

Dominica

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Is there a refugee protection program?	<p>No; “[T]he country has neither passed implementing legislation nor adopted administrative regulations on asylum or refugee status.” See UNHCR Submission on Dominica: 33rd UPR Session (Current as of October 2018).</p> <p>However, the Dominican Government has not knowingly forced refugees to return to a country in which they could be subjected to persecution (non-refoulement), according to information available to UNHCR. See UNHCR Submission on Dominica: 33rd UPR Session (Current as of October 2018).</p>
Who runs any available refugee protection program? Who determines which applicants qualify for refugee protection?	<p>There is no refugee protection program. While UNHCR assesses asylum claims under Dominica’s mandate, UNHCR has received no asylum claim in several years. UNHCR is “not aware that Dominica hosts any asylum-seekers or refugees recognized as such.” See UNHCR Submission on Dominica: 33rd UPR Session (Current as of October 2018).</p>
Is the refugee protection program functional? For example, how long does it take for decisions to be issued? What percentage of applications are granted?	<p>No refugee protection program exists as only “limited resources are available to Caribbean governments in general to cope with the undocumented arrival of non-nationals...” See UNHCR Submission on Dominica: 33rd UPR Session (Current as of October 2018).</p>
Do refugees have a right to work? A right to education? A right to medical care?	<p>No legal framework currently exists for the protection of refugees. However, Dominica receives a large number of Haitian migrant workers annually, and the government claims to welcome and support them by granting permanent residency and citizenship. https://www.caribbeannationalweekly.com/caribbean-breaking-news-</p>

	<p>featured/dominica-reiterates-warning-to-haitian-nationals-involved-in-illegal-migration/(July, 2020)</p>
<p>Are those seeking refugee protection free to live freely or forced to reside in camps?</p>	<p>There are no refugee camps in Dominica</p>
<p>Does a grant of refugee protection result in a pathway to permanent status? In other words, can a refugee eventually become a citizen? Is there another form of legal permanent status available for people with refugee status?</p>	<p>There is no actual implementation of a refugee protection program. See UNHCR Submission on Dominica: 33rd UPR Session (Current as of October 2018).</p> <p>No legal framework exists that provides a pathway for refugees to become a permanent resident or citizen. “The Dominican government, to the concern of the UN Human Rights Committee, has to date failed to enact legal protections for non-citizens, including refugees and asylum seekers, and it provides little information about their presence or treatment in the country. The government states that despite the lack of a legal framework, they have supported the protection of refugees and asylum seekers by granting Haitian migrant workers permanent residency and citizenship. The island had an estimated population of 8,300 international migrants as of mid-2020.” (https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/americas/dominica) (Current as of February 2021)</p>
<p>Does the country offer temporary protections available other than refugee status? If so, what are they?</p>	<p>No; See UNHCR Submission on Dominica: 33rd UPR Session (Current as of October 2018).</p>
<p>What, if any, penalties are there for people</p>	

<p>without status or people who are denied refugee protection?</p>	<p>Citing COVID-19 Risks, Dominica’s Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit asks Dominicans to help law enforcement authorities detain people who enter the island illegally. (https://www.caribbeannationalweekly.com/caribbean-breaking-news-featured/dominica-government-reiterates-need-to-halt-illegal-entry-into-the-island/)(September 4, 2020)</p>
<p>What organizations exist in-country that can help displaced people seek available protections? What other organizations in the country may be able to help displaced people access services and rights, even if their mission is not to specifically work with refugees and displaced people?</p>	<p>Lifeline Ministries - a faith-based NGO that helps vulnerable groups, families and individuals find sustainable solutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Office Cell: 767-275-8367 - Director (Tina Alexander) Cell: 767-235-8367 - lifelinedominica@hotmail.com <p>Salybia Mission Project – a nonreligious, student organization that helps in providing health care services, supplies and equipment to the Kalinago Community, the last remaining indigenous community of the Caribbean.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John Hawley, SMP Chair & Advisor - Phone 767-255-6369 - JHawley@rossmed.edu.dm <p>Ready, Willing, Enable! – provide educational opportunities for persons with disabilities in developing countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Info@rwenable.org <p>NGO Coalition for the Protection of Children and Youth – committed to the protection of children and youth in Dominica.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phone: 767-448-7546 - ngocoalitiondominica@gmail.com

	<p>Dominica Association of Chicagoland – collaborates with Dominica nationals and others in the Chicagoland area and beyond, to help improve the quality of life of Dominica nationals at home and abroad.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phone: 716-603-0993 - Info@DominicaChicagoland.org
<p>Is there other information that might be valuable for displaced people arriving in that country to know?</p>	<p>The US Department of State currently deems Dominica a safe country for travel, advising only the exercise of normal precautions. https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Dominica.html</p> <p>Dominica has a very low incidence of Covid-19, recording only 206 cases and zero deaths in total. Arrivals are subject to quarantine at either a certified nature property of a government quarantine facility. https://www.google.com/search?q=dominica+covid+cases&oq=dominica+covid+cases&aqs=chrome..69i57j0j0i39015.2807j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8(Current as of July 21, 2021)</p> <p>Dominica’s Immigration and Passport Act provides detention measures for “any person certified by a medical officer to be suffering from a contagious or infectious disease which makes his entry into the State dangerous to the community.” These provisions took on added importance during the COVID-19 pandemic when authorities threatened to “round up all undocumented Haitian nationals and have them returned to their country as soon as possible,” accusing the migrants of spreading disease. In August 2020, Dominica News Daily reported that some 60 undocumented Haitians had been detained by the police. https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/americas/dominica (Current as of February 2021)</p>