



## Refugee Family reunion closed – September 2025

(Source: GMIAU)

**As of 4 September 2025, the government has paused new applications under the refugee family reunion route, pending a review. No timescale is indicated for how long the route will be closed. Any applications submitted before this date will still be processed under the old rules.**

**From now on, most people with refugee or humanitarian protection status who want to bring a family member to the UK will need to apply under “Appendix FM”.**

### **Family Applications under Appendix FM**

People with refugee status can now apply for family to join them if they meet requirements under existing family migration rules, which includes a minimum income requirement. If you apply for a family visa as a partner, you and your partner usually need to prove that your **combined income is at least £29,000 a year** (as of Sept 2025). Children under 18 can also be added as dependants. More information [here](#).

If you cannot meet all of the Rules, including the minimum income requirement, the Home Office can make an exception if there are exceptional circumstances which would mean refusal would result in unjustifiably harsh consequences for the family members involved. *It is very unlikely that they will allow refugee families in through this route for this reason only.*

### **Children joining Close Family Members with Refugee Status**

Children **who have no adult to care for them** can apply to join a family member in the UK with refugee status. This only applies to certain family members, and there must be an existing, genuine family relationship. There is a requirement to show that there will be **enough money to support them in the UK, and adequate accommodation**. The Home Office guidance on these applications is [here](#).

If you cannot meet all of the Rules, including the maintenance requirement, the Home Office can make an exception if that refusal would result in unjustifiably harsh consequences for the family members involved. *It is unlikely that applications will be granted where the Rules are not met.*

### **Adult Dependant Relative**

Certain adults (parents, grandparents, children, brothers and sisters) who are dependent on a refugee in the UK can apply on this route. It is very hard to meet the Rules under this route, as you need to show that the applicant ‘must as a result of age, illness or disability require long term personal care to perform everyday tasks’, and that they cannot obtain that care in the country where they are. There is a requirement to show that there will be **enough money to support them in the UK, and adequate accommodation**. The Home Office guidance on these applications is [here](#).

If you cannot meet all of the Rules, including the maintenance requirement, the Home Office can make an exception if that refusal would result in unjustifiably harsh consequences for the family members involved. *It is unlikely that applications will be granted where the Rules are not met.*

Sources:

<https://freemovement.org.uk/refugee-family-reunion-route-closed-in-statement-of-changes-hc-1298/>  
<https://gmiau.org/refugee-family-reunion-september-2025/>