



# Immigration News Highlights

2023-34, 22 August 2023



The KPMG team regularly monitors recent developments across the globe in the Immigration space and publishes them as Immigration News Highlights. Please find the key developments that occurred over the last week enumerated below. [Click here to find all issues of the Immigration News Highlights on the GMS Flash Alert: Immigration page.](#)

[Americas](#)

[Asia Pacific](#)

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## Americas

### Bermuda

Bermuda maintains strict visa requirements

The Bermuda government has justified its decision to impose restrictions on visa-controlled individuals, citing the potential security risks associated with the introduction of direct flights from Heathrow International Airport. The order mandates travelers from 115 countries to obtain a transit visa for the United States, Britain, or Canada.

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### United States

US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announces Global Entry partnership with Dominican Republic

The US Customs and Border Protection recently made an announcement stating that individuals from the Dominican Republic can now submit applications for Global Entry. Global Entry is a program that provides fast clearance for travelers who have been pre-approved and are considered low risk when they enter US.

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### United States

### [USCIS launches online appointment request form](#)

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has introduced a new online form that allows individuals, attorneys, and accredited representatives to request an in-person appointment at their local USCIS field office. This online form eliminates the need to call the USCIS Contact Center for appointment scheduling.

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### **United States**

#### [USCIS reopens field office in Havana, Cuba](#)

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services has announced the reopening of an international field office in Havana, Cuba. This office will help with various US immigration matters, such as conducting interviews and processing pending cases related to Cuban Family Reunification Parole.

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### **United States**

#### [TPS Sudan extended and redesignated for 18 months; certain EADs Automatically extended through 19 October 2024](#)

The government of US has extended and redesignated Sudan for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for a duration of 18 months, starting from 20 October 2023, until 19 April 2025. Individuals who have a pending or approved TPS application may be eligible for certain public benefits, as well as REAL ID driver's licenses and identification cards.

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## **Asia Pacific**

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### **China**

#### [China temporarily eases visa regulations for Indians](#)

The Chinese government has implemented temporary measures to relax visa regulations for Indian citizens applying for various purposes such as business, tourism, short-term family visits, transit, and crew visas. As per the statement issued by the Chinese Embassy in India, eligible applicants seeking single or double-entry visas for these purposes will not be required to provide biometric data (fingerprints) until 31 December 2023.

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### **Kenya**

#### [Kenya announces visa free entry to Indonesian citizens](#)

The Kenyan government has recently announced that holders of Indonesian passports will now be granted visa-free entry to Kenya. This declaration was made during the formalization of collaboration between Kenya and Indonesia, which involved the signing of four Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and a Letter of Intent.

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## **Kuwait**

### [Kuwait to establish shelter for male expats in need of legal support](#)

The Public Authority of Manpower (PAM) in Kuwait has revealed its plan to establish a shelter specifically for male expatriates who are facing legal issues with their employers. This shelter, like the existing one for female expatriates, will offer residents access to legal, social, and medical support and care.

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## **New Zealand**

### [Review into the accredited employer work visa](#)

The government of New Zealand announced that the Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) in New Zealand is undergoing an independent review. The details and timeline of the review will be shared at a later stage. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), which includes Immigration New Zealand (INZ), is supportive of this review.

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## **New Zealand**

### [New Zealand now allows online arrival declarations for flyers](#)

The government of New Zealand announced that travelers arriving at any international airport in New Zealand now have the choice to fill out a digital declaration instead of a paper arrival card before their journey to New Zealand. The digital declaration can be completed online at their website or through the NZTD mobile app.

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## **Oman**

### [2,700 investor residency cards issued till 21 August 2023 in Oman](#)

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) of Oman announced that over 2,700 investor resident cards have been granted to individuals of different nationalities through the investor residency program.

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## Saudi Arabia

### Expats using exit/re-entry visas can enter country until final date

The authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have provided clarification that expatriates who hold exit/re-entry visas are permitted to return to the Kingdom until the expiration date of their visa.

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## Saudi Arabia

### Saudi Arabia announces new visa on arrival for some citizens

The government of Saudi Arabia has announced that under the new Umrah visa on arrival scheme, travelers can enter Saudi Arabia through various ports and have a 90-day stay within the country. Starting from 20 August 2023, individuals from the US, UK, several European nations, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan, Kazakhstan, Brunei, and China are eligible to acquire Umrah visas upon their arrival in Saudi Arabia.

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## Europe and Africa

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## Germany

### Germany to replace all children's passports with biometric ones in 2024

The German government has made the official decision to replace all children's passports with biometric passports. Previously, parents were allowed to apply for passports for their children, but the passports for children under 12 years old were only valid for 12 months and had to be renewed annually.

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