**Press review February 10th to 16th 2025**

**UK news**

* **Slides 1 + 2: deportations are not an American preserve: now even Keir Starmer’s government is putting them forward, as they are afraid of the rise of populist party Reform UK**

The Home Office [is launching a fresh wave of immigration raids](https://ablink.editorial.theguardian.com/ss/c/u001.Yw_JkLMEmFuifc_XG18IRyTNtZQ7fIEMgszcCSneHEBRo1ClYygL5euNz7Bw18ei4XKJAd0wQNWQZSX2wMGJcx01GNhQQjKQhRmZcCOZzRkm02asp-_j83PX7engXlLZxrac0hkhwqgF8_3HGe2667GuTCUvYNtbUyE0K9CfoUEJu4pmbQQ8jaFUgs8aa78xWxSZxq5Ik7YWjQv9U1UgYCf8Fw7tvdTXJLT5o5xnbEP_cQzEN_ojBLTqbzSjVWYWh3LRj1VL5M4UXMq1_cbPGk6BOJ1meiIj3Pxc-GhzoG05-ftC3ltgsFwv6urVtOPQ/4dw/cs5zxzKdQIOpnB5pjTrC2w/h35/h001.UGn4D7TvQvi1uHkU3kNr_XlyTT1w1c4Uiokd4wQsGoc) as Labour attempts to counter the growing political threat from Reform UK. Amid anger from critics who believe the approach echoes Theresa May’s “hostile environment” regime, the government will broadcast footage of deportations from detention to removal centres and on to waiting planes.

Ahead of the second reading of the new border security bill on February 10th, officials announced that both illegal working visits and arrests since [Labour](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/labour) came to power had soared by about 38% compared with the previous 12 months.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/feb/10/home-office-launch-new-immigration-raids-deportation-numbers?utm_term=67a9a3f8b384103605b079345345922a&utm_campaign=FirstEdition&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=firstedition_email>

**bonus: slide 3**: the shocking “Valentine’s card” posted on the official White House page, featuring the-one-who-must-not-be-named and his “Border Czar, Tom Homan 🡪 reaching a new low, but they can probably dig even deeper…

**Slide 4**: **UK housing plan**: Amid a years-long housing crisis, the deputy prime minister, Angela Rayner, has brought the Labour government’s housing policy to the forefront of the political agenda, including an announcement on [Wednesday of an additional £350m to fund affordable housing](https://ablink.editorial.theguardian.com/ss/c/u001.Yw_JkLMEmFuifc_XG18IRyTNtZQ7fIEMgszcCSneHEAZJDnxSttupop980f_E1uLq5ILSWpvarG7m043eyLIWNQ4i2qRmk98Rg39s1s9ZHUu_xo9BQrr5tAN1kRqfKAk4LA8h1CdDPYrY-Qvb-Xk2pMA7ev275LfR39owV7f5_abAx1Qw30zVOy5CYPPZCyUx_cq8iaVTMqgia9jR3DqQXitdQ9z1f0ajE6n56s-jkecYE63C9ESh9cTH_sSjnD9bziPivVs2sEtQ6EGGlo-dBIl0Xmwemw5c3j_fQav02hyrX9aL95kILw2e1MLIXbrv6dXE41v6mhuwE3Hhj2DxtHuTkW8D8iO9S5ZG1rlEXs/4dz/NtsH1gLdTzOMd6ReW49mEA/h34/h001.JYgEWbN6KstqiU65PFCtr-fOkM9sUpzRyjGEsSiH5ms). This money comes on top of the £500m already pledged in the autumn budget, and all aimed at delivering 1.5m new homes over the next five years.

Labour has been explicit in its commitment to tackling the country’s longstanding housing crisis. “I will not hesitate to do what it takes to build 1.5m new homes over five years and deliver the biggest boost in social and affordable housebuilding in a generation,” Rayner said. Keir Starmer, for his part, has said he will not allow “regulators, blockers [and] bureaucrats” to stand in the way of development. Meanwhile, rogue landlords in England will face restrictions on the amount of housing benefit they can receive if their properties fail to meet acceptable standards.

##### **US News**

* Foreign affairs

**Slide 5**: **new tariffs** 🡪 on February 10th, Donald Trump [announced new 25% tariffs on all steel and aluminum imports](https://ablink.editorial.theguardian.com/ss/c/u001.Yw_JkLMEmFuifc_XG18IRyTNtZQ7fIEMgszcCSneHEAkCD247PEzzJghnkN7Siw6jzDeXkGJ3KmlxT3REX2WaY9QBYdh78_ZrNW7fBYzjbtmJ0WIt1XYSozVp_30cVL-0W1Y2bnWn6-HKEGY5OLVBaOkVzRk-TT-skeErWXHeWJ15N1Aawy-tkW_6lRqziPBVW6L9_fXBgs1DsL4QywWiltGjZ3OJO7RTzSrb7Z56M_kMAzIENk0x3osZA3chmcC5gnrsqyPXGrkXwlz-x9-NA/4dw/cs5zxzKdQIOpnB5pjTrC2w/h38/h001.5xghcoWDJujt2PHpq28SIcEgwOO2peklOtPq5oM3EVc) into the US that would affect “everybody’, including its largest trading partners Canada and Mexico, ramping up his controversial bid to boost the US economy by hiking taxes on imports from overseas. The changes are not due to come into effect until 4 March, raising the prospect of the White House brokering deals with governments seeking reprieve.

**Slide 6**: **Trump is trying to pressure Egypt and Jordan into accepting the almost 2m Palestinians he wants to displace from the Gaza Strip.** The latter would not be allowed to return. So far, Egypt and Jordan are resisting Trump’s plan.

**Slide 7**: **Ukraine**: Donald Trump said he and Vladimir Putin had agreed to [begin negotiations to broker a ceasefire in Ukraine](https://ablink.editorial.theguardian.com/ss/c/u001.Yw_JkLMEmFuifc_XG18IRyTNtZQ7fIEMgszcCSneHEAkCD247PEzzJghnkN7Siw6o2ItwKqW_GmG32Mm14dBR9t42SW3VYDLK50Ein71jkiIXQThiNBMWfcUnzqqiNwnLL7hS2rrjvMU2X_d-Q2z5tPu6HMTEC9Pp7tomHjTZynbdxZDnZWoI9W26ixLx9tute9G346HbAgpddxFoX0KaJ318MHAcK-JMKxR4NyMPTNpKRDtPfRzo8us0TSDnQn3odRipq_q9WDLKeVCcrLfNA/4dz/NtsH1gLdTzOMd6ReW49mEA/h36/h001.9bFbaDz5z3MJiscfP1HAOtV8Wi-OMQvhM-3Q4M8bidU), later adding that it was unlikely Kyiv would win back all its territory or join Nato if a deal is to be reached.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzQZTCrhpQmZDpZmRkTFLHdKvhQb>

**Slide 8**: [**JD Vance stunned Munich conference with blistering attack on Europe’s leaders**](https://ablink.editorial.theguardian.com/ss/c/u001.Yw_JkLMEmFuifc_XG18IRyTNtZQ7fIEMgszcCSneHEAkCD247PEzzJghnkN7Siw6xEg8aPo_E9NI7oxZemR-RgRWsBZkHks22Zp_TenEXWbQgGDa415cIhm5mt-g3ATkpsz0i9fY_UAJejp06EdPMDC39gZ49UhwiT1Iak-WIOkfdwSgOin0lWyUYvwEien8y3COJ1pje4xb2l2WAXR-1vLRLEe0s-YIQtBCOgbwnJRpJ5Gke-iqG5zetegCnUkkwTpv8Nhnpcxn7NgA2ywGIaizIiMQ8n0rdbOCGe8AYu6qx2mI48YRMEfvcvqel3bemBmaj8P4MAPniaPrwFYUshJ-wJy1gSStqsihqQJ1-O8/4e1/6Et9Yl-ERfWQmk5Cg5umGg/h90/h001.jTeFfxs29aX1tPALFhCMq63b0A1G9vZbaM3nqcUD10s)

The US vice-president, [JD Vance](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/jd-vance), has launched a brutal ideological assault on Europe, accusing its leaders of suppressing free speech, failing to halt illegal migration and running in fear from voters’ true beliefs.

In a chastising speech on Friday that openly questioned whether current European values warranted defence by the US, he painted a picture of European politics infected by media censorship, cancelled elections and political correctness.

Arguing that the true threat to Europe stemmed not from external actors such as [Russia](https://www.theguardian.com/world/russia) or China, but Europe’s own internal retreat from some of its “most fundamental values”, he repeatedly questioned whether the US and Europe any longer had a shared agenda. “What I worry about is the threat from within,” Vance said.

Speaking at the Munich Security Conference, the vice-president had been expected to address the critical question of the Ukraine war and [security differences between Washington and Europe](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/feb/14/ukraine-war-macron-warns-of-risk-of-capitulation-as-trump-suggests-russia-may-not-make-any-concessions). Instead, he widely skated over these to give a lecture on what he claimed was the continent’s failure to listen to the populist concerns of voters.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/14/jd-vance-stuns-munich-conference-with-blistering-attack-on-europes-leaders?utm_term=67b04ab7a3a695e0af2ca8f227eef072&utm_campaign=SaturdayEdition&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=saturdayedition_email>

**Slide 9**: play it like the Canadian hockey players? 🡪 **Fist-fights, anthem boos in stormy US, Canada ice hockey clash**: three fights in the first nine seconds and a chorus of deafening boos for the US national anthem marked a stormy ice hockey clash between the United States and Canada in Montreal on Saturday.

**Slide 10**: **Macron convenes European leaders for Ukraine summit amid tension with US:** Emmanuel Macron will host a Paris summit of European defence powers on Monday, February 17th to try to retake the initiative and demand the US ends its lockout of Europe from talks on Ukraine’s future.

* Domestic nonsense

**Slide 11**: despite his clear anti-vaxxing stance, Robert F. Kennedy Jr was confirmed as D. Trump’s Health Secretary (only 1 Republican Senator, Mitch McConnel, refused to vote for him)

**Slide 12**: **Musk’s ‘Doge’ guts nearly $1bn in US education department’s research office**

[Elon Musk](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/elon-musk) and the [Trump administration](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/trump-administration)’s so-called “department of government efficiency” (Doge) has terminated nearly $1bn in US Department of Education contracts, in effect eliminating a research office that tracks US students’ progress.

After announcing $101m would be slashed from 29 DEI training grants on Monday, the Doge account on Twitter/[X](https://x.com/DOGE/status/1889113011282907434) said that Musk’s team terminated 89 contracts worth a total of $881m on Tuesday, February 11th.

The huge budget cuts have essentially wiped out the federal agency’s research and statistics office – one of the country’s largest funders of education research – the Institute of Education Sciences (IES).

https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/11/doge-education-department-cuts-trump?utm\_term=67ac481e2238a901eb370f2925e16f50&utm\_campaign=FirstEdition&utm\_source=esp&utm\_medium=Email&CMP=firstedition\_email

**Slides 13: Guess where Elon and his little X (yes, that’s his son’s name) are** 🡪 that’s right, with Uncle Donald in the Oval Office, where it’s totally appropriate to bring your kids, and to announce that Trump has signed an executive order requiring federal agencies [to work with the billionaire’s team](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/02/11/trump-workforce-cuts-elon-musk/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F410d12c%2F67ac8aef0ed38b28f5a50e97%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F17%2F102%2F67ac8aef0ed38b28f5a50e97) to cut jobs. It was Trump’s clearest endorsement yet of [Musk’s drastic plans](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/02/08/elon-musk-doge-federal-agencies-cuts-employees/?utm_campaign=wp_the7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F410380d%2F67ac8aef0ed38b28f5a50e97%2F6303c41fca31ee7e6627cb27%2F18%2F102%2F67ac8aef0ed38b28f5a50e97).

It was also a damage control effort following *Time*’s cover featuring Musk behind “the Resolute” (the desk in the Oval Office), suggesting he is the one who is really in charge (**Slide 14**) 🡪 Trump’s team wanted to stop rumours that his ego could not take it and that this could alter their so far idyllic relationship

**Slide 15: Trump’s administration fired thousands of federal workers,** as agency heads were told to fire most probationary staff (that is to say hired within the last two years) — a move that could affect as many as 200,000 employees, according to four people familiar with internal conversations.

**Slide 16**: **Protesters target Tesla showrooms in US over Elon Musk’s government cost-cutting 🡪** Demonstrations across the US against tycoon’s ties to Trump highlight potential risks to firm’s reputation and sales Protesters gathered outside Tesla dealerships across the US on Saturday in response to Elon Musk’s efforts to shred government spending under the president, [Donald Trump](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump).

Groups of demonstrators up to 100-strong gathered outside the electric carmaker’s showrooms in cities including New York, Seattle, Kansas City and across California. Organisers said the protests took place in dozens of locations.

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/feb/16/protesters-target-tesla-stores-in-us-over-elon-musks-cost-cutting>

**Slide 17**: Trump quoted Napoleon on Sunday, in an explicit pushback against the judicial decisions blocking several of his executive orders

##### **Tech news**

##### **Slide 18**: **Paris AI Summit:** The US and the UK [have refused to sign](https://ablink.editorial.theguardian.com/ss/c/u001.Yw_JkLMEmFuifc_XG18IRyTNtZQ7fIEMgszcCSneHEA13-uHzzNLsl3ZqJFCJlFeNnd0G6thxgT9LLrylSdSNuc5ucrfkVPS6Mn67W2He-6kY7NaHlMdFy0TK-L6QsE0nRiSjN2uSN6aK7tIgv6yDpndopxBwYTDBLP6jnzd7GUzJk98lcoC8wWYCCbbAYP4IW09L1PCFwlpt1NPy80NM1XzgR2wpLQT0_SmN_75cFmUFOCoDyhkmKeEv4bxDtNVjnwKl2HruldZUPz37WUzkn9tGqqX6N_3NMrl7ao6gTxhaHje8MB7_JsPlZs-Umbj/4dy/QRHqsNxwQCe6tr5xXSwMJQ/h43/h001.JJEMKpy-vLohjgijPIOvLx-oS3uTa91n398Evswpm_E) the Paris AI summit’s declaration on “inclusive and sustainable” artificial intelligence, in a blow to hopes for a concerted approach to developing and regulating the technology.

Confirmation of the snub came soon after the US vice-president, [JD Vance](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/jd-vance), took to the stage at the Grand Palais to criticise Europe’s “excessive regulation” of technology and warn against cooperating with China.

##### **Slide 19**: Elon Musk escalated his feud with OpenAI and its CEO Sam Altman on Monday, leading a consortium of investors that announced it had [submitted a bid of $97.4bn for “all assets” of the artificial intelligence company](https://ablink.editorial.theguardian.com/ss/c/u001.Yw_JkLMEmFuifc_XG18IRyTNtZQ7fIEMgszcCSneHEA13-uHzzNLsl3ZqJFCJlFeJ9Pi1_0JxXq8Qkyzcyg_yNc6iJSyyXbJUUQK_7GPqCys4fte219nOKk5PtBaVysvZHcbkkbYDgz1yYoA3fFJEkVKzGwZJYCw3PLNoTOHnpVXPkqPbgANuO5rAFSYw5zWc_T-ZErYsjAGQDgG4PSTuptonjAFhGZz0eORbkY_9fuTefuTiN9xeS-ykxp9TgZbIdOuMhEYkSa7FXUmeHIZVw/4dx/jEeAwA8gRsmyXngYJYHRnQ/h36/h001.UxusE9i8yJk2_GIL9-CRIGH_pujfwk4UK8GORIOMltY). Altman rejected the offer and suggested he would buy X from Musk for a tenth of that price.