

LOCAL

# After June SCOTUS ruling, Norwich groups help Haitians plan next steps



**Matt Grahn**Norwich Bulletin

July 2, 2026, 5:10 a.m. ET

The Norwich community is responding to the end of Temporary Protected Status for Haitians. Local organizations are advising affected individuals to consult attorneys and prepare emergency "Red Folders."

Norwich is home to 4,000 Haitians, and community leaders report widespread pressure and an increased need for services.

Advocates encourage the public to support the immigrant community through donations, contacting officials, and working with existing aid groups.

As the federal government moves to end Temporary Protected Status for Haitians, local organizations and community leaders in Norwich are working to help residents understand what comes next.

[Jewish Family Services of Norwich](#) held an event to inform the Haitian community on how to respond on July 1. Leaders from Norwich's Haitian community, elected officials and local non-profits, like [New London Immigrant Defense](#) and the [Rose City Learning Center](#), shared information on what can be done.

The [Supreme Court](#) ruled June 25 that President [Donald Trump](#) can immediately end [deportation protections](#) for Haitians and Syrians. Immigrants who've lost the deportation protections are now at risk of being deported, [USA Today reported on June 25](#).



## What should someone losing Temporary Protected Status do?

Someone who has lost or is at risk of losing temporary protected status should talk to an attorney to see what resources are available to them, Margaret Rodriguez, JFS staff attorney, said.

People at risk need to double check what their status is and make a list with all the things they need to do in the event of deportation, like having a lawyer ready and figuring out who will take care of family members, Greg Aurelian, president of the Haitian Community Center of Norwich, said.

People should also prepare a Red Folder. This should include information like immigration documents, family information, passwords, and more. The folder should be kept by someone who can be trusted, and ideally be used by an attorney to help get the individual out from ICE custody.

“It makes sure your kids are safe, your assets are protected; you’re prepared in case you are detained,” she said.

Anyone in or around Norwich looking for more information should contact JFS as soon as possible. JFS can help or connect individuals with other resources, Rodriguez said.

If they are affected by the loss of TPS, they need to keep a low profile and only go out when necessary, Aurelian said.

“Why do you have to hang out in the street now with your friends? What is the purpose of doing that?” he said.

## What’s happening in Norwich?

Norwich is home to 4,000 Haitians, which is about a tenth of the city’s population. The TPS loss has a wide impact, from individuals themselves, to their families and local institutions like the schools and businesses, Enoch Petit-Homme, a community advocate, said.

“The whole community is feeling the pressure,” he said.

JFS has received plenty of questions from the community, and expects an increased need from clients soon, Rodriguez said.

Aurelian has also noticed increased need for services, he said.

## How the June 25 ruling affects the immigrant community as a whole

While the June 25 ruling concerns the protected status for Haitians and Syrians, there are still concerns that this will become an issue for other immigrant groups, as cases concerning their statuses are still being decided upon by the Supreme Court, Rodriguez said.

“There are still lawsuits about different country’s TPS designations that are continuing, but given this designation from the court, which says that most TPS designations are not reviewable by the courts anymore, we expect those to be terminated,” she said.

## Helping the immigrant community

For someone who wants to support the immigrant community, Rodriguez recommends working with other groups already doing this work, from court accompaniment programs to donating to food banks, Rodriguez said.

Aurelian encourages others to help the immigrant community through donations, talking to elected officials, and protesting. Now is the time to focus on humanity and understanding other people’s causes, he said.

“It’s not the time to say, 'Oh, it’s not my problem,'" Aurelian said. “No, it will be at some point.”