



PM aims to reset ties with Xi at G20 summit

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Rio de Janeiro

Keir Starmer will today become the first UK prime minister in six years to meet the Chinese president, Xi Jinping, as he promises to turn the page on UK-China relations and build “a pragmatic and serious relationship”.

Starmer and the chancellor, Rachel

Reeves, have been pursuing a thawing of relations with the world’s second largest economy, suggesting the UK cannot achieve its growth ambitions without being on better terms with China.

But the move to deepen ties, with a meeting at the G20 leaders’ summit in Brazil, is likely to be controversial among human rights groups and backbenchers. Several high-profile

▲ *Cutouts of world leaders’ heads in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as activists call for climate action before the G20*

Conservative MPs have had sanctions imposed on them by China.

Tom Tugendhat and Alicia Kearns, both prominent Tory critics of China, called on Starmer to use the meeting to raise with Xi the plight of UK nationals including