



**Office of the New York State
Attorney General**

**Letitia James
Attorney General**

November 14, 2025

Hon. Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave SE
Washington, DC 20528-0525

Dear Secretary Noem:

We write on behalf of the State of New York to urge the Department of Homeland Security to designate Jamaica for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in light of the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa.

Hurricane Melissa's impact on Jamaica was catastrophic. Melissa was the third-most intense Atlantic hurricane on record, and on October 28, 2025, it hit Jamaica at its peak as a Category Five hurricane. Dozens of Jamaicans were killed, and others remain missing. The storm displaced tens of thousands of Jamaican households and caused widespread damage to the country's infrastructure, including its water, transportation, and power systems. Recovery will likely take months, if not years.

Congress has given the Executive Branch the power to grant humanitarian relief under circumstances such as these. Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, the federal government may grant TPS to Jamaicans presently in the United States where, as here, "extraordinary and temporary conditions" in Jamaica prevent its citizens from safely returning. 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b)(1)(C). TPS is a critical humanitarian tool to ensure that our nation's immigration policy remains consistent with our long history of providing safe haven to those who flee armed conflict, natural disasters, and repressive conditions.

In this moment, it is incumbent upon the United States to honor our humanitarian commitments. We implore the administration to grant TPS for Jamaica without further delay.

Sincerely,

Letitia James