

FAMILIES TOGETHER STUDENT VIDEO ACTION



What's the problem?

Time apart from family can be hard. For many students, it was a relief to find out that they could reunite with family and loved ones this holiday period. However, for many refugee families, unfair rules are keeping them apart.

At present, the UK government's rules on refugee 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, and our #FamiliesTogether coalition partners, have built support in parliament, persuaded hundreds of MPs to support reform of the family reunion rules and delivered a 75,000 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. We launched a new petition to the Prime Minister, with the backing of some high-profile supporters of the campaign, including Gary Lineker, Michaela Coel and Nish Kumar. You can add your name at: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/familiestogether>

What can I do?

We need our student activists to post a selfie video or photo of themselves returning home, to highlight this injustice and to put pressure on the Prime Minister.

1. Sign and share the petition using the #FamiliesTogether

and

2. Share a photo of yourself heading home on Twitter or Instagram, @ the PM and link to the petition. Remember to use the #FamiliesTogether hashtag

or

3. Record a selfie video about returning home to see family members or loved ones, highlighting the unfair rules that are keeping refugee families apart. Share on Twitter or Instagram, @ the PM and link to the petition. Remember to use the #FamiliesTogether hashtag

Please note that we may re-share your photos and videos on the Amnesty International UK social media channels.

Useful Links

Petition: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/families-together>

Prime Minister on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/borisjohnsonuk>

Prime Minister on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BorisJohnson>

Script for Video

Here is a suggested script for you to use in your video. Feel free to personalise it by talking about what it means to you to be reunited with family.

Hi

My name is [xxx] and I study at [XXX university]

I'm recording this video as I travel to see my [families/loved ones] this holiday. After months of uncertainty, it was a relief to find out that many students can travel home and spend time with those they love.

Sadly, due to unfair rules, many refugee families are being kept apart.

Children need their families, but Home Office rules mean many child refugees are compelled to live in the UK alone, away from their parents and siblings.

Imagine you had been forced to flee your home because of war and became separated from your mother, father, sister, or brother. Alone, in a new country, you have to try and rebuild your life without the love and support of your family, all the while worrying about their safety. This is the reality faced by many refugees in the UK.

With the stroke of a pen, Prime Minister Boris Johnson could change these rules, and reunite refugee families.

Please sign and share the petition widely!