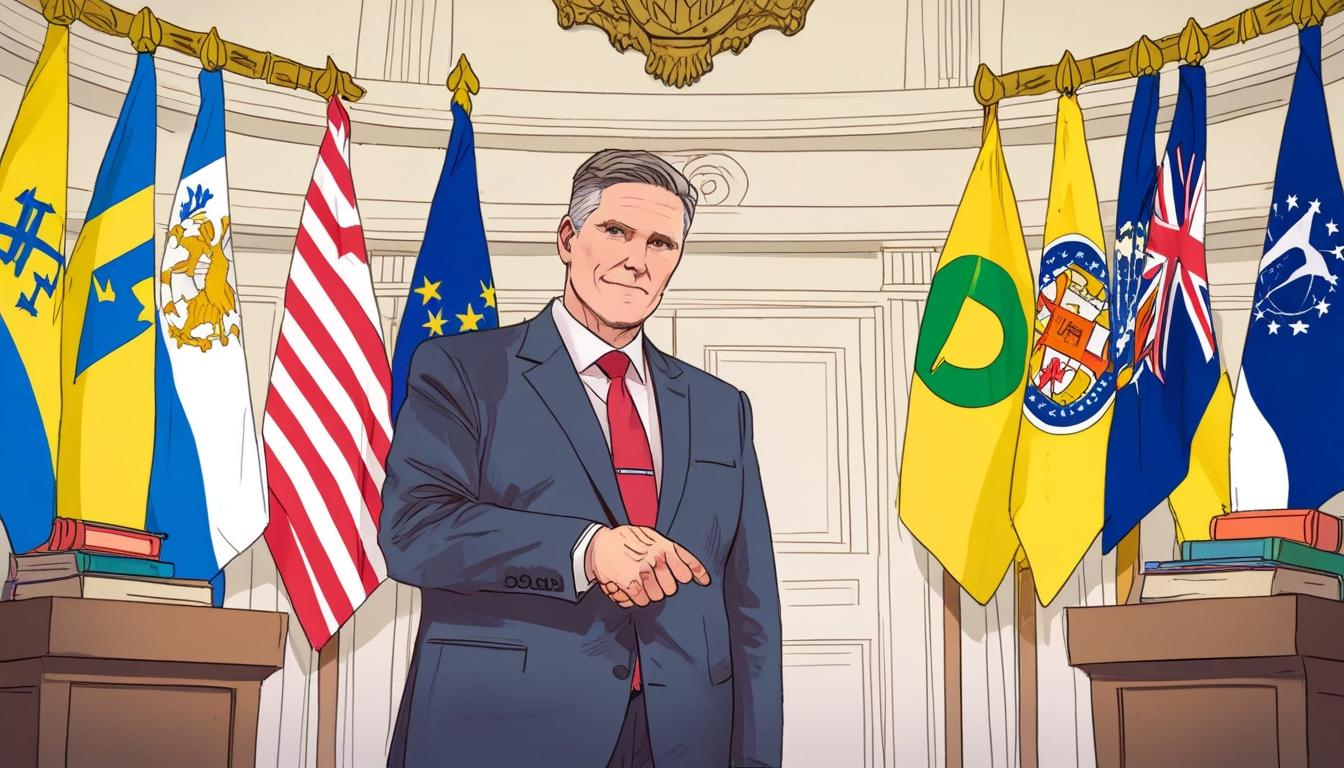
# Starmer heads to Washington for crucial talks with Trump on Ukraine



Prime Minister Keir Starmer has arrived in Washington for a pivotal meeting with US President Donald Trump amid rising tensions over Ukraine, emphasising the urgent need for American security guarantees as a deterrent against any further Russian aggression. The discussions come at a time of heightened concern for European stability, with the future of Ukraine's security hanging in the balance.

Starmer's diplomatic mission, which is being closely watched, follows a week of intense international talks involving key leaders, including French President Emmanuel Macron, who met with Trump earlier this week. Macron warned against a potential "surrender" of Ukraine, urging for a strong response to maintain support for the country. Starmer's meetings coincide with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's imminent visit to Washington.

As Starmer prepares for his face-to-face with Trump, he aims to secure a commitment for a US backstop to a UK and French-led peacekeeping operation in Ukraine. Acknowledging the gravity of committing British troops to such a mission, Starmer stated, "The security guarantee has to be sufficient to deter Putin from coming again," underscoring his belief that a ceasefire without robust support could allow Russia to regroup and advance its objectives in Ukraine.

The UK Prime Minister's visit takes place under a cloud of uncertainty. Trump has publicly expressed reluctance to provide extensive security guarantees, suggesting instead that Europe should take responsibility for its own security. "I’m not going to make security guarantees beyond very much," Trump remarked, adding that the focus should be on European nations as they share a direct geographical concern.

Starmer's strategy includes emphasising the necessity for lasting peace in Ukraine, rather than a temporary ceasefire, which he believes would not address Putin’s ambitions. He stated, "I want a lasting peace, and I don’t think that will happen if there isn’t an effective deterrence to Putin."

In the lead-up to the talks, Starmer has already announced significant increases in UK defence spending, aiming for an allocation of 2.5% of GDP by 2027, three years ahead of schedule. This commitment reflects the UK's readiness to enhance its military capabilities in response to increased threats from Russia. However, the decision to cut aid spending to fund this increase has raised concerns among some within Starmer's party.

Starmer is accompanied by key UK officials, including Foreign Secretary David Lammy and National Security Adviser Jonathan Powell, as he seeks to balance the UK's interests with maintaining cordial relations with the unpredictable Trump. The Prime Minister is also expected to raise concerns about potential trade tariffs, advocating for a balanced trade relationship between the US and the UK, which he believes should exempt the UK from punitive measures.

The context of Starmer's visit is complicated further by Trump's remarks following his meeting with Macron, where he underscored that Europe would take the lead in security matters related to Ukraine. During this time, speculation has arisen regarding Trump's health after noticeable bruising was seen on his hand during public appearances, although there has been no official comment from the White House on this issue.

While the stakes are high, Starmer aims to navigate these complex diplomatic waters carefully, striving to garner support from the US while also ensuring that any agreement fundamentally secures the future of Ukraine. Furthermore, discussions on the Chagos Islands and US-UK cooperation on artificial intelligence are expected to surface during the meeting. With Trump's unpredictable nature, the outcome of this diplomatic engagement remains uncertain, but its implications for both nations and the broader geopolitical landscape are significant.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/donald-trump-and-keir-starmer-when-is-the-washington-meeting-and-what-will-the-us-and-uk-leaders-discuss-5008339> - This article supports the claim that Keir Starmer is meeting Donald Trump in Washington to discuss key issues like Ukraine and US-UK relations, emphasizing the high stakes involved in their diplomatic encounter.
* <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/starmer-brings-uk-defense-spending-pledge-to-washington-to-help-sway-trump-on-ukraine> - This report corroborates Starmer's strategy of increasing UK defense spending to influence Trump's stance on Ukraine, highlighting the importance of a US backstop for a lasting peace.
* <https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/rulesofcourt.pdf> - This document does not directly relate to the article's content but is included as it was part of the search results. It pertains to legal procedures in Virginia and does not support any specific claim in the article.
* <https://www.justice.gov/opcl/overview-privacy-act-1974-2020-edition/disclosures-third-parties> - Similar to the previous entry, this link does not support any claim in the article. It discusses the Privacy Act and its implications for government disclosures.
* <https://www.justice.gov/opcl/overview-privacy-act-1974-2020-edition/disclosures-third-parties> - As mentioned, this does not relate to the article's content but is included due to its presence in the search results.
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* <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/feb/26/putin-could-reinvade-ukraine-without-us-security-guarantees-starmer-warns> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
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