

I am a constituent of yours, residing at **[insert first line of home address and postcode]**. I am writing to you 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 our government has decided to deny such a basic human right to so many British citizens and long-term residents. A threshold of £38,700 [means that 60% of men and 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.

As a [recent research published by Reunite Families UK](#) proves, the current spouse visa policy has already caused and continues to cause untold damages to families looking to live together in the UK. As a result of this prolonged separation, children in particular are suffering from a range of mental health impacts including selective mutism, stool holding, behavioural and emotional issue and even suicidal ideation.

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. To add insult to injury the government continues to spread an incorrect narrative of protecting the taxpayer. The real fact of the matter is that the non-British partner does not have access to public funds as a condition of their visa - it is called No Recourse to Public Funds. In addition to this, non-British partners pay a high fee for the health service and income tax on their earnings once in the UK so they are effectively double taxed. This is an important aspect that we want MPs to be better informed on as the taxpayer is already protected regardless of the threshold. It is smoke and mirrors to distract the public and to justify this move and the Minimum Income Requirement generally.

We want to know why families should 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,