

# No 10 rejects calls to cancel Trump state visit as more than a million sign petition

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Downing Street has rejected calls to axe the state visit planned for Donald Trump following widespread outrage over his travel ban on people from certain countries.

The US president accepted an invitation to visit Britain later this year, but more than one million people have signed a petition to stating Mr Trump should not be given a state visit.

The immigration curbs sparked chaos across the US as travellers were detained at airports and thousands of protesters gathered to campaign against the policy. Demonstrators are planning to protest against the policy outside Downing Street and across the country on Monday evening.

But Number 10 has said the prime minister was "very happy" to extend the invitation for a state visit.

## 'Donald Trump is not welcome here'

The US President is not welcome in Britain, the organiser of an anti-Trump march in Leeds has said.

Speaking to ITV News, Christian Hogsbjerg added: "We are a multicultural society. refugees and migrants are welcome here in Leeds - and in Britain.

"Donald Trump is not welcome here at all."

Talking about Mr Trump's state visit to Britain, Leeds Grand Mosque manager Lassaad Laouini added: "I'm not comfortable (with it). Rolling the carpet for him is like endorsing the order he signed. We want more robust and strong leadership."

## Merkel: Trump travel ban will not help fight against terror

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has reiterated her condemnation of Donald Trump's travel ban, saying the fight against terrorism will not be won with measures against individuals or by putting Muslims under general suspicion.

The US president has faced **widespread criticism** for imposing a 90-day travel ban on arrivals from seven Muslim-majority countries: Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia or Yemen.

Mrs Merkel said her government was "examining the situation" and will support those affected by the travel ban.

## Trump a threat to EU, says chief Brexit negotiator

Guy Verhofstadt believes Donald Trump poses a threat to the EU. *Credit: PA*

Donald Trump is part of a "three-pronged attack" on the EU, one of its chief officials has said.

Guy Verhofstadt, the EU parliament's chief Brexit negotiator and former prime minister of Belgium, said the American President poses a serious threat to the EU.

He added that the other main threats are radicalised Islam and Russia's Vladimir Putin.

"I have just come back from the US and my view is that we have a third front that is undermining the EU ... and that is Donald Trump," he said in a speech at London think tank Chatham House on Monday.

## Downing Street rejects calls to cancel Trump's state visit



Downing Street said Theresa May wanted to continue to foster a 'close relationship' with Donald Trump. *Credit: AP*

Downing Street has rejected calls from a [petition backed by more than a million people](#) to cancel the state visit planned for Donald Trump.

A spokesperson said any debate sparked by the petition was an "issue for Parliament" amid widespread outrage over Trump's executive-ordered US travel ban.

While Theresa May confirmed [she did "not agree" with Trump's refugee ban](#), the spokesperson said the PM had no plans to cancel his state visit in protest.

*The invitation has been extended and it has been accepted. The UK and the US have a strong relationship and it is right that that relationship continues.*

*We saw the closeness of the relationship between the Prime Minister and the President and it's right we continue to foster that relationship. We will proceed with the state visit.*

– Downing Street spokesperson

The spokesperson said Mrs May was "very happy" to extend the invitation on behalf of the Queen, adding: "We look forward to hosting the president later this year."

## Corbyn: Trump travel ban is 'outrageous and illegal'

The Labour leader today condemned Donald Trump's travel ban, describing it as "outrageous, illegal, and immoral".

Jeremy Corbyn said: "I think we should stand up for the values we believe in and say, 'Don't discriminate.'"

"The bigger picture is: peace, justice, and human rights."

