

Frequently Asked Questions About Enhanced Cooperation in Free Movement of CARICOM Nationals

What does the right to free movement for CARICOM Nationals mean under the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)?

Free movement of CARICOM nationals under the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) is free movement for economic purposes (whether as a business person, service provider, skilled national or as a consumer).

A CARICOM national of a CARICOM Member State participating in the CSME can exercise the rights above in another CARICOM Member State participating in the CSME. This does not include The Bahamas as that CARICOM Member State does not participate in the CSME.

CARICOM nationals can move to establish a business presence in another Member State participating in the CSME. The business can be to provide goods and/or services and can be an existing business that is establishing a subsidiary, branch or agency or a new business.

A CARICOM national can also move temporarily to provide a service in another Member State participating in the CSME. The CARICOM national can move with CARICOM national personnel to provide the service. The CARICOM national and the personnel have a right to stay for six months or for a longer period, if required, to complete the provision of the service and do not need work permits.

A CARICOM national that is in one of the 13 approved categories of skilled CARICOM nationals can move to seek employment in a Member State participating in the CSME and has a right to indefinite stay and does not need a work permit.

Finally, a CARICOM national can travel to another Member State temporarily and get a definite stay of 6 months without permission to work. That CARICOM national can be visiting as a tourist, looking for business or job opportunities, consuming health or other services, among other things.

The Contingent Rights Protocol provides additional rights. For further details, see the Frequently Asked Question on the Protocol on Contingent Rights.

How is enhanced cooperation in free movement different to the right of free movement in the CSME?

This type of free movement expands what is offered under the CSME. It is available to all CARICOM nationals of any age of the participating countries and allows those CARICOM nationals to move for any legitimate purpose including economic purposes and leisure and remain indefinitely.

Which countries are participating in enhanced cooperation in free movement?

Barbados, Belize, Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

What does the right to enhanced cooperation in free movement of CARICOM nationals mean for the participating countries (Barbados, Belize, Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines)?

CARICOM Nationals from these four enhanced cooperation participating countries can enter, leave, re-enter, live, work without the need for a work permit or CSME skills certificate and can benefit from certain health and education services in any of the four participating countries. A participating country can refuse entry or remove a CARICOM national if that national poses a threat or is a burden on the public purse.

Which CARICOM countries will participate in enhanced cooperation in free movement from October 01, 2025?

Barbados, Belize, Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have all decided to take advantage of the changes to the Revised Treaty to allow a group of Member States, with the agreement of the Conference of Heads of Government, to deepen their cooperation. All citizens of these countries have the right to move, reside and work (without the need for a work permit or CSME skills certificate) in any of these Member States.

Can my family join me if I move to another participating Country under the enhanced cooperation in free movement?

Family members of CARICOM Nationals can accompany the CARICOM National of a participating country who has moved to another participating country. Family members include a spouse, unmarried children under the age of 18, unmarried children under the age of 25 attending school or university full-time, or over the age of 18 years who, due to disability, is wholly dependent on a principal beneficiary, and parents who are wholly dependent on the CARICOM national.

What social services can I access as a CARICOM national from a participating country who moves to live and work in another participating country?

You have access to primary healthcare, primary and secondary education, national insurance benefits and other social services on the same basis as that provided to nationals of the receiving Member State.

Can I make a complaint if I believe that my rights under enhanced cooperation in free movement are being denied?

Yes. The CARICOM Complaints Procedure adopted by the CARICOM Conference of Heads of Government can be used for any complaint arising out of an experience a CARICOM national may have had seeking to exercise his/her rights in the CSME, whether the experience(s) is at a port of entry, after entry or both. This procedure can also be used where a CARICOM national of a participating country has an experience exercising rights under enhanced cooperation in free movement. The complaints form is to be available at the ports of entry and departure and at Ministries, Agencies and Departments responsible for administering any of the regimes.

How can I make a complaint?

A CARICOM national wishing to make a complaint should fill out the complaints form in hard copy or online and submit it to the CSME Focal Point in the CARICOM national's participating country, in the participating country where the CARICOM national has moved, is moving to or where the CARICOM national had the experience (if different). An investigation will be conducted.

Who should I contact if I have questions on enhanced cooperation in free movement?

The CARICOM Ambassador and National CSME Focal Point in each of the participating Countries:

Country	CARICOM Ambassador	National CSME Focal Point
Barbados	H.E. Mr. David Comissiong dcomissiong@foreign.gov.bb	Ms. Shennel Richards Chief Research Officer (ag) Prime Minister's Office Government Headquarters, Bay Street, St. Michael, BARBADOS Tel: 1-246-535-5613 1-246-535-5300 PBX Fax: 1-246-228-4386 Email: shennel.richards@pmo.gov.bb
Belize	H.E. Mr. Lawrence Sylvester lawrence.sylvester@mfa.gov.bz	Ms. Tricia Gideon Deputy Director General Directorate General for Foreign Trade Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade The Leigh Richardson Building, North Ring Road, City of Belmopan, Cayo, BELIZE C.A. Tel: 501-880-2832/2833 Email: tricia.gideon@mft.gov.bz foreigntrade@btl.net Ms. Janina Choj Trade Economist CARICOM/CSME Unit Janina.Choj@mft.gov.bz
Dominica	H.E. Dr. Gerard Jean-Jacques	Mr Matthan J. Walter Director of Trade

	amboecscaricom@dominica.gov.dm foreignaffairs@dominica.gov.dm	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business, Trade and Energy, 4 th Floor, Financial Centre, , Roseau, DOMINICA Tel: 1-767 266 3266/ 2453640 Fax: 1-767-448-5200 Email: directoroftrade@dominica.gov.dm tradeandcommerce@dominica.gov.dm
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	H.E. Mr. Allan Alexander allanhmalexander@gmail.com ridusvg@gmail.com	Ms. Sylvonne Jack Economist Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs Kingstown, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES Tel: 1-784-451-2253 – Direct Line 1-784-456-2442 - PBX Fax: 1-784-456-2610 Email: sjack.foreignaffairs@mail.gov.vc

Can a participating country deny me entry or deport me?

Yes. A CARICOM national can be denied entry or can be deported or removed from a participating country if an assessment is made that the CARICOM national (i) poses a genuine, present and sufficiently serious threat to public safety, public order, public morals or public health; or (ii) is likely to be, or has become, a charge on the public purse.

What laws govern free movement

Caribbean Community Act

Caribbean Community Skilled Nationals Act

Immigration Act

Barbados Accreditation Council act

Do I need a passport, or can I travel with a national ID?

A passport remains the standard travel document. However, within participating OECS countries, a valid national ID card may also be used to facilitate travel between member states.

Can I move to another country and apply for any job?

Yes. Nationals of participating countries may apply for jobs, establish businesses, or provide services without a work permit or skills certificate. Please note that some employers may still require a police certificate of character.

Do I need to apply for residency or a permit?

You will not require a residency permit, but you must register your presence with the relevant agency in the host country. Proof of identity, financial means, and a police record may also be requested.

Will I have access to healthcare, education, and public services in the host country?

Yes. Once registered, you will be accorded the same treatment as nationals of the host country with respect to most public services, including:

- Access to healthcare
- Enrollment in public schools
- Social security (subject to eligibility and contributions)

Can I establish a business in another participating CARICOM country?

Yes. Under the right of establishment, you may:

- Establish and operate a business
- Provide services
- Engage in self-employment under the same conditions as nationals of the host country

If I moved before October 1, 2025, do I now fall under the new rules?

Yes. Nationals already residing in a participating country must register with the relevant authority in that country to benefit from the new framework.

Will all CARICOM countries participate in full free movement?

Not immediately. The Protocol on Enhanced Cooperation allows a subset of countries to proceed first, with others joining once they are ready.

What if I want to move to a CARICOM country that has not yet implemented full free movement?

You will remain subject to that country's national immigration laws, including any applicable entry or residency requirements.

What documents are required to move to another CARICOM country?

You may be required to present:

- Passport
- Birth certificate
- Student records (where applicable)
- Immunisation card (where applicable)

Will public information or support services be available?

Yes. Ministries of National Security, Immigration, and/or Foreign Affairs in each participating country will provide public education, support services, and help desks to guide citizens through the transition and ensure they understand their rights and obligations.

How can I contact the Ministry of National Security in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines?

The Ministry of National Security in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines can be contacted via email at csme@gov.vc.