

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ADVOCATES FOR REPARATORY JUSTICE AT CARICOM HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN BARBADOS

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS — The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, led by Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, participated actively in the 48th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), held from February 19 to 21, 2025, in Barbados. The meeting, convened under the theme “Strength in Unity: Forging Caribbean Resilience, Inclusive Growth, and Sustainable Development”, provided a platform for regional leaders to deliberate on pressing issues affecting the Caribbean.

A significant highlight of the conference was the collective reaffirmation by CARICOM leaders to pursue reparations for the injustices of slavery. Prime Minister Gonsalves emphasised the importance of this commitment, stating that the pursuit of reparatory justice is essential for addressing historical wrongs and fostering equitable development in the region. He highlighted the ongoing efforts and progress of the reparations movement, supported by legislative discussions and acknowledgements from various institutions.

The meeting also featured discussions with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, during which CARICOM leaders, including Prime Minister Gonsalves, called for formal apologies and reparations from European colonial powers for their role in the transatlantic slave trade. This dialogue reflects the growing momentum within CARICOM and the African Union for reparations related to slavery and colonialism.

In addition to reparatory justice, the conference addressed critical topics such as climate resilience, economic development, and food security. The participation of Saint Vincent and the

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Grenadines underscored the nation's commitment to regional collaboration and its proactive stance in shaping policies that promote sustainable development and social justice across Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the wider Caribbean space.

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains dedicated to working alongside CARICOM Member States to advance initiatives that benefit the collective well-being of the region's citizens.

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