

# **September 24, 2018**

#### VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

U. S. Department of State
Office of Information Programs and Services
A/GIS/IPS/RL
SA-2, Suite 8100
Washington, D. C. 20522-0208

# Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Sir or Madam:

Handley and Anderson PLLC ("Handley & Anderson") submits this letter on behalf of the New York Immigration Coalition ("NYIC") and Adhikaar as a request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552, et. seq.

#### I. RECORDS SOUGHT

We request any and all records<sup>1</sup> issued by the Department of State ("DOS") from January 1, 2018 to the present, falling into the following categories:

- (i) Relating to any recommendation made by any employee of the DOS for the extension or re-designation of Temporary Protected Status ("TPS") for nationals of Nepal since January 1, 2018.
- (ii) Relating to any recommendations made by any employee of DOS for the termination of TPS for nationals of Nepal since January 1, 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The term "records" as used herein includes all records or communications preserved in electronic or written form, including but not limited to correspondence, documents, data, videotapes, audiotapes, e-mails, faxes, files, guidance, guidelines, evaluations, instructions, analyses, memoranda, agreements, notes, orders, policies, procedures, protocols, reports, rules, manuals, technical specifications, training manuals, and studies.

- (iii) Relating to correspondence and/or communications between any employee of DOS and any employee of US Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS") and/or Immigration Customs Enforcement ("ICE") regarding TPS for nationals of Nepal since January 1, 2018.
- (iv) Relating to any recommendation made by any persons tasked with developing TPS policy or directives from the White House to any employees of DOS regarding the termination of TPS for nationals of Nepal since January 1, 2018.
- (v) Relating to correspondence and/or communications between any employees of DOS and any White House personnel regarding TPS for nationals of Nepal since January 1, 2018.
- (vi) Relating to correspondence and/or communications from President Trump's Cabinet to any employee of DOS regarding TPS for nationals of Nepal since January 1, 2018.
- (vii) Relating to correspondence and/or communications from Department of Justice (DOJ) officials to any employee of DOS regarding TPS for nationals of Nepal since January 1, 2018.
- (viii) Pertaining to current country conditions of Nepal, including but not limited to those complied by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) since November 1, 2017.

We agree to the redaction of any information that would disclose confidential information protected under FOIA. For any information considered exempt under the applicable law, we request that you provide a description of the nature of the information withheld, the specific exemption or privilege upon which the information is withheld, and whether the portions of withheld documents containing non-exempt or non-privileged information have been provided.

### II. REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF ALL COSTS

When determining the assessment of any fees, please note that Handley & Anderson is requesting this information in its *pro bono* representation of NYIC and Adhikaar, which are not-for-profit organizations that represent individuals in immigration matters. Their activities, including this FOIA request, serve the public interest and the information requested will not be used for any commercial purpose. Accordingly, a waiver of any fees and/or costs associated with gathering the above information is requested pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). If a waiver is not approved, please contact me with the total costs and/or fees before providing the requested documents.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Matthew Handley

Handley & Anderson PLLC