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The Reunite Families UK Letter

Issue No. 6 December 2023 - Emergency Issue

Government announces doubling of the Minimum Income Requirement

Dear Friends,

We still reel from the decision introduced by government on Monday to **more than double the Minimum Income Requirement from £18,600 to £38,700.**

A threshold which **only 40% of the workers in this country currently earn** (the UK average salary in 2023 which was around £35,464).

Following the Statement from the Home Secretary, there are still many unknowns with regards to the exact timings of the changes as well as the whether it will affect couples already on the route.

For this reason we have organised a webinar on **Thursday the 14th of December between 5.30 and 7 PM** where you will be able to hear from legal experts and ask questions.

You can [register here](#) and use [this form](#) to submit questions ahead of the session.

The latest announcement came on the back of the increase to the visa fees and the

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route will have to pay over £34k to be able to finally settled in this country.

It is difficult to describe the anger and despair of our members with many of them thinking this could be the last Christmas together here with their loved ones, not to mention those who couldn't meet the current MIR and see family reunification now in effect impossible altogether.

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

Sign our Letter to the PM

At this link you will be able to [sign the letter to the Prime Minister and Home Secretary](#) against the changes to the Minimum Income Requirement Reunite Families UK is coordinating.

[Sign the Letter to the Prime Minister](#)

Write to your MP against the latest increase to the MIR

Reunite Families UK, is organising various lobbying activities to try and halt this vicious changes which will impact the lives of so many of our friends and families.

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 (also available in this [google doc](#)) into the box and hit send.

Feel free to personalise it should you wish to :)

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 Government's decision to raise the minimum income requirement to £38,700, above the median annual salary for a full-time worker, and well above average earnings in many regions of the UK.

[option here to insert here your personal experiences].

Having a family is one of our most basic human rights, therefore it is outrageous that

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75% of women in the UK earn less than the new income requirement and would not be eligible to be joined by their partners in the UK.

The system as it stands already represents a significant obstacle for so many people, especially women [like me], who are working part time whilst caring for their children and trying to reach the Minimum Income Requirement. I can't begin to describe the anger I feel for a government that, despite professing support for family values, has done so much to undermine them.

Why should families pay the price for this Government's overpromises on migration? Families have witnessed overpromises on migration that are destined to fail but that in the meantime have destroyed and will continue to destroy [their/our] family life.

This change comes hot on the heels of the latest visa application fee increases and the upcoming immigration health surcharge increases. Increases which are deeply immoral and are designed once again to target so many in our community who in some cases will have to pay over £30k in the midst of a national cost of living crisis which forces people into poverty just to be able to settle here with their partner and child.

I urge you to oppose this attack on [my/the] right to a family life. There is already ample evidence that the existing income threshold is undermining the mental health and wellbeing of people and children who are currently affected. A recent survey, as part of research undertaken by Reunite Families UK on the mental health impact of the spouse visa policy, found 65% of respondents (including those who are unable to meet the current MIR or are currently on the route to settlement) saying that their child had received a diagnosis of a mental health condition.

It is tragic that the government has ruined the festive season for families [like mine] by worsening a measure already associated with widespread poverty and serious mental health implications. For children [like mine] in particular they will bear the scars of these experiences for the rest of their lives.

As one of your constituents, I would really welcome your support for a cause so important for so many in our community. In particular I would welcome you signaling your opposition to the plans by writing to the relevant Ministers and asking probing parliamentary questions on the issue.

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](#) on your social media channels :)

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Webinar: What do the changes to the Minimum Income Requirement mean for me?

[Register to join](#)

Join Reunite Families UK and legal experts to discuss the latest changes to the Minimum Income Requirement which were announced on Monday the 4th of December.

Very few details have been published by the government, however this will be an opportunity to find out what the latest information is.

There will be a Q&A. Please submit your question by Tuesday the 12th of December so that the experts presenting will have time to read them and include them in their presentation.

Submit your questions [here](#).

There are limited spaces available so please register on time.

We would also appreciate that, should you be unable to join please cancel your registration to the event so that other people will be able to join.

Thanks for our members for speaking out against the changes

We would like to briefly mention and thank once again our members for speaking to the media during these very difficult circumstances.

We know how difficult it must have been so we just wanted to thank them again for helping us sharing the real-life implications of a change.

Here are just some of the media items featuring our members:

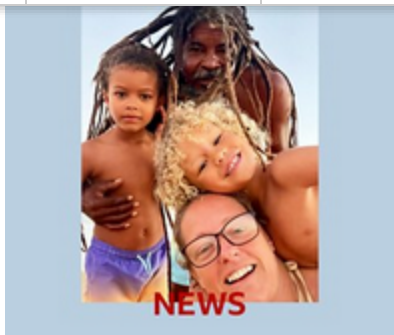
[Raquel and Manoel on BBC Radio 4](#)

[Ruby and Furkan on BBC News](#)

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Polly and Saroch on Sky News



Jessica and Sanas on the I News



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SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH US USING THIS SURVEY!

<https://forms.gle/ezBFwxqz8uB36e9x7>

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

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UK

offering for people like you.

[Fill in the survey :\)](#)

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

Join our advocacy training and help us make change happen !

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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.

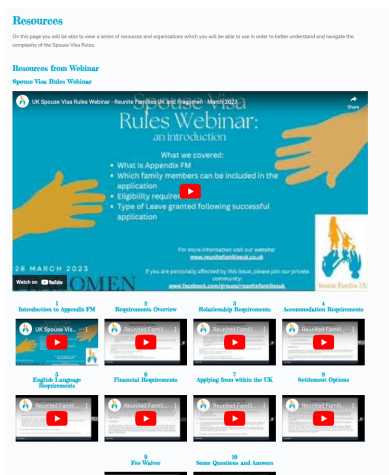
We do know that we will want to gather information from children themselves and are seeking professional expertise on how to do this as safely as possible.

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

We are glad to be able to present our 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.



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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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