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# The Reunite Families UK Letter

Issue No. 9 March 2024

## Government lays Immigration Rules introducing increased MIR

Dear Friends,

On the 14th of March the government laid in Parliament [the Statement of Changes to the Immigration Rules](#) that will introduces changes to the Minimum Income Requirement (MIR) for **applications made from the 11th of April 2024**.

The changes introduce include:

- Increase to the MIR to £29,000
- Amount of savings increased to £88,500 (amount of the new MIR x 2.5 + £16,000) ( $£29,000 \times 2.5 + £16,000 = 88,500$ )
- **There won't be a separate child element as before** so if the person is able to meet the 29,000 threshold they will also be able to sponsor children to come to the UK without requiring an additional amount for children as before.

Important to note:

Compared with before people under the Appendix Armed Forces have now a different MIR and rules with people under the Appendix FM.

These are the key changes:

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- This will similarly no longer include an additional income requirement for children.

As with the main income rule, people generally need to have had the required amount of savings in their account(s) for six months before applying.

Here are the links of the three key documents published:

- [Statement from the Legal Migration Minister](#)
- [Statement of Changes to the Immigration Rules](#)
- [Explanatory memorandum to the statement of changes to the Immigration Rules.](#)

Here below is a reminder of the **transitional arrangements**:

- Those who already have a family visa within the five-year partner route, or who 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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## Thanks for helping us making a blast for our Valentine's Day of Campaigning Against the MIR



Thanks to all of you for helping us making such a huge splash on our Valentine's Day of Action against the MIR !

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together with other affected people and representatives of Praxis and Migrant Voice at the petitions hand in to Downing Street.

We brought the voice of over 250,000 people who are worried about how the new rules will destroy the family lives of countless people.

The Day of Campaigning also received wide media coverage.

Here below just some highlights from the day:

### Our campaign in The Independent

### Jane and Ela in the Evening Standard

#### Migrant rights groups say visa change puts love in limbo this Valentine's Day

An increase in the minimum income requirement for family visas is due to be introduced in stages.

Aine Fox • Wednesday 14 February 2024 16:51 GMT



[Click here to watch all the videos published so far as part of the joint #LoveInLimbo campaign with IMIX](#)

### Backbench Debate on the increase to the MIR

A [backbench debate on the increase to the MIR](#) has been granted to Paul Bloomfield MP.

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The backbench debate are debates held by MPs who are backbenchers (i.e. without role in government or the shadow cabinet) and offers them the opportunity to raise issues and topics for which they are worried/concern or want their colleagues to know more about.

## Keeping the focus of MPs on the MIR

In the last few weeks we have met with RAMP, an organisation which has the aim of working with MPs from across the aisle to offer sensible immigration reforms.

With them we are working to update our advocacy strategy to make sure we are as effective as we can be to produce effective changes or improvements on the MIR policy.

Keep checking our website in the next few weeks to view the revamped strategy and see how you can contribute to it !

**You can still write or 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 associated with the routes to settlement.**

**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.

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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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## the mental health impact of the MIR

Please share with us your contact details if you're happy to be participate in our second year of research.

This will likely primarily involve answering a survey. You can submit your details [here](#).

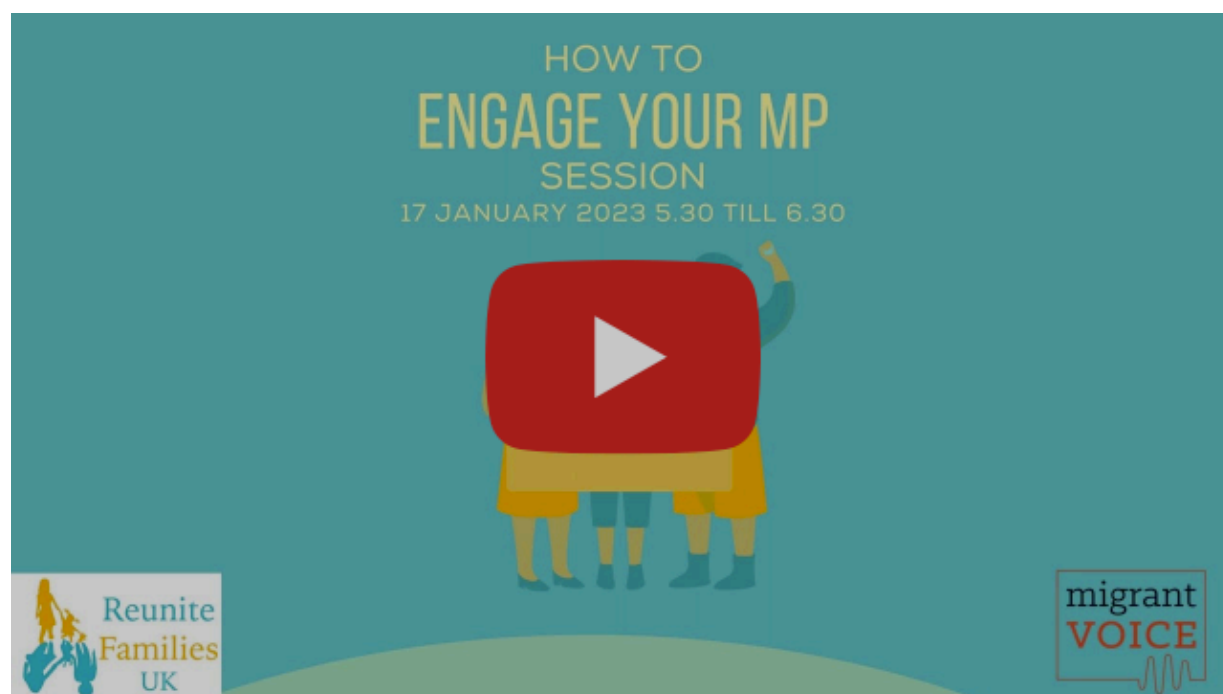
Over the course of the last few months, the initial findings report has been instrumental in showing to politicians and the public at large the impact the MIR has had on families and children in particular.

It will also be used as evidence in our day-to-work and as part of the legal case if it indeed goes forward (more on this below)

Help us continue to evidence the deleterious impact of this policy, thank you !

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



**Learn some skills and tips on how best to engage your MP on issues that matter to you**

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

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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 now finally received a response to our Pre Action-Protocol letter which sought information on certain areas such as Impact Assessment but as there is still little clarity in some areas, the legal team are now seeking more information. We will update you as soon as we have any information we can share.

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## Since the last newsletter, over 14 thousand people signed the petition for a debate in Parliament on the MIR. Join them !

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

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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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## 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.

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:



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the Metro



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### I'm a stranger to my children – until my wife earns £29,000

FIRST PERSON  
 David Kitenda  
 Published Mar 5, 2024, 6:30am







Comment



David with his family (Picture: Denis Barlow)

## Joint Evidence on the Statement of Changes introducing the increased MIR

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 together with the [The Immigration Law Practitioners' Association \(ILPA\)](#) have prepared Joint Evidence on the Secondary Legislation that will bring in the new increased Minimum Income Requirement as well as introducing other changes to the rules.

The evidence, which have been endorsed by the [Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants](#), [Migrant Voice](#), [Praxis](#) and [British in Europe](#) highlights various shortfall

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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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