

Did you know that not everybody living, working and studying in the Island of Ireland can move freely within the Common Travel Area?



WHAT IS THE COMMON TRAVEL AREA?

The Common Travel Area (CTA) is the widely used term for a variety of rights exercised by citizens of Ireland and the United Kingdom.

The Common Travel Area arrangement began in 1922 based on an understanding between the UK and Ireland, due to their common history and difficulties applying immigration controls at a shared border. Over time, some of the rights came to be included in different pieces of legislation in both Ireland and the UK. While the Common Travel Area is recognised under the Treaty of Amsterdam, it is not dependant on the European Union and the continuing membership of both countries.

WHO DOES THE CTA EXCLUDE?

Permanent residents of Northern Ireland (NI) and the Republic of Ireland (ROI), including:

- People with permission to live, work and study in either NI or ROI
- People married to UK or Irish Nationals
- Refugees with 'Leave to Remain'/ Indefinite Leave to remain (permission from the government to stay in a country indefinitely)
- Asylum seekers
- Migrant Workers from Africa, Asia and other Non-EU countries with Indefinite Leave to remain
- Migrant Workers from Africa, Asia and other Non-EU countries with permanent residence in ROI

WHY IS IT DISCRIMINATORY?

Permanent residents of Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland who are classified as Non CTA citizens are not permitted to:

- Move freely within the Island of Ireland for leisure, tourism or even work purposes
- Travel within the Island of Ireland for connecting flights.
- Access services such as healthcare even if they pay the compulsory extra NHS surcharge, currently at £624 per year of leave granted on their visas
- Vote in certain elections, even if they pay full taxes
- Access the job market within the Island of Ireland
- Access Education/Learning exchange programmes within the Island of Ireland
- Participate in cross border Sporting events or recreational activities
- Access necessities such as petrol, milk, food, medicine; etc This is one of the biggest challenges for those living in border areas such as the Derry/Strabane and, Culmore area / Lifford area

Did you know, the only paediatric cardiology unit on the island of Ireland is in Dublin? This means a refugee child in Northern Ireland with a heart condition may be unable to access urgent care without a visa, which is expensive and can take months to be approved.

The restrictions within the Common Travel Area can have a detrimental impact on the daily lives of many permanent residents. For example: the mental health impact on young people who have been excluded from cross border school trips, sports activities and day trips to the beach with peers and friends.

This policy not only disproportionately impacts on new residents, it also denies citizens their right to enjoy quality of life together with their families. Even if the family member is a CTA national they may not be able to travel with their family member who is a non CTA national. This affects many people.

This is a whole of society problem and we need you to help us share the Island.

#sharetheisland

#racialequality

WHAT IS OUR PLAN?

NWMF has launched a campaign for change to;

- Raise awareness
- Overcome the discrimination of Non CTA nationals living, working and studying in the Island of Ireland
- Put an end to racial inequalities that currently exist in the CTA arrangement.

We need your help to lobby the British and Irish Governments to extend the rights and privileges enjoyed by CTA Nationals to Non CTA Nationals in the Island of Ireland.

Who can get involved?

- People and communities across the island of Ireland,
- Politicians,
- Young people,
- Academics,
- Schools,
- Civil society

We believe it is the responsibility of the whole of society to fight discrimination and to support minority communities in the Island of Ireland to achieve racial equality.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Whilst immigration is not a devolved matter, It is the responsibility of the Northern Irish assembly to ensure that new residents who choose to live and work in Northern Ireland access equality of opportunities as well as fully integrate in society

You can help by

- Writing to your MLA to put pressure on them to lobby the UK and Irish governments to review and amend CTA rules to extend rights and privileges to new residents living and working in the Island of Ireland
- Each MP has a right to table a private bill to the House of Commons. Write to your MP and help us put pressure on them to review the CTA arrangements and bring legislation forward that recognises the uniqueness of our proximity to the border.. Legislation that extends CTA rights and privileges to the above cohort of new citizens living in the Island of Ireland
- Sign up to our Connecting Communities to Campaign for Change or Effective Activism Project. Help us raise awareness
- Tell your friends and family about the CTA and them them involved and to join the fight for justice.
- Follow our social media channels and re-share any content relating to the CTA to help raise awareness with your friends and followers.

Contact details

Website: www.nwmf.org.uk

Email: info@nwmf.org.uk

Address: 10 Fountain Street, Londonderry, BT48 6QX

Phone: 02871362184 | 07912295771

WhatsApp: 07912 295771

