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# The Reunite Families UK Letter

Issue No. 8 February 2024

## 1st increase to the Minimum Income Requirement will be introduced from 11th of April

Dear Friends,

The Government [announced that the MIR will increase to £29,000 from 11 April 2024](#), later reaching £38,000 by Spring 2025.

This is in line with what was set out in [a Factsheet with further detail](#) which specified how the increase will be introduced in stages:

- **From 11th of April** the threshold will be increased to £29,000
- Later (date not confirmed Autumn 2024) moving to £34,500
- £38,700 by Spring 2025

The document also suggests that **there will no longer be a separate child element to the Minimum Income Requirement**. However even if this sounds like a positive development we are still waiting for more details on this.

Here below are the details of the **the transitional arrangements for the families who are already on the route:**

apply before the minimum income threshold is raised, will continue to have their applications assessed against the current income requirement and will not be required to meet the increased threshold. This will also be the case for children seeking to join or accompany parents.

- Anyone granted a fiancé visa before the minimum income threshold is raised will also be assessed against the current income requirement when they apply for a family visa within the five-year partner route.
- Those already in the UK on a different route who apply to switch into the five-year partner route, after the minimum income requirement has been increased, will be subject to the new income requirement.

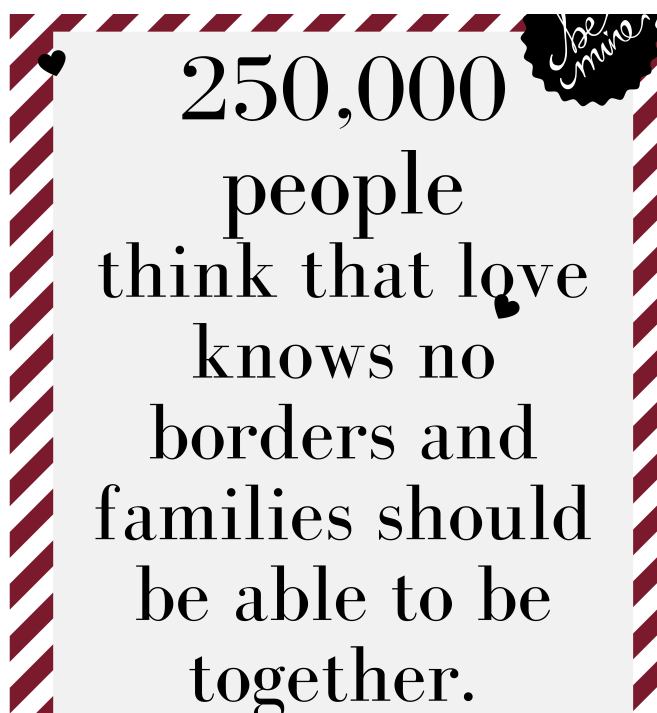
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## Join our Valentine's Day of Campaigning Against the MIR

**This Valentine's Day we will campaign throughout the day against the MIR increase and the repeated attacks against falling in love with somebody born abroad.**

**Here is how you can help us:**

### **We are going to Downing Street (again)**



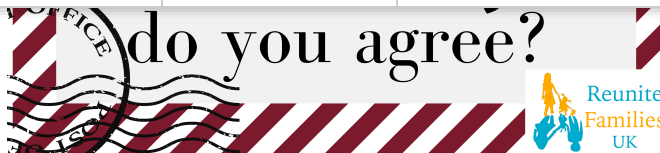
As Rishi Sunak seemed not to have understood how the rules he's introducing will destroy the family life of countless people we are going to see him to bring him the voice of the over 250,000 people who so far have signed the petitions against the MIR increase.

Join us on the day using the hashtags  
#familiesbelongtogether and  
#loveinlimbo

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Write to your MP using our [Template Letter](#) or write your own using our [happy Valentine's Day Apart cards](#).



Send message on social media to your MP asking to sign up to the pledge using the hashtag #familiesbelongtogether and #loveinlimbo

## Pledge for Families

**Families are the bedrock of our society.**

Yet, in the last few months the UK's migration policies regarding bi-national families have been made extremely worse and prohibitively more expensive.

There is clear evidence, including from the recent initial findings report published by Reunite Families UK, that these policies have a hugely detrimental impact on the mental health of people caught up in the system, including the lengthy, complex and expensive routes to permanent settlement and the Minimum Income Requirement for British/settled citizens to be reunited with their loved ones.

**That is why I pledge to support immigration policies that help reunite families and reduce the financial burden**

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## A first step in this has to be a full root and branch review of our family immigration system and the way it affects the mental health of people going through the UK immigration system.

By doing so I will also help alleviate the mental health crisis affecting tens of thousands of people and their communities as a result of the #HostileRoutes and policies introduced in the last decade.

If we want to build thriving communities, everyone must be given the opportunity to thrive, regardless of what papers they hold.

To achieve this, the government can and must introduce policies that alleviate the mental health impacts and the unaffordable financial burden of its immigration system.



**Share image on WhatsApp groups about MIR and impact** by clicking on the button below or download the image below and send your personalised message to your friends and family.

**Share your message on whatsapp to let your friends and family know about the MIR**

Did you know that if your partner is not from the UK you would have to navigate a very complex and expensive system to be able to live together here.



**Even if you have children together.**

Even if you are a UK citizen or are settled here you would have to sponsor them, by earning and maintaining a Minimum Income Requirement of £18,600 which from the 11th of April will go up to £29,000 before reaching £38,000 in April 2025.

**60% of men and 75% of women do not earn that amount**

Want to know more ?

[reunitefamiliesuk.co.uk/MIR-basics](https://reunitefamiliesuk.co.uk/MIR-basics)

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Share our #LoveinLimbo Campaign together with IMIX

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
HAVE A MAGICAL HOLIDAY SEASON

Dear MP

Isna who drew the lovely image on this card is one of the countless children in the UK who are kept separated from one of their parents due to the UK's spouse visa rules.

Rules that will be made exponentially worse by the government and will mean families will continue to be separated and children will suffer as a result of it.

Recent research by Reunite Families UK, found out how the current threshold forces children to grow up apart from one of their parents and as a result suffer from a range of mental health impacts.

This festive season we ask you to oppose the latest change to the spouse visa rules and help avoid children being separated from their parents.

We are collecting children's drawings on the impact of the MIR for a gallery on our website and for campaigning against the changes.

If your child has done drawings which show the impact of the rules on your family (e.g. that show the family being separated or similar), would you be happy to share them with Tamsin?

[tamsin@reunitefamiliesuk.co.uk](mailto:tamsin@reunitefamiliesuk.co.uk)

Watch back our webinar on **How to Engage With Your MP**

HOW TO  
**ENGAGE YOUR MP**  
SESSION  
17 JANUARY 2023 5.30 TILL 6.30

Reunite Families UK logo in the bottom left and migrant VOICE logo in the bottom right.

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**to you**

Daniel Sohege from Migrant Voice joined RFUK to share his knowledge and expertise on engaging with MPs.

Given the announcement on 4th Dec about the huge rise in the MIR threshold and an upcoming general election there has never been a more critical time to be reaching out to your elected representative.

This session will help give you the tools to do this so don't miss it!

[Watch back the How to Engage your MP session](#)

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## Interested in showing the real human impact of these cruel rules? Sign up to our media team

Reunite Families UK is gathering case study information from members who are willing to speak to the press and be included as case studies on our website to raise awareness of the impacts of the spouse migration policy.

If you have any questions at all relating to this, please contact Matteo at [matteo@reunitefamiliesuk.co.uk](mailto:matteo@reunitefamiliesuk.co.uk)

[Sign up to our media team](#)

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## Possible legal action against new threshold

We have been working with a law firm called Leigh Day on possible legal action against the new income threshold.

We are currently waiting on a response from the Home Office that will provide the team with insight into what areas of challenge may be possible.

It is very early days and there is still much to determine but it is quite likely that should there be grounds for a legal challenge it would need to be brought by individuals/a group of individuals affected by the increase.

**If you are interested in putting yourself forward and would like to discuss this**

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Please rest assured that any communication at this time does not commit anyone. We are still very much in the scoping out phase

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## Join over 53,000 people in signing the petition for a Parliament debate

At this link you will be able to sign the House of Commons Petitions to Don't increase the income requirement for family visas to £38,700.

If we reach 100k signatures we will get a debate in Parliament

[Sign the Petition](#)

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## 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 change 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, personalise the text available in this [google doc](#), paste into the box and hit send.

The more personal the more likely it is that MPs will read it.

[Write to your MP !](#)

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If you've written to your MP since the announcement and have received a response, could you share the response of your MP? this will help us make our advocacy even better by responding to the lines and points adopted by MPs when replying to you

[Share your MP's response with us](#)

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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.

If you spoke out against the rules and are happy to be featured on our website please get in touch with [matteo@reunitefamiliesuk.co.uk](mailto:matteo@reunitefamiliesuk.co.uk)

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

### Sarah on BBC Politics Live



### Emily and Emiliano on Bloomberg



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## Joint Parliamentary Briefing on the MIR Increase

**Increase to the  
Minimum Income Requirement:  
what is not known about the  
new threshold and the impact of  
the rules on families and  
children**

Reunite Families UK | migrant VOICE | BRITISH IN EUROPE | Praxis for migrants and refugees



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[parliamentary briefing](#) on the increase to the minimum income Requirement.

The briefing aims to highlight the key unknowns of the policy as well as the impact the policy will have on children and family before issuing key recommendations to have a more humane family migration system.

Amongst the unknowns of the policy:

- Will the figures associated with the saving route be increased alongside the MIR?
- Which threshold will people have to meet if they apply before the new threshold of £38,700?
- What advice was taken in relation to this threshold?

### Key Recommendations

Ultimately, the best way to avoid the severe harm to families described above would be to abolish the MIR entirely and recognise a statutory right for a British citizen or settled resident to bring their close family members to the UK.

Short of that, we make the following recommendations:

1) Commission a review of the family migration rules in detail, which takes account of and builds on the recommendations made by previous rules, such as that conducted by the [House of Lords Justice and Home Affairs Committee](#) in 2023, with a particular focus on:

- Integration;
- Examining how the impact of the rules is gendered and racialised
- Their contribution to the worsening mental health of the people going through the process.

2) Adopt family migration rules for British and settled sponsors of overseas spouses and partners that promote family and foster integration (by for instance taking into account the earning potential of both partners). Any new policy must be formulated and implemented giving due weight to the best interests of children.

3) Fix the level of the visa application fees at the cost of processing for all family applications

4) Every route to settlement should be capped at 5 years.

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year route now. Meaning that when people are on the 10-year route to settlement and meet the requirement to be moved onto the 5-year route they shouldn't have to restart their route to settlement. Their years and fees already spent on a route should be included within the 5-year route to settlement.

[Read the Briefing](#)

## 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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