

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **The T&T Chamber Responds to UK's New Visa Requirement for Trinidad and Tobago Nationals**

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce acknowledges the recent decision by the Government of the United Kingdom to implement a visa requirement for all Trinidad and Tobago nationals, effective March 11, 2025. According to the UK Home Office, the decision stems from a rise in asylum claims by Trinidad and Tobago nationals over the past year. While immigration control remains a sovereign right of every nation, The T&T Chamber recognizes the concerns raised by local stakeholders regarding the timing and implications of this policy shift.

While we understand the decision of the UK Home Office, we do believe that this development may have the potential to affect key areas of bilateral engagement, including trade, investment, tourism, student mobility, and cultural exchange. The T&T Chamber urges both the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the UK Government to work collaboratively to ensure a smooth transition and to minimize any unintended disruptions. Additionally, The T&T Chamber is hopeful that this decision will not have a spiraling effect on the progress Trinidad and Tobago has made under the Schengen visa exemptions secured with the European Union.

We encourage efforts to ensure that the visa application process remains transparent, efficient, and accessible for all applicants, particularly those travelling for legitimate business, academic, or family-related purposes. As a representative of the private sector, The T&T Chamber will continue to monitor the situation closely and engage with relevant stakeholders, including the British High Commission and Government authorities, to assess the economic implications and advocate for workable solutions where necessary. Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom have long shared strong economic and historical ties.

The T&T Chamber remains committed to supporting initiatives that maintain open channels of trade and collaboration between our two nations. We encourage all citizens, businesses, and travellers to stay informed of the new requirements and plan accordingly.

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