



Together for progress.

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PART III

United Progressive Party Statement on Prime Minister's Address Regarding US Visa Restrictions on December 23, 2025.

A Timeline of Government Failure and International Rejection

Let us be clear about the timeline of this disaster:

July 2023: The United Kingdom imposes visa requirements on Dominican nationals, stripping us of visa-free travel privileges enjoyed by other Caribbean Commonwealth nations.

2023: The European Union officially names Dominica for selling passports to Iranian, Russian, and Chinese nationals with inadequate vetting

2023: Norway begins effectively restricting CBI passport holders despite official visa-free status

2024: Ireland imposes visa restrictions on Dominican nationals

September 2025: After years of international pressure and sanctions, OECS countries finally sign the ECCIRA Agreement


October 2024: Dominica enacts domestic CBI reforms—more than a year after UK restrictions began.

October 2025: Dominica passes the ECCIRA Agreement Bill—more than two years after the UK imposed restrictions and over a year after Ireland followed suit.

December 2025: The United States imposes visa restrictions on Dominican nationals.

January 1, 2026: US restrictions take full effect—no new visas issued, no visa renewals possible.

This government had over two years of warnings and actual sanctions from the United Kingdom, followed by additional restrictions from Ireland in 2024, before finally establishing a





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regional regulatory framework. The reforms came too late, after the damage was done, and only under intense international pressure from multiple countries.

Too Little, Too Late: The ECCIRA Mirage

The Prime Minister now presents the ECCIRA Agreement as evidence of Dominica's commitment to reform. But this regional regulatory framework should have been established years ago, before the United Kingdom stripped our citizens of visa-free travel in 2023, before Ireland followed suit in 2024, before the European Union publicly condemned our practices, and before the United States imposed sanctions.

The government claims that international partners including the United States, United Kingdom, and European Commission have "welcomed" this new regulatory framework. If this is true, then why do the restrictions remain in place across multiple countries? Why have Dominican citizens been required to obtain UK visas since July 2023 with no sign of this being reversed? Why were Irish restrictions added in 2024 despite supposed engagement with international partners? Why are US visa restrictions still fully operative with no official announcement of rescission? Why can't Dominicans renew their US visas?

"Welcoming" a framework is different from lifting sanctions. The Prime Minister is deliberately conflating diplomatic courtesy with actual restoration of visa-free travel. This is textbook political deception.

Moreover, the ECCIRA framework itself reveals the depth of the problems that this government allowed to fester:

- The need for binding standards and regional regulation proves these standards were absent before
- The establishment of penalties up to US\$250,000 for misconduct shows the potential for abuse was real and substantial
- New requirements for biometrics, enhanced background checks, and restrictions on name changes demonstrate that these basic security measures were not adequately in place before
- Strengthened residency requirements acknowledge that citizenship was being sold without meaningful connection to our country





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Every "reform" in the ECCIRA framework is an admission of previous failure.

Empty Gestures and Belated Action

The so-called "comprehensive legislative reforms" the Prime Minister touts—both the domestic reforms October 2024 and the October 2025 ECCIRA legislation—should have been implemented years ago, not in response to actual sanctions and international condemnation from multiple countries. The warnings were there as early as 2023 from the European Union and demonstrated through actual sanctions by the United Kingdom in July 2023 and Ireland in 2024, yet this government continued business as usual for over two years.

This government has spent years ignoring warnings from international partners about the risks associated with our Citizenship by Investment programme, particularly concerning selling passports to individuals from high-risk countries with minimal due diligence and facilitating name changes those obscure identities.

These reforms represent a desperate attempt to close the barn door after the horses have bolted—coming more than a year after the UK had already imposed visa requirements on our citizens, after Ireland had added its own restrictions in 2024, and only months before US restrictions were imposed.

