

El Reino Unido elimina visas de visitante para nacionales de Colombia

El Reino Unido anuncia que a partir del 9 de noviembre de 2022, nacionales de Colombia no necesitarán una visa de visitante para viajar al Reino Unido por un periodo de hasta seis meses.

En un procedimiento ante el Parlamento Británico el día martes 18 de octubre, la decisión de eliminar las visas de visitante fue aprobada, tras un proceso extenso y riguroso de evaluación por parte de diferentes instituciones del gobierno británico.

Con este anuncio, el Reino Unido se vuelve más accesible a colombianos que quieran descubrir y disfrutar su rica cultura, su larga historia y su hermoso paisaje. Y más allá que el turismo, con este cambio, el país abrirá sus puertas a nuevas oportunidades de negocio en diversos sectores.

George Hodgson, Embajador Británico en Colombia comentó:

Nos alegra poder compartir el Reino Unido con aún más colombianos. Sin duda, la eliminación de visas de visitante – proceso en el que hemos venido trabajando desde hace mucho tiempo – marca un gran paso en nuestra relación UKCOL. Esperamos ver muy pronto un incremento en el número de visitantes colombianos en el Reino Unido.

Respecto a la decisión, la Cancillería afirmó que:

El Reino Unido es uno de los principales socios de Colombia, como lo evidencian su apoyo irrestricto a la implementación del Acuerdo de Paz de 2016 y sus significativas contribuciones a la protección del medio ambiente, en particular la Amazonia.

Al igual que Colombia, dos otros países en la región, Perú y Guyana, se beneficiarán del mismo cambio al regimen de visas de visitante.

Nacionales de Colombia quienes hayan solicitado una visa de visitante y aún no hayan suministrado datos biométricos (es decir, sus huellas dactilares) pueden desde ya retirar su solicitud y aplicar para recibir un reembolso de la tarifa de la visa a través de www.gov.uk/cancel-visa.

Es importante resaltar que los requisitos para trabajar, estudiar y establecerse en el Reino Unido se mantienen.

It is our responsibility as Member States to unequivocally condemn disinformation, especially when it provokes or encourages threats to peace or acts of aggression.

Thank you Mr Chair, Distinguished colleagues,

I would like to start by thanking Under-Secretary-General Fleming and the Department of Global Communications for their engagement with Member States, through reports submitted to the Committee on Information, as well as regular updates and exchanges on the work of the Department.

The United Kingdom welcomes the Department's work to improve the UN's strategic communications, news, media and outreach activity as well as its leadership and innovation in response to the complex communications challenges that face us.

The Department has continued to expand its reach through innovative partnerships and has been successful at mobilising wide and diverse audiences. These efforts are necessary to meet the growing demand around the world for accurate, impartial and comprehensive information on the most pressing global issues, such as Covid-19, the Climate Crisis, or Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine.

On these topics and others, people are looking at the UN now more than ever as a source of trusted information and we have to acknowledge that part of the reason why is that disinformation, propaganda and lies are out there in the world like never before. An infodemic carried on vectors of digital technologies and media.

We also need to be frank that this infodemic has a source and it is important that we focus our attention on "information manipulation, including disinformation, by states" and we recognise, this year in particular, the disinformation dimension of Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

Since launching its invasion in February, the Kremlin's propaganda machine has been in overdrive. The Russian government has lied to the world, lied to Ukrainians, lied to its own people and lied to itself. President Putin wants truth to be a casualty of this war, but we will continue to tell the truth about Russia's aggression, including the strong evidence of war crimes that we are seeing committed in Ukraine.

The UN must do the same, guided by the language in resolutions adopted

overwhelmingly by the General Assembly and the Secretary-General's clear statements about Russia's violations of the UN Charter and its aggression. The entire UN system must be consistent in how it describes this war.

Because this offensive against truth has global consequences. Russia's disinformation about its invasion of Ukraine threatens to undermine public trust in the media and also confidence in public and international institutions, including the UN.

This really matters because if they succeed, then we will all fail. It is our responsibility as Member States to unequivocally condemn disinformation, especially when it provokes or encourages threats to peace or acts of aggression.

The ideals enshrined in the UN Charter cannot be realised in a world in which truth is obscured by State propaganda and muzzled media freedoms.

Together through our work in this Committee and in partnership with the UN, we can challenge disinformation and protect the space for impartial and accurate reporting of the threats and challenges that the UN was founded to address.

[Minister for Defence People, Veterans and Service families, Defence Accommodation Strategy speech](#)

I might not have been a defence minister for very long, but having been a soldier in the Army Intelligence Corps and an Army wife, I know how important decent accommodation is.

It's not just about making sure the shower works, the roof doesn't leak, and the kitchen is mould-free, as important as those things are.

It's about having somewhere that you can look forward to returning to, somewhere you, your partner and your family can call home. In other words, somewhere that doesn't make you want to ditch the military life in favour of a less exciting but more predictable civilian one.

Your home should incentivise you to pursue a long, rewarding military career, alongside your family. Home is where the heart is – as cliché as it sounds – so we shouldn't be surprised if people don't want to live in below par accommodation.

Thankfully the Defence Secretary, who (to be honest, quite a while ago) lived in these barracks, is determined to get this right. So we talked to service

personnel and families. We listened to what they had to say and today I am delighted to launch Defence's new Accommodation Strategy.

Our plan focuses on three areas:

Firstly, it's about raising the bar: setting a new minimum standard for Single Living Accommodation across the entire Defence estate.

As a bare minimum we will ensure every room is quiet, secure, dry, well ventilated and heated with access to hot water on demand. That is a minimum. And there'll be a proactive approach to ongoing maintenance, regularly checking to make sure things don't go wrong in the first place, with regular upgrades.

I know things have moved on since I was a military wife, so we'll also be ensuring stronger Wi-Fi connections for all. Which is great news for those who want to video call home or stream online.

And in the coming months and years, we'll keep talking to our personnel, and their families, to understand how their needs change, and what more can be done.

Secondly, our plan is about fairness.

In the past, subsidised accommodation was divvied-up according to rank. From now on we're going to ensure it is allocated primarily based on need.

The question we'll be asking is not how many stripes or pips they have, or how many people they command, but do they have a family? How old are their children? Do they have any special requirements?

Service families' accommodation will be allocated on individual requirements, not rank. We're also going to make sure our strategy better reflects the reality of today's society. That means giving personnel in long-term relationships the same access to accommodation as their married colleagues.

Finally, this plan is about value for money.

We're dealing with the rising cost of living, and a war in Europe, so we've got to get smarter about getting more for our money. This means reducing the current stock in places where beds are continually unused and going empty. It means making our homes more sustainable by increasing their energy efficiency, through better insulation and modern heating systems. And it means future-proofing renovated accommodation with things like electric car charging ports.

It's no coincidence that we chose these barracks to launch our new Accommodation Strategy today. When Queen Victoria visited, it was in such a state of disrepair, she ordered a complete renovation.

Now we're ensuring that in today's Armed Forces, wherever our people live, they will have a place they are proud to call home. Ensuring they are incentivised to do their job to the best of their abilities.

After all, we expect our brave men and women to protect our backs; and the least we can do is show them that we have theirs.

Strengthening women's resilience and leadership as a path to peace in regions plagued by armed groups

Thank you, President. Let me thank the Deputy Secretary General and all our briefers today for your testimony, your advocacy and your leadership.

As we mark the anniversary of Resolution 1325, the UK is proud to be a leading champion of the Women Peace and Security agenda in the UN and around the world. And yet the stark reality presented by our briefers speaks for itself. Despite our collective efforts of 22 years, we all need to do more to deliver on the promise of 1325. Today I'd like to highlight three of our priorities.

First it is clear that we need to strengthen the global response to conflict-related sexual violence. A 20% increase in sexual violence against children and a 41% increase in the abduction of girls as reported in the Secretary General's 2022 report on children in armed conflict cannot be ignored.

That is why the UK will host an International Conference on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict on 28-29 November. We will gather countries together to galvanise the response to CRSV, and we will launch a political declaration to send a strong message that we will support survivors, help prevent future violence, and hold perpetrators to account. We urge member states to endorse this declaration, and make a national commitment outlining practical steps they will take to prevent and respond to CRSV, for example implementing the Murad Code.

Second, we continue to support women's participation in peace efforts. Women are integral to building lasting peace and security, and their full, equal and meaningful participation in peace processes is the cornerstone of our approach to WPS. But progress here has been too slow as we've heard today.

There has been no significant increase in women's participation in peace processes since 2000, despite all the rhetoric. So the UK's fifth WPS National Action Plan will focus on concrete and practical ways to reflect the contribution women make to peace in a changed strategic environment, from Afghanistan to Ukraine, from climate security to cyber threats.

Third, President, we need to create an enabling environment for women to participate. A major barrier to women's engagement in political life is the rising risk of reprisals. The Secretary-General's latest WPS report

highlights that since 2018, over a third of the women briefers to the Security Council have faced reprisals. This is simply not acceptable. The UK is committed to protecting women human rights defenders and briefers who courageously speak in this chamber. In partnership with OHCHR, we developed Guidance for Member States to mitigate reprisals against civil society briefers.

President, Women's place at the peace table is not only their right, it is essential to building and sustaining peace and security. Every absence will be our collective loss.

Thank you.

[Government Office for Technology Transfer launches with events in London and Manchester](#)

The science, innovation and business community came together this week at London's Royal Institution and Manchester's Science and Industry Museum to launch [the Government Office for Technology Transfer \(GOTT\)](#).

GOTT, which forms part of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), has been established to unlock the value of public sector knowledge assets, estimated to be worth over £106 billion, delivering economic, social and financial outcomes for the UK economy and taxpayers.

Science and Investment Security Minister Nusrat Ghani said:

The UK is an exceptional research, knowledge and innovation base, cementing its position as a genuine global science superpower.

However, British discoveries are too often brought to market elsewhere, taking the expertise and financial benefits from UK research to foreign economies.

This is why the work of excellent new Government Office for Technology Transfer, launching today, will be so important. I look forward to seeing this new office work to commercialise the UK's outstanding home-grown knowledge assets to benefit our country's economy, society, and position as an Innovation Nation.

GOTT CEO Dr Alison Campbell said:

I'm delighted to be able to mark the launch of the Government Office for Technology Transfer – as a dedicated team with a cross-government remit, it's a first of its kind.

Our purpose is to raise awareness across government of the value of intangible knowledge assets and to provide practical advice and support to enable such opportunities to be properly exploited.

There is a wealth of knowledge, resources and intellectual property across the portfolio of government investments that has the power to drive innovation across business and the public sector. There are already many exciting examples of how these are contributing to the British economy. We want to enhance the scale and pace of knowledge asset development across the public sector.

Headquartered in Salford, GOTT hosted the second of its 2 launch events on Thursday at Manchester's Science and Industry Museum, where BEIS Non-Executive Board Member, Vikas Shah, joined Alison Campbell to welcome invitees from the innovation ecosystem in the North, as well as showcasing the city as a centre for government innovation.

About the Government Office for Tech Transfer

GOTT, which is led by Dr Alison Campbell, sits within the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and has a cross-government mandate to supercharge the identification, development and exploitation of public sector knowledge assets and to encourage the public sector to be more innovative and entrepreneurial in how it manages its own assets.

Knowledge assets include know-how, data, brands, business processes, expert resources and technology. Technology transfer is about sharing these assets with other organisations to stimulate innovation and the development of new products, processes and services and the creation of new commercial ventures.

GOTT has already begun to work with the public sector on innovations such as a cheaper higher intensity Vacuum Ultra-Violet (VUV) light source to purify water and the use of graphene biosensors to detect different health conditions and diseases using biomarkers in the human body.

Through providing both funding and expertise, GOTT will support projects such as these across government. It will also work with organisations that have a mature technology transfer capability to identify areas of synergy and best practice.

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