



The Minimum Income Requirement

What You Need To Know

- British citizens and settled residents are not permitted to live here with a partner who is from outside the EU if they earn less than **£18,600 a year**. This means that people are effectively barred from building a future here with their loved one just because of their income.
- The rules **cause the break-up of families**. More than 15,000 British children are forced to grow up without one of their parents, and can only communicate with them via Skype.
- Across the country, **upwards of 40% of people don't earn enough** to fall in love with someone from outside the EU. In some regions of the UK where wages are lower, more than 60% of people do not meet the income threshold.
- These rules discriminate against women and people from ethnic minorities, who earn less on average than their white male counterparts – the UK's Supreme Court has acknowledged that, due to this unfairness, **some people will never earn enough to meet the threshold**.
- Workers in key industries – such as the **carers** who work tirelessly to look after the elderly, or the **teaching assistants** who make up a quarter of the teaching workforce – earn below the threshold. Those who fall in love with somebody from outside the EU but don't earn enough to live here with their partner may be forced to move abroad in order to have a family life. This is an agonising decision for families, and impacts on crucial sectors that are already chronically understaffed.
- Partners from outside the EU have **no recourse to public funds**, which means they are not eligible to claim benefits like Jobseeker's Allowance, Universal Credit or housing benefit.
- Couples applying for a spouse or civil partner visa must already show that they are in a **loving relationship**, and that the partner from outside the EU **speaks good English**. Having an income requirement on top of this is purposeless, and only serves to break up loving families.

JCWI is calling for the Minimum Income Requirement to be scrapped, with no obligation to prove income in order to apply for a visa. Families should be together, regardless of their income.