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The Reunite Families UK Letter

Issue No. 5 November 2023

Could you help us make our services better for you?

We are gathering information about our members' needs whilst they go through the visa application process, so that we can ensure we are working in alignment with the needs of our members and organise relevant courses and webinars to benefit our community.

Please answer a few questions (it should only take 5 minutes) to help us create the best

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WHAT ISSUES WOULD YOU LIKE US TO WORK ON?

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH US USING THIS SURVEY!

<https://forms.gle/ezBFwxqz8uB36e9x7>




Fill in the survey :)

Government confirms date of IHS increase

The Government has now laid before Parliament the statutory instrument which confirms that the increase to the Immigration Health Surcharge will be implemented **no earlier than the 16th of January 2024.**




On this page you will be able to see the [full list of immigration and nationality fees.](#)

Impact of Visa fees and Immigration Health Surcharge increases on 5-year route

Visa Fees from 4/10		With Health Surcharge increase (from 16/1/2024)	
Initial Visa Application	1.846	Initial Visa Application	1.846
Extension After 2.5 Years	1.048	Extension After 2.5 Years	1.048

Impact of Visa fees and Immigration Health Surcharge increases on partner and child 10-year route

Visa Fees from 4/10		With Health Surcharge increase (from 16/1/2024)	
Same as Partner on 10-year route	14.261	Same as Partner on 10-year route	18.371
Initial Visa Application	1.846	Initial Visa Application	1.846
Extension After 2.5 Years	3.144	Extension After 2.5 Years	3.144

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Ask your MP to sign the Early Day Motion against the visa fees increases

Reunite Families UK, together with a large coalition of migrant organisations is working to try and scrap the latest increases to the visa fees and Immigration Health Surcharge.

We know that given the government's numbers in Parliament it will be difficult, but we think it is still worth contacting our elected representatives to let them know about our opposition to the increases and recruit them in our campaign for a fairer and more humane migration system.

An opportunity to do so is by asking your MP to sign the [Early Day Motion tabled by Sir Stephen Timms MP](#) against the visa fee increase. Our friends at JCWI have prepared an [handy guide](#) to do so, and here below we have pasted the most important steps you need to take to write to them.

To email your MP, [click here](#) and enter your postcode. Then scroll down to the section that says 'Your MP' and click on their name. Then, paste the text below into the box and hit send. Make sure you change the text to include your address - they only have to reply to you if they know that you live in their area!

*I am writing as a constituent of yours, residing at **[insert first line of home address and postcode]**. I am writing today because I am extremely concerned about the Home Office's decision to increase visa fees. I believe it is wrong to force people to pay thousands of pounds every 30 months, or risk losing the right to rent a home, work or access healthcare safely. To increase these fees in the middle of a cost of living crisis is deeply immoral. Many people in our local area will now be struggling to find the money to stay in the community they have come to call home. An Early Day Motion opposing the fee increase has been tabled. As my MP, I ask that you sign your name to this EDM, and show support for your many constituents who*

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Yours faithfully,

Write to your MP !

If you write to your MP and want to tell your friends don't forget to use the hashtags [#TheCostOfLovingCrisis](#) and [#ActionOnVisas](#) on your social media channels :)

Help us or be helped by Reunite's JustGiving festive season

It's hard to believe the festive season is already round the corner and we know this is a challenging time for many of our members for so many reasons. We understand the many impacts it is having on you and please know that RFUK continues to work hard for you to lobby government, collaborate with other migration orgs to push for kinder, more humane family migration policies, communicate with UKVI on issues facing members, urgent cases and wrong refusals, provide pro bono legal services with Fragomen law firm, provide mental health support and a space to share and seek advice, raise awareness in any way we can. Next year will most likely see the political landscape change in the elections and we will continue to push hard for you all.

Every year we also we raise money for children caught up in the awful spouse/partner migration policy to give them a little gift on behalf of RFUK.

If you would like your children to be beneficiaries of this fundraising please contact caroline@reunitefamiliesuk.co.uk

More details and fundraising page to come but in the meantime, we would like to include a short film as part of the JUSTGIVING page and **would like to ask if you would be open to sending a family/couple photo that you'd be happy to be included.**

Please email a pic to caroline@reunitefamiliesuk.co.uk

Letter to the Education Secretary on need to expand childcare

An article in [The Independent](#) talked about the [letter](#) organised by our friends Praxis which we co-signed with many other organisations calling on the Education Secretary

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odds with the Government's bid to boost the workforce and economic activity.

[Sign the petition to let ALL parents access free childcare](#)

[Join our advocacy training and help us make change happen !](#)

Connected with the above in the coming months we will organise a series of training sessions and webinars in which we will try to sharpen our collective advocacy skills in the run-up to the General Election next year where a stronger advocacy voice for a more humane and fair family migration policy will be essential.

[Sign-up to our advocacy sessions !](#)

[Mental Health Research report due to be published very soon](#)

We are extremely happy to let you know that after months of research and focus groups we are now finalising the End of Year 1: Initial Findings Report as part of our 3-year research project into the mental health impact of the spouse visa policy on children and their families. We are talking to RAMP who work with parliamentarians who are helping us get MPs support for this work and we are now planning Year 2 and what that will involve.

We do know that we will want to gather information from children themselves and are seeking professional expertise on how to do this as safely as possible.

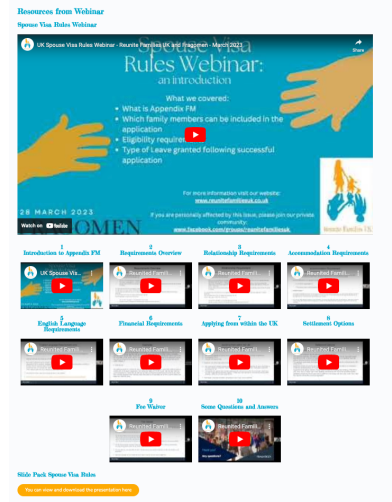
Do follow our social media channels and website where the research and key findings will be published.

We would appreciate if you could help us spread the results of the research amongst your networks and social media channels.

[Brand new Resources page](#)

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brand-new [resource page](#). On it you will be able to view and download the resources produced as part of our webinars as well as names of external organisations which we think could help you navigate the family migration policies and its impact on your families.



BREXIT COUPLES

We are really pleased to be part of the advisory board of this [new research project](#) looking at the impact of Brexit on UK-EU couples who must apply for leave as a spouse or partner under British immigration law.

Are you a UK-EU couple who would like to [get involved](#)?



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