# Pakistani drug dealer avoids deportation over role in educating son on Islam and culture



A Pakistani drug dealer has successfully avoided deportation after a judge ruled that his role in educating his son about Islam and Pakistani culture was of paramount importance. Muhammad Asif Karim, 43, originally entered the UK in 1998 on a visitor visa and has since accrued a troubling record comprising 21 offences, including a four-year prison term for heroin and cocaine trafficking. His path to remaining in Britain saw a significant turn when he became a prosecution witness in a murder trial; however, he was later removed from a witness protection scheme due to his continued criminal activities. Following a ten-year battle against deportation orders, a recent ruling in Edinburgh has allowed him to stay, with the judge citing family ties and the child's identity formation as crucial factors.

Karim’s son, whose mother is a white British national, only sees his father twice a month. This limited contact emerged as a pivotal point in the tribunal hearings. A judge considered testimony from the child, who expressed how Karim imparted significant lessons about his heritage and faith, encapsulating essential aspects of his identity that the boy might otherwise miss out on. The father’s contributions, deemed fundamental to the boy's upbringing, included informal discussions about education, career decisions, and even personal grooming, areas where the mother felt limited. The judge highlighted that the child’s understanding of his Pakistani origins might be particularly impacted by the absence of his father given his mixed heritage.

The ruling has sparked criticism and concern within the government, particularly from Home Secretary Yvette Cooper, who aims to limit the circumstances under which foreign criminals can appeal against deportation based on family ties or Article 8 rights. Her proposed reforms come against a backdrop of frustration over perceived abuses of human rights laws by criminals to evade removal from the UK. Previous cases have shown a troubling trend where deportation appeals succeed on similar grounds. For example, Hesham Mohammed Ali, a Pakistani drug offender, also successfully argued for his right to remain based on his family ties—a decision that added fuel to the fire for critics advocating for stricter immigration controls.

Karim's situation reflects broader debates surrounding immigration policy and crime in the UK, particularly in relation to South Asian communities affected by drug-related issues. A study in the Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity explored how cultural norms often label drug and alcohol use as taboo, yet younger generations are increasingly affected by substance abuse. This duality presents challenges for families attempting to reconcile cultural values with the realities of contemporary society. Community leaders have raised alarm about the prevalence of drug crime within South Asian communities, urging families to be more transparent and cooperative with law enforcement to foster a safer environment for their children.

As the UK grapples with its immigration policies amid rising crime rates, figures like Karim embody the complexities at the intersection of personal history, cultural identity, and legal frameworks. His case not only demonstrates the potential for rehabilitation but also raises critical questions about the justice system’s approach to foreign nationals with criminal backgrounds seeking to remain in the country. Balancing compassion with public safety remains a contentious issue, one that leaders and policymakers will need to answer as they navigate an increasingly complicated socio-political landscape.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14762323/Pakistani-drug-dealer-allowed-stay-Britain-talk-son-Islam-culture.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/10023002/Home-Office-fury-as-drug-dealer-immigrant-wins-right-to-stay-in-UK.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14762323/Pakistani-drug-dealer-allowed-stay-Britain-talk-son-Islam-culture.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/extra/595fH2sGQh/How_did_my_hometown_become_a_violent_crime_hotspot)
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* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14762323/Pakistani-drug-dealer-allowed-stay-Britain-talk-son-Islam-culture.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[7]](https://www.desiblitz.com/content/the-rise-of-gang-culture-in-british-pakistani-communities)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14762323/Pakistani-drug-dealer-allowed-stay-Britain-talk-son-Islam-culture.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/10023002/Home-Office-fury-as-drug-dealer-immigrant-wins-right-to-stay-in-UK.html> - In April 2013, Hesham Mohammed Ali, a Pakistani national with a history of drug-related convictions, successfully appealed against deportation orders. The immigration judge ruled that deporting him would infringe upon his right to a family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, as he had a genuine relationship with a British woman and two children. The Home Office expressed disappointment over the ruling, highlighting concerns about the potential abuse of human rights laws by foreign criminals to avoid deportation.
3. <https://www.spiked-online.com/2025/03/26/our-human-rights-laws-have-become-a-paedos-charter/> - In March 2025, a Pakistani man convicted of child abuse was permitted to remain in the UK due to his alcoholism. The immigration tribunal determined that deporting him would subject him to inhuman or degrading treatment in Pakistan, as alcohol consumption is illegal there. This decision has sparked debate over the application of human rights laws in cases involving foreign criminals and the potential for such laws to be exploited to prevent deportation.
4. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11506936/> - A study published in the Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work examines the perceptions and experiences of British South Asian and Muslim communities regarding addiction and traditional drug and alcohol treatment services. The research highlights cultural norms that view drug and alcohol use as prohibited and sinful, yet notes a concerning rise in substance use among younger generations. The study also identifies barriers to treatment, including stigma and underrepresentation in traditional services, and calls for culturally competent approaches to address these issues.
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/extra/595fH2sGQh/How_did_my_hometown_become_a_violent_crime_hotspot> - An article by the BBC explores the rise of violent crime in traditionally peaceful areas, focusing on the experiences of families affected by drug-related violence. It discusses the challenges of concealing criminal activities from family members and the cultural stigma associated with drug dealing within certain communities. The piece also examines the economic and social factors contributing to the emergence of gang culture and drug-related violence in these regions.
6. <https://www.easterneye.biz/stop-culture-of-drugs-denial-community-leaders-call-on-families-to-co-operate-with-police-to-end-drug-crime/> - Community leaders have called for an end to the culture of denial surrounding drug-related issues within South Asian communities. They urge families to cooperate with law enforcement to combat drug crime effectively. The article highlights the challenges faced by authorities in addressing drug-related issues due to cultural taboos and the reluctance of some community members to acknowledge the problem. It emphasizes the need for collaborative efforts to tackle drug crime and support affected individuals.
7. <https://www.desiblitz.com/content/the-rise-of-gang-culture-in-british-pakistani-communities> - This article examines the emergence and growth of gang culture within British Pakistani communities. It discusses factors such as economic deprivation, unemployment, and social exclusion that contribute to the rise of gang-related activities. The piece includes interviews with former gang members and community leaders, providing insights into the dynamics of gang culture and its impact on families and communities. It also explores the challenges of addressing these issues and the importance of community engagement in finding solutions.