



# Campaigner

## TAKE ACTION

# Tell the Prime Minister that children need their families



As it swept across the UK, Covid-19 brought uncertainty and instability on a scale many of us have never experienced before. The lockdown that followed made us all acutely aware of just how painful it is to be separated from our loved ones.

For many refugee families, this heartbreak is all too familiar. At present, the UK government's rules on family reunion prevent child refugees in the UK from being reunited with their parents. They also mean that refugee parents coming to the UK must leave behind their children if they are over 18. Elderly parents must be left behind too. These deeply restrictive and unfair rules are at odds with domestic law and a clear breach of international laws.

Over the last two years, Amnesty

has built support in parliament, persuading hundreds of MPs to support reform of the family reunion rules and delivering a petition to the Home Secretary urging her to make much-needed changes. Now we need to increase the pressure and convince the Prime Minister himself to change these rules.

Please write to the Prime Minister and urge him to help bring families together.

■ Please let us know what response you get: [email sct@amnesty.co.uk](mailto:sct@amnesty.co.uk) or write to Lucy Wake, Amnesty International UK, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA

### ■ WRITE TO:

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

### ■ IN YOUR LETTER

- Highlight that for some refugees in the UK, being kept apart from their parents or children is an everyday reality – pandemic or not.
- Remind him that this includes children who have been recognised as refugees by his government. Explain that child refugees in the UK should have the right to sponsor their close family members so they can rebuild their lives together and help them integrate in their new community.
- Explain that the definition of who qualifies as family should be expanded so that young people who have turned 18, and elderly parents, can live in safety with their families in the UK.
- Ask him to change the UK's refugee family reunion rules. He has the power to change lives – with the stroke of a pen, he can fix the rules and help bring families back together.