



# NAACP of San Diego

Equality is the Right of Every Citizen

[info@sandiegonaacp.org](mailto:info@sandiegonaacp.org)  
[www.sandiegonaacp.org](http://www.sandiegonaacp.org)

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My name is Steven Dorner, and I am speaking on behalf of Dr. André J. Branch, President of the San Diego Branch of the NAACP. Dr. Branch is traveling and regrets that he is unable to be here today. The City is being asked to file an Amicus Brief in a case brought by our National organization. I would like to read a short excerpt from the complaint, to remind you of the shameful and shameless behavior of our current National administration.

*On January 12, 2010, Haiti was struck by one of the deadliest earthquakes in modern history. It killed hundreds of thousands of Haitians, left millions homeless, and nearly destroyed Haiti's capital. Haiti's extensive recovery efforts have been hobbled by two additional large-scale catastrophes: the outbreak of cholera in October 2010 and a Category 4 hurricane in October 2016. Each catastrophe exacerbated the dire situation created by the 2010 earthquake.*

*These extraordinary circumstances led to Haiti's 2010 TPS designation and to DHS's repeated extension of that designation over the last seven years. ... DHS terminated TPS for Haitians in November 2017, with a delayed effective date of July, 2019. DHS stated that the decision followed an objective review of the conditions that supported the original designation. DHS's explanation is demonstrably spurious. Instead, DHS's true motive for terminating TPS for Haitians reflects racial discrimination.*

*DHS's actions are consistent with the Trump Administration's (the "Administration") larger, racialized goals concerning immigration. President Trump has long made clear his preference for white immigrants. Upon learning that Haitians and Nigerians had received visas to enter the United States, the President reportedly exclaimed that Haitians "all have AIDS," and that, upon seeing the United States, Nigerians would never return to their "huts" in Africa. During a meeting on immigration with several U.S. Senators, and cabinet members, the President stated that he did not want immigrants from African countries, which he derided as "shithole countries." The President also asked, "Why do we need more Haitians?" and directed that they should not be admitted through any proposed immigration plan. In stark contrast, the President stated that immigrants from countries "like Norway" were more desirable and should be admitted. As Senator Richard Durbin pointed out during the meeting, President Trump's singling out Haitians for exclusion was "an obvious racial decision."*

*President Trump has made clear that he wishes to reduce the number of immigrants of color to the United States. The rescission of Haiti's TPS is part of that agenda. DHS's decision to rescind Haiti's TPS designation was infected with the intention to discriminate on the basis of race and/or ethnicity, in violation of the Fifth Amendment.*

We of the San Diego Branch of the NAACP urge the City of San Diego to defy the racist bullies that comprise this Administration, and stand with the NAACP and against racial discrimination.

Thank you.