**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 26, 2019

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**Undocumented Youth Begin 16-Day March to Highlight Urgency of DACA and TPS Impending Termination**

*Upcoming Court Cases on DACA and TPS Will Decide the Futures of Over 1 Million Undocumented Immigrants*

New York, NY (October 26, 2019)—Today, hundreds of community members from across the country and allies gathered at Battery Park, with the Statue of Liberty as their background, to launch a 16-day march to Washington, D.C. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, and allies will walk 230 miles to continue building national support and awareness as the U.S. Supreme Court is set to hear oral arguments on Trump’s unlawful termination of the DACA policy.

At the kick-off rally and march launch, immigrant youth shared that over the past seven years, they have been able to work, attend school, and remain with their families. If DACA ends, it can have devastating effects on hundreds of thousands of DACA recipients, their families, communities and the economy.

The #HomeIsHere March for DACA and TPS—led by CASA, CHIRLA, FIRM, Make the Road New York, NAKASEC, the New York Immigration Coalition, and the Home Is Here Campaign—will make stops throughout Philadelphia, Baltimore and ending at U.S. Supreme Court on November 12th. On that day, hundreds more will gather outside as oral arguments are heard inside, determining the fate of more than 700,000 undocumented youth.

The young undocumented leaders are also marching to defend TPS. Court proceedings for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program have already commenced and a decision from the appellate courts is projected to come out this month, impacting 300,000 TPS recipients. Including the over 700,000 undocumented immigrants at stake of losing DACA, these court cases will determine the futures of one million undocumented immigrants.

A decision from the Supreme Court on DACA is expected between January and June 2020.

**Martin Batalla-Vidal, lead plaintiff in the *Batalla Vidal v. McAleenan* lawsuit to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, and member of Make the Road New York, co-organizer of the #HomeIsHere March:** “DACA has transformed the lives of hundreds of thousands of immigrant youth for the past seven years. We have been able to go to school, work and remain with our loved ones in the United States. The Trump administration's cruel and unlawful termination of DACA has caused chaos and uncertainty and put our lives at stake. But, now more than ever, we’re raising our voices, marching to the Washington D.C. and louding saying: immigrants are here to stay because home is here.”

**Esther, DACAmented leader with NAKASEC and co-organizer of the #HomeIsHere March, expressed:** “For the 11 million undocumented immigrants who live in the United States today, this country is our home. Ending DACA and TPS will take away what few protections from deportation members of our community have been able to win through decades of organizing and fighting. We've won before, and we're ready to win again. We demand that the courts rule on the right side of history to defend DACA and TPS, and that Congress pass a pathway to citizenship for all 11 million undocumented immigrants!”

**Anil J. Shahi, TPS holder from Nepal from Adhikaar, said:** "If you want to be true to real American values, the values that are sacred to American foundation and are enshrined in this country’s constitution, you would not settle for anything less than just, equitable and humanitarian solution to this problem. And that just, equitable, and humanitarian solution is permanent residency for TPS, DED holders and DACA recipients. All of us deserve to stay in this country. And not just live and exist, but thrive and flourish!"

"There is nothing temporary about the homes and communities we've built here,” said **Lawrence Bureh, Sierra Leonian TPS holder from African Communities Together,** said. “We've put down roots here, we've started families here, we've built careers here, we've lived here, we've dreamed here, and we hope for the chance to continue doing so!"

**Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez said:** “I am so proud to join these young people who are gathering today to say with one voice, ‘Home is here!’ We stand with them, are inspired by their valor and patriotism and will continue fighting alongside them for compassionate immigration policies.”

**Congresswoman Grace Meng said:** "To all the dreamers and TPS recipients, I want you to know that you are not alone in your fight. I stand with you, and will not rest until a permanent resolution is reached," said U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY). "To those who are making the march to Washington, I salute and commend your selfless dedication and commitment. I thank you for standing up for all who are affected by DACA and TPS, and I wish you a safe trip. The U.S. has always been a nation of immigrants, and as the daughter of immigrants, I will never back down from fighting for our immigrant communities."

**Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, said:** “This Administration has attacked the hard-working immigrants in our community in Brooklyn, in our state and throughout our nation. I value the contributions of the immigrant community to our economy and to our culture. As the daughter of immigrants, it is so important to me that we stand up and serve as the voice for the voiceless. I am hard at work to hold this Administration accountable for the atrocities it is responsible for at our Southern border.”

Immigrants are an essential part of our communities, and they are critical to building a future America that is strong, united, and economically and socially vibrant, **said House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)**. “Once people lay down such deep roots in this country, it would be cruel to remove them from their communities, and from the lives and businesses they have built over the course of decades. But the Trump administration has consistently and viciously attempted to do just that. We must not back down from this fight to preserve DACA and TPS and ensure that immigrants always have a home in this country.”

“The history of our nation is inextricably tied to our immigrant communities, and so too must be our future,” said **Attorney General Letitia James**. “DACA and TPS have provided countless individuals with hope and opportunity, while shielding them from the threat of sudden deportation. These programs are vital to our communities and I will fight tirelessly to protect them and all those who call this country home.”

“We have come together with a shared message—the hundreds of thousands of DACA and TPS recipients that call our cities and country home make our economies and communities stronger and safer. They deserve the opportunity to live free from fear,” **said Bitta Mostofi, Commissioner of the NYC Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs.** “Cities have also joined together through amicus to urge the Supreme Court to uphold federal rulings and prevent the harms that would befall our cities, families, and communities. We encourage all DACA and TPS recipients to seek legal help and consider their renewal options. New York City DACA and TPS recipients can call 311 and say ‘ActionNYC’ for City-funded, free and safe immigration legal help.”

“We stand in solidarity with DACA recipients and other tireless advocates nationwide, who are urging the Supreme Court, the Trump administration and the U.S. Congress to do what’s right,” **said Thomas Yu and Jennifer Sun, Co Executive Directors of Asian Americans for Equality.** “DACA must be defended, and our government must commit to a permanent solution which puts our undocumented youth on a path to citizenship. As they march to Washington, America’s Dreamers will be carrying with them the hopes and dreams of millions of hard-working immigrants and the fundamental American values of inclusion and compassion.”

**Jo-Ann Yoo, Executive Director of Asian American Federation, expressed:** “The Asian American Federation stands in solidarity with DACA and TPS recipients embarking on this incredible march from the Statue of Liberty to our nation's capitol. DREAMers not only call this country home; they embody our country's values of freedom and resilience more than anyone. We also stand with the recipients of Temporary Protected Status, who reside here for humanitarian reasons. We are committed to continuing the fight for just immigration policies, and the protection of our most vulnerable neighbors both at home and abroad.”

**Annie J. Wang, Director of the Immigrant Justice Project, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF),** said: “As an organization that protects the civil rights of Asian Americans, AALDEF has worked closely with undocumented AAPI youth since the DACA program began in 2012 and to provide them with free legal services in filing their DACA applications. Recently, AALDEF joined a “friend of the court” brief in the DACA cases that will be argued at the U.S. Supreme Court on Nov. 12. These cases show how the Trump administration’s abrupt and arbitrary termination of DACA failed to consider the harmful impacts on the lives of DACA recipients, who have engaged in educational and employment opportunities through their reliance on DACA. We call on Congress to move forward legislation that will provide DACA recipients and other undocumented young immigrants with a path to citizenship.”

**Sara El Sebai, Immigration Navigator at the Arab American Association of New York (AAANY), said:** “Could our freedom here as U.S. Citizens be something that not every single person living in this country is entitled to? At least not for long term. This march reminds us of how much value our liberty really holds as non-DACA/TPS recipients and reminds us to feel with those whose status is potentially in danger. Every single being should live in this country freely without being trapped in the mental thought of being imprisoned by an expiration date. No one should be worried by the thought of returning to a warzone. We should protect and stand for those who need who came to seek our help.”

"This weekend's Home Is Here kick-off rally marks a historic moment in time where are youth leaders and immigrant advocates are taking a stance against another one of this administration's vicious attacks against our immigrant communities. DACA and TPS provide some of the few protections that our vulnerable immigrant communities have, including access to critical healthcare and socioeconomic mobility. Taking away these protections is stripping away our identity--to say that we do not belong. Today, we are marching to say that not only do we belong, but that we are here to stay." **Mon Yuck Yu, Executive Vice President at Academy of Medical & Public Health Services**

“Our message today is clear: Donald Trump, we're coming for you. Trump’s war on DACA and TPS has put fear and uncertainty into the lives of thousands of New Yorkers. Today, we’re marching in solidarity with hundreds of Dreamers and TPS recipients to the Supreme Court steps to tell our justices that America is our home and New York's immigrants are here to stay,” **said Steve Choi, Executive Director of the New York Immigraiton Coalition.** "This is just the start—on November 12th, we're bringing together thousands of immigrants from Brentwood to Buffalo down to the Supreme Court to join our brave marchers and protect these programs."

“Where we are today with DACA, TPS, and DED is where immigration policy as a whole exists within the US. It cannot be disputed that these temporary status' have helped members of my community, but they do not address the root causes of migration. Nor do these policies center the experiences of the migrants who face immigration enforcement,” **said Ronnie James, NYS Dream Act Fellow at UnLocal**. “We need movement by Congress now for a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants currenly living in the US. Migration is an intrinsic part of what it means to be human. It is only natural that we have policy that reinforces this human right.“

**Luis Chirino, youth leader and #HomeisHere marcher from Make the Road New Jersey, expressed:**

“Our message is clear — regardless of the November 12th Supreme Court decision and the TPS decision from the lower courts, I am already home.”

Those interested in donating in support of DACA recipients can do so directly to the donation page, <https://www.homeisheremarch.org/donate>.

To learn about the route and join the march, visit:<https://www.homeisheremarch.org/route-events>

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*For* [*NAKASEC*](https://nakasec.org/) *photos and video, please follow us on Facebook and Twitter (@nakasec). Founded in 1994, the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)’s mission is to organize Korean and Asian Americans to achieve social, economic, and racial justice. NAKASEC maintains offices in Annandale, Virginia, Chicago, Illinois and Los Angeles, California. NAKASEC has affiliates in Chicago (HANA Center), Los Angeles and Orange County (Korean Resource Center), and Virginia (NAKASEC VA).*

[*The New York Immigration Coalition*](http://www.nyic.org) *(NYIC) is an umbrella policy and advocacy organization for more than 200 groups in New York State. We envision a New York state that is stronger because all people are welcome, treated fairly, and given the chance to pursue their dreams. Our mission is to unite immigrants, members, & allies so all New Yorkers can thrive. We represent the collective interests of New York's diverse immigrant communities and organizations and devise solutions to advance them; advocate for laws, policies, and programs that lead to justice and opportunity for all immigrant groups; and build the power of immigrants and the organizations that serve them to ensure their sustainability, to improve people's lives, and to strengthen our state.*

[*Make the Road New York*](https://maketheroadny.org/) *(MRNY) builds the power of immigrant and working class communities to achieve dignity and justice through organizing, policy innovation, transformative education, and survival services. We have 23,000+ members and operate five community centers in Bushwick, Brooklyn; Jackson Heights, Queens; Port Richmond, Staten Island; Brentwood, Long Island; and White Plains, Westchester County. On Twitter: @MaketheRoadNY*

*With over 100,000 members,* [*CASA*](https://wearecasa.org/) *is the largest Latino and immigrant organization in the Mid-Atlantic region spanning Maryland, Virginia and South Central Pennsylvania. More information about CASA's services, organizing, and advocacy work is available at www.wearecasa.org or follow us on Facebook CASAforAll or Twitter @CASAforall.*