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Dignitism's Immigration Strategy

Dignitism is committed to building a society where every person's dignity is respected, regardless of origin. We recognize the importance of community well-being, safety, and cultural cohesion, and we strive to create an environment where everyone can thrive—both newcomers and long-time residents alike. Our approach is founded on the principle of shared dignity and mutual respect, understanding that immigration enriches our economy, culture, and innovation while strengthening social cohesion.

Our immigration policy is guided by a fundamental principle: no one's dignity will be reduced. This is not just a matter of good intentions—it is a practical commitment to ensuring that our approach to migration and residency upholds the dignity of all.

We understand the complexities of immigration, and we are clear-eyed about its challenges. But we will not permit any form of migration that risks undermining the dignity, stability, or cohesion of our society. The well-being of the resident population—including their sense of security, community, and cultural identity—must be safeguarded. We rise together, and we build together—a future where both citizens and newcomers feel valued, safe, and dignified.

At the same time, Dignitism is rooted in compassion. We are committed to supporting those in need—whether they are fleeing conflict, seeking opportunity, or bringing their talents to enrich our society. Our approach to immigration will be measured, humane, and responsible, grounded in the belief that dignity is universal, and stability is essential.

Our promise is this: Immigration under Dignitism will uphold the dignity of all. We will balance human compassion with the collective well-being of our communities, striving always to create a system that is fair, just, and rooted in the belief that every person has inherent worth.

Dignitism's Response to Job Loss in the Context of Immigration

Losing a job opportunity is painful. It affects your confidence, your plans, your sense of self-worth—and we understand that deeply. We all want to feel needed and valued. That's human. But the dignity you feel isn't built by blaming someone else for your misfortune. It's restored by how society responds when you fall.

Dignitism doesn't promise you'll always get the job—but it promises you'll never be invisible. You will not be left behind. Our focus is not to find someone to blame, but to build a society where the loss of a job is never the loss of your worth. That's why we invest in support, in retraining, in real second chances. Dignity is not a prize for winners; it's the starting point for everyone.

We won't throw people out to fix what inclusion didn't break. But we will fight every day for a society where your mirror smiles back at you—even in hard times.

Dignitism Asylum Policy

The right to asylum is a fundamental human right guaranteed by international treaties ratified by the UK. We affirm our obligations under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, as well as the European Convention on Human Rights (particularly Article 3: prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment, and Article 8: right to family life). Because the UK has committed to these frameworks, we ensure fair and humane treatment throughout the asylum process.

We will process applications efficiently and fairly. To facilitate this, we will create 10 new regional application and processing hubs ("Welcome Centres") across the UK. Each hub will be allocated a fixed proportion of asylum seekers to prevent bottlenecks and promote local integration.

Asylum seekers can present to a Welcome Centre at any time (for example after overstaying a visa or after arriving on a small boat). At the Welcome Centre they will receive initial social support, health care, and help submitting their application. Applicants must accept referrals between centres if a centre is overwhelmed by demand. Asylum applicants will remain clients of their centre which will provide ongoing support. Centres will provide emergency accommodation and help finding some longer-term accommodation.

Asylum seekers will receive the same Universal Basic Income as a UK legal resident until their claim has been processed. This provides a financial floor to promote autonomy and dignity; other support will be tailored based on need.

Digital Access & Identity System

Asylum seekers will be provided with a secure mobile device designed to support their wellbeing and participation during the application process. This device will function as a digital ID, document hub, and electronic wallet for receiving Universal Basic Income and essential services.

Daily use of the phone will be encouraged to maintain active contact with their Welcome Centre and receive wellbeing checks, updates on their case, and access to support.

Location tracking will only be used with the asylum seeker's informed consent, requested only during periods of case review, accommodation support, or departure planning. Consent can be reviewed or withdrawn at any time to protect privacy.

Financial transaction monitoring will be limited to wallet functions and is required to ensure proper delivery and use of public funds. This data will not be shared beyond relevant oversight bodies and will comply fully with UK data protection law, including UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

The phone remains the asylum seeker's property during the process, and assistance will be available to ensure usability and digital literacy. Phones and support will be adapted for multiple languages and accessibility needs.

Each asylum seeker will be contacted daily by text to ask about their wellbeing and weekly by a personal call providing an update and support. Asylum seekers who cannot be contacted for 9 weeks will have transferal of their UBI to their electronic wallet deferred until they can be contacted in person and will be automatically referred to the immigration tribunal.

Pathways for Asylum Application

Early filtering of inadmissible claims at the Welcome Centre is essential for an efficient and fair asylum process. By promptly identifying claims that clearly do not meet eligibility criteria, resources can be focused on genuine cases, reducing delays for all applicants.

Inadmissible claims include those made by individuals who have already received asylum in another safe country, who transit through designated safe third countries without compelling reason, or who submit false or abusive claims.

A designated officer will assess these claims using clear, objective standards and refer them directly to the tribunal for swift review. Applicants will be informed immediately if their claim is inadmissible. To prevent misuse, a first inadmissible claim will be noted, but only a second such claim will block resubmission for six months.

If an applicant submits two inadmissible claims within 12 months, they will be barred from reapplying for at least six months.

Calais Welcome Centre

A Welcome Centre in Calais would serve as a crucial legal gateway to stop dangerous small boat crossings. All arrivals would be screened on-site for admissible asylum claims, allowing genuine refugees safe, orderly access to the UK.

To reinforce fairness and public confidence, individuals intercepted after crossing the Channel irregularly will be transferred to the Calais Welcome Centre and returned to

French territory, subject to bilateral agreements. There, their admissibility will be re-assessed.

This measure eliminates incentives for unlawful crossings while still offering a dignified process.

Those with inadmissible claims—such as economic migrants or repeat claimants—would be denied entry and offered support to return or apply elsewhere.

To prevent seasonal misuse or fraud, applicants found to be making false claims for temporary work access will be barred for 12 months.

This process reduces the incentive to cross the Channel illegally, protecting lives and enhancing security. By managing claims early, the centre ensures resources focus on true asylum seekers while deterring misuse of the system.

Rapid (<6 months) Pathway

The maximum duration is 6 months. Before choosing this pathway, the applicant and caseworker will review the likelihood that the necessary information can be obtained within 5 months. Cases will be processed as quickly as possible. If not completed within 5 months, the application will be referred to an immigration tribunal. Applicants may refer their case to a tribunal at any time.

Participants in this pathway will be permitted to work on arrival and live anywhere in the UK.

Comprehensive Pathway (average 13.5 months)

Applicants choosing this pathway will not be permitted to work on arrival and must stay within 2 hours travel distance of their Welcome Centre. Applicants may refer their case to a tribunal at any time.

These work and mobility restrictions reflect risk and resource management, not punishment.

Cost-effectiveness

Dignitism's immigration approach emphasizes efficiency and cost-effectiveness by streamlining asylum processing through regional Welcome Centres and offering a rapid pathway option. By enabling asylum seekers to work upon arrival in the rapid pathway, the policy promotes faster economic integration, reducing dependency on public funds.

Digital ID systems with biometric verification and fraud detection reduce administrative costs and ensure proper targeting of support. Providing tailored support and trauma-informed assessment minimizes lengthy appeals and legal challenges, saving resources.

Additionally, the monitored departure program reduces reliance on costly detention facilities. Together, these measures balance humane treatment with fiscal responsibility, aiming for a cost-neutral immigration system that fosters dignity and social stability.

Immigration Tribunal

The immigration tribunal is the final arbiter for asylum decisions under Dignitism. Applicants in either pathway may request referral to a tribunal at any point, especially if they believe a decision is unjust or delayed. In the rapid pathway, if no decision has been reached within five months, the case will be automatically referred to ensure timely resolution.

Tribunal hearings will begin within two weeks of referral and conclude within one month. If evidence is insufficient to decide the case, the tribunal will notify the applicant and allow an additional two weeks to provide further evidence. The tribunal will then make a final decision based on the best available information.

If essential evidence is lacking or unverifiable, asylum may not be granted. However, when documentation is missing but the claim remains consistent, detailed, and plausible, protection can still be granted.

We recognize that trauma and fear affect memory—minor discrepancies such as dates or places should not discredit a claim. Our caseworkers and tribunal members receive trauma-informed training to assess credibility based on core plausibility, not flawless recall.

“Let anyone cast the first stone who has never faltered under stress.” Our commitment is to dignity and justice, not punishment for imperfection.

Removal of Failed Asylum Seekers

Failed asylum seekers will be enrolled in a Monitored Departure Programme as an alternative to detention. They will be required to carry their issued mobile phone and wear a discreet monitoring device (e.g., ankle tag or wristband) until their departure is completed.

Participants will have one week following their tribunal decision to choose between two supported return options:

1. Voluntary return to their country of origin, or
2. Assisted transfer to a designated safe third country, in line with international law and human rights standards.

Those who depart within 14 days of the final tribunal decision will receive a departure grant of £400, in addition to any remaining funds in their electronic wallet.

Legal counsel and psychological support will be available during the departure planning period.

Individuals may submit a one-time appeal based on new circumstances before enforcement escalates.

After this two-week period, access to the wallet will be suspended. Those who fail to comply with monitored departure may be subject to further legal action, including detention or removal under standard immigration enforcement procedures.

We prioritize voluntary, supported departure and use enforcement measures only as a last resort.

Costs

Current annual UK asylum system cost estimates vary but can reach around **£300–500 million/year** when including detention, legal aid, extended accommodation, and support

Total Rough Annual Cost Estimate

Category	Cost (£ millions)
UBI	131.3
Accommodation	60.0
Centres & Staff	20.0
Tribunals	2.25
Tech	7.5
Total	~220 million

Policy Brief: A Fair and Dignified Voluntary Return Program for Migrants and Their Families

Executive Summary

This policy brief proposes a comprehensive **Voluntary Return Program** for migrants who have contributed to the UK's economy and society, combining a financial **NHS Rebate Scheme** with a **Family-Inclusive Return Support Package**. The program emphasizes fairness, dignity, and respect by acknowledging migrants' contributions, facilitating smooth returns to their countries of origin, and celebrating their role as ambassadors of the UK abroad. The initiative aims to reduce long-term public service costs, particularly NHS expenditure, while strengthening UK soft power through positive departure experiences.

Problem Statement: Fairness and Sustainability

Many migrants contribute significantly to the UK's National Health Service and public services but may face costly healthcare needs later in life. Currently, migrants returning to their countries lose NHS access without any financial recognition for their contributions. Families face logistical, emotional, and financial challenges in returning, with little official support or recognition. This lack of a structured, dignified return pathway leads to preventable long-term public costs and missed opportunities for positive international relations.

Program Components

1. NHS Rebate Scheme

- Eligible migrants aged 40+ who have worked full-time in the UK may receive a voluntary rebate of £1,000 per year of NHS contribution.
- Rebate recipients agree to forfeit free NHS care (except emergency, maternity, sexual health, TB, HIV treatment) upon return.
- Applications must be submitted before departure, verified through National Insurance and NHS records.
- This offers a fair acknowledgment of past NHS investment and incentivizes voluntary return, helping reduce NHS long-term costs.

- Applicants must be able to demonstrate permanent residency rights in the country they are returning to, either through citizenship, marriage/family connection, or long-term prior residence.

2. Family-Inclusive Voluntary Return Support

- Extends financial incentives and support to spouses/partners and dependent children returning with the main applicant, recognizing the shared nature of family contributions and relocation challenges.
- Provides a lump sum payment and continuation of Universal Basic Income or social care benefits for up to 3 months post-departure to ease transition.
- Offers comprehensive logistical support, including travel arrangements, reintegration assistance, and cultural orientation, facilitated through a dedicated return agency.
- Supports cases where some family members remain in the UK, tailoring support to those returning.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate permanent residency rights in the country they are returning to, either through citizenship, marriage/family connection, or long-term prior residence.

3. Leaving the UK Ceremony

- A formal, celebratory ceremony akin to citizenship ceremonies, honoring departing migrants for their contributions and fostering goodwill.
- Includes certificates of appreciation, official recognition by government or royal representatives, and media outreach to highlight positive stories.
- Builds soft power by encouraging migrants to become UK ambassadors in their home countries, strengthening international ties and enhancing the UK's global image.

Benefits

- **Fairness & Dignity:** Recognizes migrants' contributions and supports families holistically, ensuring returns are a positive life step, not a punitive measure.
- **Public Cost Savings:** Reduces NHS and social care expenditures by encouraging healthy, voluntary returns of potentially high-cost individuals.
- **Social Cohesion:** Maintains trust in UK immigration and social systems by providing transparent, respectful pathways.

- **Soft Power:** Harnesses departing migrants as cultural and economic bridges, enhancing the UK's international relationships and reputation.
 - **Sustainable Migration:** Aligns with broader immigration goals by balancing economic needs and fiscal responsibility.
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Pilot Proposal

- Launch a 12-month pilot targeting migrants over 40 with at least 10 years of UK National Insurance contributions.
 - Offer combined NHS rebate and family support packages in a defined geographic region or sector.
 - Include formal "Leaving the UK" ceremonies for pilot participants.
 - Collect data on cost savings, participant satisfaction, reintegration success, and diplomatic impacts.
 - Use pilot outcomes to refine and scale the program nationally.
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Conclusion

By integrating financial recognition with compassionate family support and dignified departure ceremonies, this voluntary return program offers a fair, efficient, and strategic approach to managing long-term migration challenges. It benefits migrants, their families, the NHS, and the UK's global standing—turning departures into opportunities for mutual respect and ongoing collaboration.

Policy Brief: Reforming the UK Student Visa System to Support Economic Growth, Fairness, and Soft Power

Background

The UK attracts thousands of international students annually, yet the current student visa system often misaligns immigration policy with economic priorities. There is a growing consensus to prioritize students in STEM and postgraduate studies who directly contribute to the UK's workforce and innovation ecosystem, while responsibly managing immigration numbers.

Key Proposals

1. Focused Visa Eligibility:

- **Priority topics:**
 - Student visas are restricted to key subjects of national importance (STEM, relevant postgraduate courses) and issued for the expected duration of study plus 18 months.
 - Applicants must be under 30 at application (up to 50 for research/PhD pathways).
- **Non-priority topics:**
 - Student visas are not age-restricted but valid only for the expected duration of the degree.

2. Post-Study Work Criteria:

- **Priority topics:**
 - Graduates with a first-class degree may extend their visa to stay up to 3 years post-study.
 - To stay beyond 3 years, applicants must either:
 - Secure a job with an annual salary of £50,000+, or
 - Demonstrate personal savings of £50,000 with no outstanding debt.
 - Alternative 5-year visa and citizenship eligibility available for those in nationally important research or health sectors.

- **Non-priority topics:**

- Students are expected to return to their home country soon after degree completion.

3. Conditional Degree Certificate Collection:

- Graduates from non-priority subjects must collect their degree certificates in person at the UK embassy in their country of origin within 6 months of completion.
- Marriage to a UK citizen does not exempt this condition.
- This measure encourages return to the home country, supports UK soft power, and promotes fair migration management.

Entrepreneurial Startup Project Module and Embassy Funding

To add value and enhance UK soft power, universities admitting international students—especially in non-priority subjects—must implement an entrepreneurship module:

- **Startup Project Assignment:** Students develop detailed business or social enterprise plans as coursework.
- **Tutored Feedback:** Faculty provide ongoing support to develop practical, robust proposals.
- **Final Submission to UK Embassy:** Universities submit these business plans along with the student's degree certificate for embassy collection. Approximately 10% of proposals with UK connections will receive funding support.

Expected Outcomes:

This initiative fosters innovation linked to the UK, encourages economic growth, and promotes positive international relations through soft power, providing graduates meaningful opportunities upon return.

Family-Friendly Studies: Balancing Cost, Support, and Academic Priorities

To maintain attractiveness of UK education and fairness in immigration, family accompaniment varies by field of study:

- All students receive one economy-class return airfare per year to visit home, supporting wellbeing affordably.

- STEM and priority-area students may exchange this ticket for a family visa mirroring their own, allowing families to join them for the visa duration.
- Family visit visas will not include travel subsidies, focusing resources on priority sectors.

This policy balances cost-efficiency, student welfare, and strategic investment in sectors critical to the UK economy, while offering fair support across disciplines.

Alignment with the Dignity Framework

This policy respects international student dignity by:

- Offering clear, fair pathways based on merit and contribution.
 - Supporting entrepreneurial aspirations and career development.
 - Encouraging voluntary return positively benefiting individuals and their home countries.
 - Promoting UK values through engagement rather than restrictive controls.
 - Providing free annual return visits to boost mental health, reduce overstays, and strengthen family ties—reducing enforcement and healthcare costs while enhancing UK soft power and university reputation.
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Conclusion

This reformed student visa system balances the UK's need for a skilled, innovative workforce with fairness, economic pragmatism, and enhanced global standing. By linking study, work, entrepreneurship, and return pathways, the UK can maximize benefits from international students while managing immigration sustainably.

Policy Brief: Reforming Family Visas and Family Contact Options to Support Human Rights, Economic Sustainability, and Integration

Background

The right to family life is a core human right that must be upheld within the UK's immigration system. However, the current family visa system can lead to extended family migration even when the primary migrant's economic contribution declines over time. This creates long-term challenges for sustainable immigration, places strain on public services, and risks undermining public confidence.

This brief proposes a balanced approach that preserves migrants' dignity and family rights, while supporting the UK's economic, social, and integration priorities.

Key Challenges in the Current System

- Migrants in physically demanding or lower-paid sectors (e.g., construction) may remain in the UK beyond their peak working years if their families are settled, even when their economic contribution decreases.
 - Bringing families to the UK can reduce voluntary return rates, increasing long-term public costs.
 - The current system offers limited flexibility for maintaining family contact without permanent migration.
 - A lack of differentiation in visa pathways makes it difficult to manage human rights alongside economic and social policy goals.
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Proposed Policy Reform

Core Innovation: Migrants will be given a choice between applying for a family visa or receiving funded return visits to maintain family contact abroad.

1. Extended Decision Period for Family Contact Option

Families will have **up to 9 months** from the arrival of the primary visa holder to choose between:

- Applying for a **family visa** (allowing family members to live in the UK), or
 - Opting for **funded annual home visits** to maintain family connections abroad.
- This grace period reflects realistic visa timelines and the human realities of

family life. The choice becomes binding at the end of 9 months, with one optional switch allowed during the visa's first year.

- Once the choice is finalized, it will remain in place for the duration of the initial visa period to provide clarity and reduce administrative burden.

2. Family Visits Eligibility

- Funded return visits will be limited to migrants with **immediate family** members abroad:
 - Spouse or civil partner
 - Dependent children (under 18 or with a disability)
 - Dependent parents (financially reliant and residing abroad)
- **Extended family (e.g., siblings, cousins)** will not qualify for funded visit justification.
- This ensures that resources are directed toward supporting the core family unit and maintaining dignity while controlling public cost exposure.

3. Visa Duration, Renewal, and Citizenship

- Initial visa terms will be granted for **up to 5 years**, depending on the migrant's role and compliance.
- A further **5-year renewal** will be available subject to meeting all conditions, including employment and lawful conduct.
- After 5-10 years of lawful residence, migrants will become **eligible to apply for UK citizenship**, contingent on passing the Life in the UK and English language tests.
- **Two-year grace period** allowed for those who initially fail the test. Continued failure may result in **visa status review** or consideration for voluntary return assistance.

Benefits of the Proposed Approach

Respect for Human Rights and Dignity

By offering a genuine, informed choice between family reunification or sustained contact through home visits, the policy supports autonomy, respects personal circumstances, and reduces unnecessary separation.

Economic Sustainability

Allowing home visits rather than automatic family migration encourages **voluntary return** once the migrant's economic role declines. This reduces long-term dependency, housing pressure, and health/social care costs.

Encouraging Integration

The path to citizenship, tied to a fair and clear process, encourages long-term commitment, contribution, and community engagement.

Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing

Annual return visits reduce stress and loneliness, particularly for those whose families remain abroad. This promotes migrant stability, productivity, and emotional wellbeing.

Conclusion

This policy reform offers a pragmatic, humane solution to the complex issue of family migration. By combining **individual choice, economic logic, and integration incentives**, it supports both migrant dignity and national interests. A sustainable, rights-based immigration system must balance the emotional and economic dimensions of migration—and this policy provides a blueprint to do just that.