

New Plan for Immigration

Summary provided by Dods

The Home Office have now published their New Plan for Immigration. The policy paper can be viewed [here](#).

This policy statement is accompanied by an engagement and consultation process that will run for 6 weeks from 24 March 2021.

They are asking for views on the Government's proposals on:

- Protecting those fleeing persecution, oppression and tyranny
- Ending anomalies, and delivering fairness in British Nationality Law
- Reforming the asylum system
- Streamlining asylum claims and appeals
- Supporting victims of modern slavery
- Disrupting criminal networks behind people smuggling
- Enforcing removals, including foreign national offenders

Below are some notes on Priti Patel's statement earlier in the Commons.

- Introducing the most significant overhaul of our asylum seeker system in decades.
- People are dying at sea, in lorries, in shipping containers, putting their lives in the hands of criminal gangs that facilitated illegal journeys in the UK
- To stop the deaths we must stop the trade in people that cause them
- Our society is enriched by legal immigration, we celebrate those who have come to the UK legally
- Since 2015 we have resettled almost 25,000 people seeking refuge, more than any EU country; we've welcome more than 29,000 close relatives through refugee family reunions, we've created a pathway to citizenship to enable over 5m people in Hong Kong to come to the UK
- But, for too long, parts of the immigration system have been open to abuse, access to UK asylum seeker should be based on need not the ability to pay people smugglers.
- If you enter illegally from a safe country like France where you should and could have claimed asylum, you're not seeking refuge from persecution as is the intended purpose of the asylum system, instead you're choosing the UK as the preferred destination and doing so at the expense of those with nowhere else to go.
- Our system is collapsing under the pressure of parallel illegal routes to asylum, facilitated by criminal smugglers.
- It is unfair to those desperately waiting to be settled in the UK and unfair to the British people whose taxes pay for vital public services and asylum system, which has skyrocketed in costs.
- The system is becoming overwhelmed – 109,000 claims are waiting in the asylum queue; 52,000 waiting a decision, 42,000 asylum seekers have not left the country despite having their claim refused
- The persistent failure to enforce our immigration rules with a system open to gaining from economic migrants is eroding the system

- Our new plan is driven by 3 objectives: improve fairness of the system, deter illegal entry in the UK, remove more easily from the UK those that have no right to be here.
 1. Continue to provide safe refuge and support for those arrive through safe and legal routes: those coming through resettlement routes will be granted indefinite leave to remain, more support to learn English, to find work and integrate; help those who have suffered injustices by amending the British Nationality Law so that members of the Windrush generation will be able to obtain British citizenship more easily.
 2. Toughen stance to deter illegal entry: many illegal arrivals have travelled through safe country; we must reduce the pull factors; for the first time whether people enter the UK legally or illegally will have an impact on their claim; we will deem their claim as inadmissible and make every effort to remove those who entered the UK illegally having travelled through a safe country

Only where removal is not possible, will those who have successful claims having entered illegally receive a new temporary protection status; not an automatic right to settle; they will be regularly reassessed for removal and have limited access to benefits and limited reunion rights. Our tough new stance will also include new maximum life sentences for people smugglers and new rules to stop people posing as children; strengthen enforcement powers for border force;
 3. We will rapidly remove those with no right to be here: establish a fast track appeals process, streamline the appeals system and make quicker removal decisions for failed asylum seekers and dangerous foreign criminals; tackle the practice of last minute claims and appeals: one stop process to require all claims be made upfront