December 20, 2019, Congress enacted the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, establishing the LRIF provision. LRIF created a pathway to apply for lawful permanent resident status for certain Liberian nationals and their spouses, unmarried children under 21 years old, and unmarried sons and daughters 21 years old or older living in the United States who meet the eligibility requirements.

On December 27, 2020, Congress passed, and the Former President signed into law, an extension of this provision for one additional year. However, the legislation did not provide for continued employment authorization past January 10, 2021. On January 20, 2021, President Biden issued a Memorandum to the Acting Secretary of Homeland Security extending DED and employment authorization through June 30, 2022 for eligible individuals who had Liberian DED and certain other individuals without nationality who had DED as of January 10, 2021.

More Information

For additional details and USCIS guidance on how to file for lawful permanent resident status under the LRIF provision, please see the USCIS [LRIF webpage](#).

The CIS Ombudsman will continue to work on requests for case assistance regarding LRIF and will share further updates on this topic as appropriate.

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