

1 December 2022 | Katie Newbury

The world in crisis: how lawyers and NGOs responded to the Afghan airlift and Ukraine invasion

Ukraine refugees: Patel apologises for UK visa delays

8 April



Watch: Home Secretary Priti Patel apologises for Ukraine visa delay

By Mark Easton and Callum May
BBC News

Home Secretary Priti Patel has apologised for the "frustrating" visa delays which have prevented thousands of Ukrainian refugees entering the UK.

Just over a quarter of those Ukrainians granted visas - 12,000 - have reached the UK so far, Ms Patel told BBC News.

News | Russia-Ukraine war

UK to allow Ukrainians easier entry after outcry

Ukrainians will be able to complete visa process in the UK rather than wait abroad after government reversal.



Ukrainian refugees wait for their transportation after crossing the border into Poland at the border crossing in Medyka, southeastern Poland [Louise Gouliamaki/AFP]

WAR IN UKRAINE

Britain doubles visas for Ukrainian refugees to 200,000 after outcry



Family reunion criteria will allow those living in the UK to bring parents, adult children, siblings and grandparents who have fled from Ukraine
WOJTEK RADWANSKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The UK will double the number of Ukrainians eligible to come to Britain to 200,000 but is stopping short of mass resettlement "because it would give Putin a propaganda tool".

Refugees will be able to come to the UK under a temporary relaxation of family reunion rules, which will be widened to allow people living in Britain to bring in parents, siblings, adult children and grandparents. This extends the visa concessions announced on Sunday, which was limited to children, spouses, civil partners and long-term partners.

Ukrainian refugees with UK relatives frustrated by Home Office visa delays

People who have applied to join relatives in the UK face long waits for visa approvals

Russia-Ukraine war - latest updates



Ukrainian refugees queue to board a bus outside Przemysl train station in Poland. Photograph: James Veysey/Rex/Shutterstock

Ukrainian refugees waiting to travel to join relatives in Britain have voiced frustration at the length of time the Home Office is taking to process UK visas, despite government promises to streamline the system.

Afghan judge in hiding is refused entry to UK



Yosra is at extra risk as a female judge in addition to her part in jailing many members of the Taliban
EBRAHIM NOKROOZ/AP

An Afghan judge hiding in Pakistan is the first of potentially dozens of people to appeal against the Home Office's refusal to allow them entry to the UK.

Female Afghan judge launches appeal against UK Home Office



The judge's appeal is the first of potentially dozens of cases brought by Afghans denied entry to the UK by the Home Office. (File/Shutterstock)

Afghanistan: Judge who got Taliban death threats feels 'abandoned' after Home Office refuse UK entry

The judge is stuck in Pakistan but has UK family who are desperate to host her



The Taliban celebrating this week in front of the US embassy in Kabul, as they marked a year since they took control of Afghanistan. (Photo: AP)

By Molly Blackall
Global Affairs Correspondent

17:22 pm (Updated 6:55 pm)

Female Afghan judge in hiding from Taliban after colleagues were assassinated in Kabul and her home attacked is denied permission to come to UK with her son

- 'Yosra', 42, had a 20 year career as a judge in Afghanistan but now fears Taliban
- Colleagues have been killed, including Supreme Court Judge Kadria Yasini, 53
- Home Office have denied Yosra and her son a move to the UK to be with family
- Her lawyers say she has been left in a 'gravely vulnerable position'

By OLIVER PRICE FOR MAILONLINE

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A former female Afghan judge who is in hiding from the **Taliban** in **Pakistan** has appealed to the **Home Office** after her application to enter the UK was denied.

Her lawyers today announced that they filed the first appeal at the Immigration Tribunal on behalf of their client Yosra, 42, whose name has been changed, and her son.

The Home Office decision has prevented the pair from reuniting with family in the UK, including her nephew who works as a civil servant.

She has been left in a 'gravely vulnerable position' following the return of the Taliban regime in **Afghanistan** after the withdrawal of Western troops.

Around 70 female judges still living in Afghanistan and about another 80 outside are believed to fear for their lives from the Taliban.

Do safe and legal routes exist? An answer from the Home Secretary...



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