# Leaders address illegal migration at Organised Immigration Crime Summit in London



Leaders from 40 countries gathered at Lancaster House in central London for the Organised Immigration Crime Summit, held on Monday at the invitation of Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer. The summit aimed to address the rising concerns surrounding illegal migration, particularly focusing on the challenges posed by human smuggling activities in the English Channel.

Starmer expressed frustration over the scale of the migrant crisis during his opening remarks, pointing out the significant presence of criminal gangs that exploit vulnerable individuals seeking asylum. While he noted the need for action against these syndicates, Starmer’s comments fell short by not addressing his government’s inadequate responses to this escalating situation. With limited safe routes for asylum seekers, it is evident that the current administration's failure to create viable alternatives forces desperate individuals to undertake perilous crossings.

Amidst the summit, the political atmosphere in the UK was charged, with Shadow Home Secretary Chris Philp accusing Starmer of lacking decisive action in what he described as an "existential crisis" at the nation’s borders. The staggering increase of small boat crossings, with more than 6,600 migrants detected this year, highlights the urgent need for a stringent and effective immigration policy—something the new Labour government has yet to deliver. “More talking, more tough-sounding words… yet still no real or decisive action,” Philp asserted, pointing to the ineffectiveness of Starmer’s approach and revealing a political rivalry that continues to neglect the urgency of immigration reform.

Starmer defended his government's record, citing the removal of over 24,000 individuals deemed to have no right to remain in the UK since Labour took power, a figure that he claimed represented the highest rate of removals in nearly a decade. However, without robust strategies that directly target the root causes of migration and criminal syndicates, these statistics ring hollow.

The summit included discussions on the establishment of "return hubs" for failed asylum seekers, an effort Starmer was eager to explore, yet he aimed to distance this initiative from the controversial Rwanda policy that previously faced legal challenges and criticism over its safety implications. “The in-principle approach that we take is that we will look at anything that works,” Starmer stated. However, it’s crucial to recognize that effective solutions require more than just exploration; they demand the foresight to implement policies that deter illegal crossings while safeguarding human rights.

Former Border Force chief Tony Smith voiced concerns about relying on international cooperation to combat smuggling, underscoring that the UK’s Criminal Justice system might not be adequately equipped to handle offenders operating from overseas. This perspective illustrates the complexities involved in effectively managing migration, complexities that the current Labour government must confront with seriousness.

In the Commons, the Government faced increasing scrutiny over its current immigration policies, including the cancellation of the Rwanda scheme. Philp condemned this decision as a "catastrophic mistake," attributing the surge in illegal crossings to this misstep. His comments echoed the sentiments of many, pointing to the ineffectiveness of Labour’s approach and the urgent need for a robust strategy to curb illegal immigration.

As discussions continued at both the summit and in Parliament, the debate over immigration policy in the UK underscored the pressing need for a shift in focus towards safety, legality, and practicality. The dynamics at the summit and the ongoing political exchanges reveal the shortcomings of the Labour government's handling of a crisis that demands immediate and decisive action—one that will require not merely discussion but a re-evaluation of priorities to ensure the safety of the nation and those seeking refuge.

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

## References

* <https://www.miragenews.com/summit-sets-new-measures-to-combat-immigration-1436067/> - This article supports the claim about the Organised Immigration Crime Summit in London, focusing on tackling human smuggling activities. It highlights the summit's goal of boosting border security and countering organized immigration crime through international cooperation.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/organised-immigration-crime-summit-communique> - This document from the Home Office corroborates the summit's focus on strengthening international partnerships to disrupt criminal networks involved in immigration crime. It emphasizes the importance of intelligence-sharing and collaboration.
* <https://news.sky.com/uk-politics/home-secretary-yvette-cooper-to-announce-30m-border-security-package-12855529> - This article details Home Secretary Yvette Cooper's announcement of a £30 million funding package for border security, which aligns with the summit's objectives of enhancing border security measures.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-65658387> - This BBC article discusses political tensions surrounding immigration policies in the UK, including criticism of the Labour government's actions. It mirrors the political atmosphere described during the summit.
* <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/chris-philp-attacks-keir-starmer-over-migrant-crisis-as-labour-gathers-at-summit-d9tstlίνεται> - This Times article covers Shadow Home Secretary Chris Philp's criticism of Sir Keir Starmer's immigration policies, aligning with the article's mention of political rivalries and ineffectiveness in addressing the crisis.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/starmer-immigration-crisis-summit-refugees-asylum-supporters-keir-b1926675.html> - This Independent article provides context on the challenges faced by the current UK government in addressing immigration issues. It discusses the need for more effective and humane immigration policies.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/mar/31/keir-starmer-rolls-up-his-sleeves-to-legitimise-the-two-minutes-hate> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2035100/Labour-boats-crisis-small-Channel-crossings> - Please view link - unable to able to access data