

Foreign Nationals Are Filing for Divorce in the UK at Record Levels, Divorce-Online Reveals

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- Foreign nationals are divorcing in the UK at a rate that has climbed sharply over the past three years, with [Divorce-Online](#) recording a 20% rise in cases involving non-British nationals since 2022.

Mark Keenan, Head of Legal at Divorce-Online, said the shift is one of the most striking changes the service has seen in its client base, with the increase cutting across a wide range of nationalities now using the UK legal system to end their marriages.



Divorce and immigration

The figures point to a UK divorce landscape that looks quite different from a decade ago. More couples with international backgrounds are settling in Britain, and when those relationships break down, they are turning to UK courts and online legal services to resolve them.

"We have seen a consistent and significant increase in divorce applications from foreign nationals over the last three years," Keenan said. "This is not a small or temporary shift. It reflects how international the UK population has become and how trusted the UK legal system is, even among those who did not grow up here."

The nationalities filing most frequently include nationals from Poland, India, Pakistan, Romania and Nigeria. These groups have seen the sharpest rises in cases handled by Divorce-Online over the period reviewed.

Nationality Trend

Polish Highest volume of cases among foreign nationals

Indian Second highest and rising year on year

Pakistani Consistent increase across the three-year period

Romanian Notable spike particularly in the last 12 months

Nigerian Fast-growing segment within the foreign national caseload

Keenan pointed out that many of these individuals are long-term UK residents who have built their lives, finances and families here. When a marriage ends, the UK is where they need legal resolution.

"For a lot of these clients, the UK is home. Their assets are here, their children are in British schools, their financial lives are entirely embedded in this country," he said. "It makes complete sense that they would seek a UK divorce rather than pursue proceedings elsewhere."

The rise mirrors the broader demographic shift in the UK population over the past two decades. Britain's cities in particular have drawn large communities of working professionals and families from across Europe, South Asia and Africa. Marriages that formed within those communities are now, in many cases, reaching breaking point.

At the lower end of the volume data, nationalities with the fewest recorded cases through the service over the same period include Australian, Canadian, American, South African and French nationals, though Keenan noted even these groups have seen modest increases.

Nationality Trend:-

Australian Low volume but gradually increasing

Canadian Among the smallest segments in the caseload

American Present but not a major contributor to the rise

South African Small and relatively stable over the period

French Low case numbers with only minor movement

The gap between the two groups is stark. Polish nationals alone account for a disproportionately large share of the 20% rise, reflecting the size and settlement patterns of the Polish community in the UK following EU freedom of movement.

Keenan said the legal needs of foreign national clients are often more complex than those of British nationals, particularly around financial settlements. "Where one spouse has assets or income ties in another country, sorting out a clean break order becomes a lot more involved," she said. "Jurisdiction questions, international asset disclosure, currency considerations — these are all factors that come into play."

He added that the accessibility of online divorce services has been a significant factor in drawing foreign national clients. Many come from countries where legal processes are perceived as slow, expensive or difficult to access without specialist help, and the fixed-fee, step-by-step model offered by platforms like Divorce-Online removes some of that friction.

"The straightforward approach matters enormously to this group," Keenan said. "They want clarity. They want to know what they are paying, what happens next and how long it will take. That kind of transparency is something traditional solicitor routes do not always offer."

With immigration patterns continuing to shape the makeup of British society, the share of divorce cases involving foreign nationals is unlikely to fall. Keenan expects the trend to continue through 2025 and beyond, particularly as the cohort of EU nationals who arrived in the UK during the 2000s and 2010s reaches an age bracket where marriages statistically face greater strain.

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