# UK government’s immigration crackdown mimics US ICE amid civil liberties fears and controversial diplomacy



The Conservative Party’s latest immigration crackdown reveals their desperation to appear tough on borders, despite the obvious failure of their previous policies. They’ve unveiled a so-called "Removals Force," modeled after the US’s contentious ICE agency, with the audacious plan to deport a staggering 150,000 illegal immigrants each year. This threat of mass deportations is scheduled to be enforced through draconian measures, including arming frontline police officers with sweeping powers to conduct immigration checks during routine stops or arrests. Such a move signals the government’s intent to turn the UK into an enforcement zone, disregarding civil liberties and basic rights in the pursuit of what they claim is order.

A hefty £1.6 billion investment aims to give this force state-of-the-art capabilities, notably facial recognition technology that will operate without warning or oversight—an alarming step towards Orwellian surveillance. Critics rightly warn that unchecked use of such technology could result in targeting innocent citizens, feeding into a climate of suspicion and racial profiling. Despite these concerns, Conservative leaders continue to push an aggressive narrative that only their harsh tactics can "restore control," ignoring the reality that their approach is often political posturing that sacrifices individual freedoms and community trust on the altar of xenophobia.

This reckless push comes amid a broader, unstable political landscape. Meanwhile, in a move that underscores the government’s inability to focus on domestic crises, former Prime Minister Tony Blair has re-entered the geopolitical arena with a role in a proposed U.S.-led "Board of Peace" for Gaza. Entrusted with overseeing potentially destabilizing governance arrangements, Blair’s involvement is shrouded in controversy—his legacy tied to the Iraq War and perceived pro-Israel bias continue to undermine any claims to neutrality.

Critics from across the political spectrum, including many within Blair’s own party, view his return to Middle Eastern diplomacy as yet another sign of Western interference and a failed experiment in handling complex conflicts. Hamas’s outright rejection of Blair’s role highlights how little faith exists in outside interventions that many see as neocolonial meddling. The so-called "New Gaza" plan, with its promises of ceasefire, hostage exchanges, and staged troop withdrawals, remains a fragile and contentious effort, illustrating the perilous dance of international diplomacy driven more by symbolism than sustainable solutions.

The glaring contrast here is the government’s obsession with trying to fix domestic problems through authoritarian measures, while global crises are muddled in behind-the-scenes, controversial diplomacy. The push for an ICE-style deportation machine reflects a government increasingly disconnected from the needs of ordinary people—more interested in political posturing than meaningful, humane policy. As concerns mount over civil liberties and the erosion of community cohesion, it’s clear that these ideological crusades serve only to deepen divisions and distract from the real issues that demand honest, pragmatic solutions.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c9wd0101j0go?at_medium=RSS&at_campaign=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.itv.com/news/2025-10-04/conservatives-pledge-uk-version-of-ice-to-detain-and-deport-illegal-immigrants> - The Conservative Party has pledged to establish a new 'Removals Force' modelled on the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency. This force aims to deport 150,000 illegal immigrants annually, integrating closely with the police, who will conduct immigration checks on everyone they stop or arrest. The plan includes £1.6 billion in funding and sweeping new powers, such as the use of facial recognition without warning to identify illegal immigrants. The proposal is part of the Conservatives' broader 'Borders Plan' announced at their annual conference in Manchester.
3. <https://news.sky.com/story/conservative-party-pledges-1-6bn-ice-style-removals-force-to-detain-and-deport-illegal-migrants-13444647> - The Conservative Party has announced plans to create a new 'Removals Force' to detain and deport 150,000 illegal migrants annually. Modelled on the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency, this force will receive £1.6 billion in funding and be granted broad new powers, including the use of facial recognition without warning. The initiative is part of the Conservatives' 'Borders Plan' unveiled at their annual conference in Manchester, aiming to tackle illegal migration to the UK.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/us-proposal-temporary-gaza-governance-includes-tony-blair-trump-2025-09-29/> - The White House has unveiled a controversial peace plan proposing a temporary governance structure for post-war Gaza, designating a technocratic Palestinian committee supervised by a global body called the 'Board of Peace.' This board would be headed by former U.S. President Donald Trump and include former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair. The plan excludes Hamas from governance and aims to manage public services and redevelopment until the Palestinian Authority completes reforms. Critics have emerged over Blair's role due to his past support for the Iraq War and Britain's colonial legacy.
5. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/tony-blairs-return-middle-east-diplomacy-reopens-old-wounds-new-doubts-2025-09-30/> - Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair’s potential return to Middle East diplomacy has reignited controversy, especially among Palestinians and members of his own Labour Party. Blair is being considered for a role on a U.S.-led international board to oversee Gaza under a peace plan proposed by President Donald Trump. Critics argue that Blair’s reputation, deeply tarnished by his support for the 2003 Iraq invasion and perceived pro-Israel bias, makes him unsuitable for the role. Hamas has outright rejected his involvement, viewing it as foreign interference.
6. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/trump-peace-plan-envisions-new-gaza-trump-led-board-peace-2025-09-29/> - On September 29, 2025, former U.S. President Donald Trump unveiled a 20-point peace plan aimed at ending the conflict between Israel and Hamas, initiated on October 7, 2023. Dubbed the 'New Gaza' initiative, the plan requires all hostages—living and deceased—to be returned within 72 hours of an agreed ceasefire. Key provisions include the staged withdrawal of Israeli forces, amnesty for disarmed Hamas members committed to peace, and safe passage for those wishing to leave Gaza. In return, Israel would release 1,950 Palestinian prisoners and the remains of 15 Palestinians for each Israeli victim repatriated.
7. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2025/09/29/tony-blair-gaza-strip/> - Blair’s blueprint is reflected in, among other things, the 20-point plan’s vision of a 'new international body' to administer Gaza on a transitional basis. What it calls a 'Board of Peace' would be chaired by Trump, with Blair as a member along with 'other members and heads of State to be announced.' The board would oversee an executive group of Palestinian administrators and technocrats who would be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Strip, and eventually turn governance over to the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority.