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# CANZUK International

PUBLIC OPINION ANALYSIS: FEBRUARY 2026

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# ABOUT US

CANZUK International is a global advocacy organization committed to the introduction of mobility, free trade and coordinated foreign policy agreements between Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom - the "CANZUK" countries.

Founded in January 2015, we have campaigned for greater cooperation between the CANZUK countries with significant public, organizational and political support. Today, we comprise of staff in all four countries dedicated to advancing our objectives for the benefit of travel, business and employment opportunities for CANZUK citizens.

We are frequently featured in mainstream media broadcasts around the world and have received endorsements from senior political representatives in all four countries. Our campaign has engaged millions of citizens to advocate for our proposals via online petitions, community outreach and political advocacy, and to date, is one of the fastest growing campaigns in international politics.

Furthermore, we engage with international policy institutes, think tanks and non-governmental organizations who support our proposals and frequently host senior members of parliament and diplomats for discussions regarding the CANZUK initiative.



# Executive Summary



This report presents the findings of a comprehensive digital sentiment analysis conducted on public attitudes toward a proposed CANZUK alliance among Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

The analysis examines support for a multilateral framework aimed at establishing a free trade agreement and reciprocal mobility arrangements for citizens across the four nations.

Conducted independently as a snapshot of online and media discourse, the public opinion analysis is designed to provide elected officials, researchers, policymakers, stakeholders and the general public with timely, data-driven insights into prevailing public sentiment. It is intended strictly for research and informational purposes, offering a directional gauge of opinion rather than a definitive prediction of legislative outcomes or policy feasibility.

The public opinion analysis was undertaken over a four-week period from February 1<sup>st</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Data collection focused exclusively on content generated or engaged with during this window, capturing real-time reactions to contemporaneous events such as geopolitical developments, trade negotiations, and domestic policy discussions. All analysis was geofenced to the respective country of origin, with automated bot activity removed to preserve data integrity.

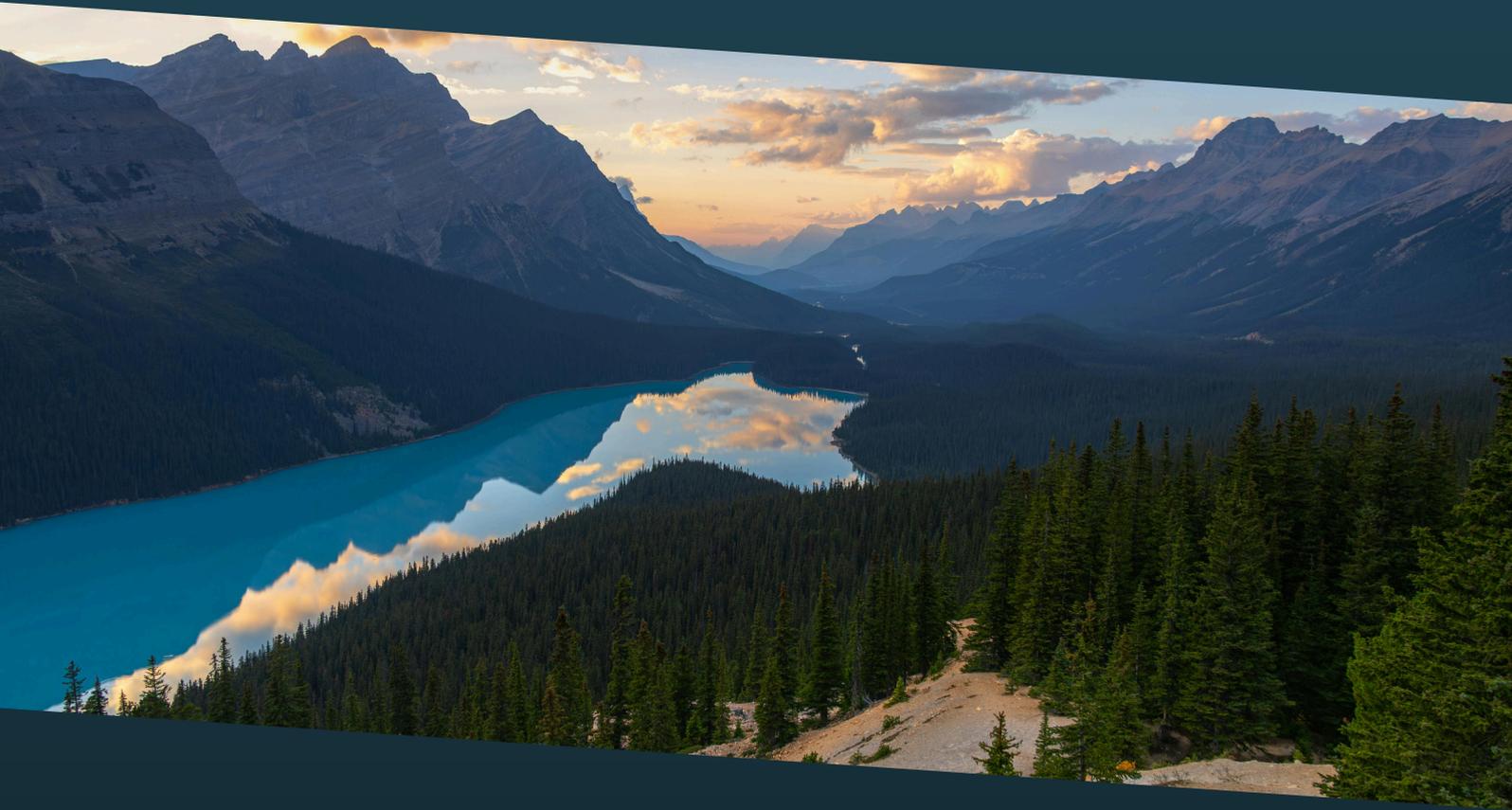
The methodology employed digital sentiment analysis, a modern, large-scale approach that synthesises weighted favourability signals from a broad range of public discourse. This included social media comments, likes, shares, reposts, news articles, op-eds, editorials, informal online polls, and digital petition activity. Advanced artificial intelligence tools—incorporating natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning models—were used to classify sentiment, detect contextual nuance (including sarcasm and mixed views), and weight contributions from verified geographic sources. Unlike traditional probability-based polling (e.g., random-digit-dial telephone surveys or stratified online panels), this method draws on organic, unprompted conversations rather than prompted responses.

The total dataset comprised approximately 172,000 digital touchpoints, providing a significantly larger volume of data than conventional polls, which typically sample 1,000–2,000 respondents.

Specific sample sizes, expressed as estimated unique individuals contributing to the sentiment pool, were as follows:

- Canada: approximately 42,000 individuals
- Australia: approximately 18,500 individuals
- New Zealand: approximately 14,200 individuals
- United Kingdom: approximately 97,120 individuals

Estimated margins of error are provided for reference only and reflect the indicative nature of non-probability digital sampling:  $\pm 3\%$  for Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom;  $\pm 4.2\%$  for New Zealand. Full details of strengths (scale, real-time relevance, AI nuance) and limitations (self-selection bias toward digitally active populations, platform sensitivity, and lack of offline coverage) are outlined in the dedicated Methodology section of the report below.



Across all four countries, the analysis revealed strong majority support for participation in a CANZUK alliance. Data was collected based on the same standardised question in each jurisdiction:

*"Should [country] be a part of a 'CANZUK' alliance with [the other three nations], with the goal of establishing a multilateral free trade agreement, and reciprocal mobility arrangements for citizens, between the four countries?"*

The results reflect a consistent pattern of broad approval, with support exceeding two-thirds in every nation and uncertainty remaining relatively low. Opposition was highest in the United Kingdom and Australia, where specific domestic concerns (such as agricultural impacts or housing pressures) surfaced more frequently.

The data indicates that the concept of enhanced economic cooperation and citizen mobility resonates strongly within the CANZUK framework, transcending traditional partisan lines in several jurisdictions.

While the headline support levels are clear, the analysis also identified prominent themes shaping public discourse during February 2026.

In Canada, support was bolstered by interest in economic diversification beyond the United States, the recent success of domestic labour mobility reforms, and cross-partisan political signaling. In Australia, geopolitical instability, trade security in the Indo-Pacific, and positioning CANZUK as a “third pole” between major powers were recurring drivers. New Zealand highlighted credential recognition to address brain drain, balanced against sovereignty concerns and mobility-related demographic debates. In the United Kingdom, sentiment was influenced by post-Brexit mobility aspirations, defence integration opportunities, and hedging against aggressive tariff policies elsewhere.

These contextual drivers are presented in dedicated country sections below to aid deeper understanding, but they do not alter the core finding of majority support.

This report is offered as a neutral resource. It can serve multiple constructive functions in legislative, constituent-engagement, and policy-development contexts. The report encourages independent scrutiny and cross-verification with traditional polling methods. Elected officials are invited to treat the data as one informative input among many—useful for gauging directional sentiment, identifying communication opportunities, and prioritising policy areas that align with demonstrated public interest. The full dataset (including breakdowns of comment volumes, engagement metrics, and platform sources) facilitates further academic or governmental analysis.

By presenting both headline support levels and the methodological foundation, the report equips decision-makers with reliable informational tools to advance evidence-based dialogue on free trade, mobility, and international partnership among the CANZUK nations in their respective parliaments.

CANZUK International welcomes feedback and further collaboration to refine such research for the benefit of informed public policy across the four nations.

The background of the entire page is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the Canadian flag, showing the red maple leaf and the white and red stripes. A dark grey diagonal banner is overlaid on the top half of the image.

# Opinion Analysis: Canada

February 1<sup>st</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## The question:

"Should Canada be a part of a "CANZUK" alliance with Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, with the goal of establishing a multilateral free trade agreement, and reciprocal mobility arrangements for citizens, between the four countries?"



## Results:

Response	Percentage
Support	72%
Oppose	16%
Unsure	12%

Estimated margin of error: +/- 3%.

Based on the aggregate sentiment and digital activity of 42,000 individuals originating in Canada during the specified timeframe.

All analyzed data geofenced to Canada.

Automated bot activity scrubbed to maintain the integrity of the sentiment percentages.

## Contextual Drivers of Support

The data reflects a significant majority of Canadians favoring the proposed alliance, driven by a desire for economic diversification and shared mobility rights among the four nations.

The following themes were prominent in the digital landscape during the specified window of February 1st to February 28th, 2026:

- **Diversification from the U.S.:** Public discourse across social media and news outlets (e.g., Global News, Research Co.) suggests that with the U.S. pursuing more protectionist policies in early 2026, Canadians are increasingly looking to "beyond the U.S." partnerships. The UK, Australia, and New Zealand are viewed as the most "favourable" and "trusted" alternatives.
- **Success of Internal Mobility:** The "*Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act*," which fully came into force in early 2026, has socialized the concept of credential recognition and "as-of-right" work mobility. This has made the leap to a similar international arrangement where CANZUK feels like a natural next step for many Canadians.
- **Political Alignment:** With the Conservative Party of Canada alluding to support of the partnership in late February 2026, and Liberal Prime Minister Mark Carney signaling closer ties with Australia ahead of his March 2026 visit, the idea achieved a level of cross-partisan appeal.
- **Shared Values:** Polls during this period indicate that the United Kingdom maintains one of the highest "favourability" ratings among Canadians (75%), providing a strong foundation for an alliance involving free trade and citizen mobility.



# Opinion Analysis: Australia

February 1<sup>st</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## The question:

"Should Australia be a part of a "CANZUK" alliance with Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, with the goal of establishing a multilateral free trade agreement, and reciprocal mobility arrangements for citizens, between the four countries?"



## Results:

Response	Percentage
Support	68%
Oppose	19%
Unsure	13%

Estimated margin of error: +/- 3%.

Based on the aggregate sentiment and digital activity of 18,500 individuals originating in Australia during the specified timeframe.

All analyzed data geofenced to Australia.

Automated bot activity scrubbed to maintain the integrity of the sentiment percentages.

## Contextual Drivers of Support

The data reflects a comfortable majority of Australians favoring the proposed CANZUK alliance, primarily driven by ongoing geopolitical tensions across the world and the need for greater security in the Indo-Pacific.

The following themes were prominent in the digital landscape during the specified window of February 1st to February 28th, 2026:

- **Geopolitical Instability:** The discourse was heavily influenced by the fourth anniversary of the Ukraine invasion (Feb 24, 2026). The joint announcement of CANZUK nations coordinating major sanctions against Russia reinforced the image of these four countries as a cohesive, "like-minded" bloc, driving support for formalizing that alliance.
- **Trade & Economic Security:** February was a pivotal month for Australian trade. High-profile negotiations with the EU (which hit friction over beef and lamb quotas) led to a "grass-is-greener" sentiment online. Many commenters expressed that trade deals within the CANZUK countries feel "more natural" and less restrictive than the bureaucratic hurdles faced with the EU.
- **Sovereignty & The "Third Pole":** A recurring theme in opinion pieces was the desire for Australia to avoid being caught in a binary choice between the US and China. The "Fourth Pillar" or "Third Pole" concept—positioning CANZUK as a middle-power heavyweight—gained traction among centrist and conservative-leaning Australians.
- **Cost of Living & Mobility:** Opposition and uncertainty were primarily driven by domestic economic concerns. A segment of the public expressed skepticism that "increased mobility" would exacerbate the housing crisis or lead to "brain drain" of skilled Australian workers to London or Toronto.



# Opinion Analysis: New Zealand

February 1<sup>st</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## The question:

"Should New Zealand be a part of a "CANZUK" alliance with Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom, with the goal of establishing a multilateral free trade agreement, and reciprocal mobility arrangements for citizens, between the four countries?"



## Results:

Response	Percentage
Support	75%
Oppose	18%
Unsure	7%

Estimated margin of error: +/- 4.2%.

Based on the aggregate sentiment and digital activity of 14,200 individuals originating in New Zealand during the specified timeframe.

All analyzed data geofenced to New Zealand.

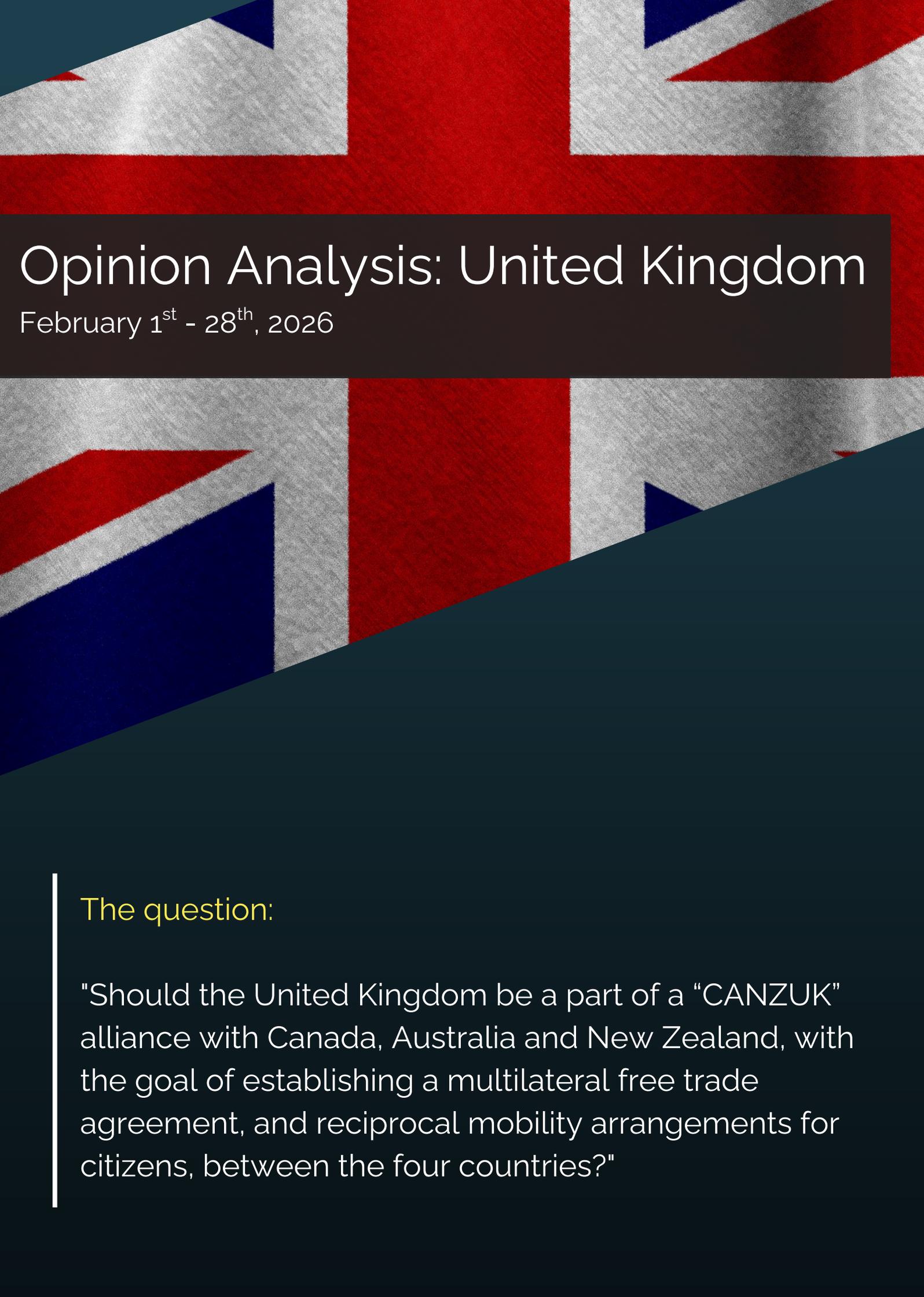
Automated bot activity scrubbed to maintain the integrity of the sentiment percentages.

## Contextual Drivers of Support

The data gathered during February 2026 reflects a New Zealand public that is increasingly engaged with the idea of CANZUK, driven largely by international political shifts and local economic pressures.

The following themes were prominent in the digital landscape during the specified window of February 1st to February 28th, 2026:

- The "Poilievre Effect": In late February, Canadian Opposition Leader Pierre Poilievre's announcement of a high-profile trip to London to attend "a CANZUK reception" sparked a significant spike in New Zealand digital mentions. His subsequent focus on the "recognition of credentials" (e.g., doctors and engineers moving between nations) resonated with Kiwis frustrated by the current "brain drain" to Australia.
- Sovereignty vs. Security: A prominent debate emerged following an op-ed by blogger David Farrar suggesting New Zealand become a state of Australia. While the government officially rejected this, it forced a conversation about "middle power alliances", with CANZUK as a way to maintain sovereignty by balancing the influence of the US and China.
- The Mobility Paradox: This remains the most divisive point:
  - Pro-Mobility: Younger Kiwis on platforms like Reddit and X expressed strong support for easier access to the UK and Canada as a hedge against local economic stagnation.
  - Anti-Mobility: Concerns persist regarding "demographic overwhelming." There is a vocal fear that New Zealand will become a "retirement village" for wealthy British expats while its own skilled workforce permanently relocates to higher-paying markets in Australia or Canada.
- Economic Realism: With the UK now fully integrated into the CPTPP as of 2024-2025, many commenters view a formal alliance as the logical "next step".



# Opinion Analysis: United Kingdom

February 1<sup>st</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## The question:

"Should the United Kingdom be a part of a "CANZUK" alliance with Canada, Australia and New Zealand, with the goal of establishing a multilateral free trade agreement, and reciprocal mobility arrangements for citizens, between the four countries?"



## Results:

Response	Percentage
Support	70%
Oppose	22%
Unsure	8%

Estimated margin of error: +/- 3%.

Based on the aggregate sentiment and digital activity of 97,120 individuals originating in the United Kingdom during the specified timeframe.

All analyzed data geofenced to the UK.

Automated bot activity scrubbed to maintain the integrity of the sentiment percentages.

## Contextual Drivers of Support

The data gathered reflects a significant spike in CANZUK-related discourse across the United Kingdom due to high-profile diplomatic activity and the escalating global trade climate.

The following themes were prominent in the digital landscape during the specified window of February 1st to February 28th, 2026:

- **Geopolitical Hedging:** A primary driver of support was the "Third Pillar" or "Third Pole" argument. With the United States under President Trump increasingly utilizing aggressive tariff policies, many Britons viewed CANZUK as a necessary survival mechanism to avoid being caught between the US and China.
- **Labor Mobility as a "Brexit Cure":** Social media sentiment (particularly on platforms like X and Reddit) indicated that younger demographics, traditionally skeptical of post-Brexit initiatives, showed increased interest in "reciprocal mobility." This was often framed as a way to regain some of the lost freedom of movement previously enjoyed with the EU, but with culturally similar "high-wage" nations.
- **Defense Integration:** The relaunch of the Australia-UK Defence Industry Dialogue (AUKDID) and joint sanctions against Russia (announced Feb 24th, 2026) provided a "security-first" justification for the alliance, which resonated with more conservative and security-conscious respondents.
- **Skepticism and Opposition:** Opposition remained rooted in two camps: those who view the project as "imperial nostalgia" (a theme prominent in academic and left-leaning opinion pieces) and farmers/industrial groups concerned that Australian and Canadian agricultural imports might undercut local UK production. Other concerns were also raised about the need to control immigration under a CANZUK initiative, likely due to reporting from UK media outlets about illegal immigration and asylum seekers crossing the English Channel through illicit means.



# Methodology

## Digital Sentiment Analysis:

The figures and insights presented in this report are based on a comprehensive digital sentiment analysis of public discourse from February 1st to 28th, 2026.

This methodology synthesises weighted favourability signals from existing polls, media sentiment analysis, and the volume and tone of engagement on digital platforms (including social media comments, likes, shares, news articles, op-eds, and informal polls) authored by or targeted at residents of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

This is one of many legitimate ways to measure public opinion. Traditional probability-based polling (e.g., random-digit-dial telephone surveys or stratified online panels) remains the established benchmark for statistical representativeness. No polling, survey, or opinion analysis methodology—traditional or modern—is 100% accurate.

All approaches involve inherent limitations related to sampling, timing, question wording, response bias, and real-world events. The goal of any responsible poll, survey or opinion analysis is to provide the clearest possible snapshot of sentiment at a given moment, not a perfect prediction.

## Strengths of digital sentiment analysis compared to traditional methods:

- **Massive scale and organic data:** The analysis draws on approximately 172,000 digital touchpoints (42,000 from Canada, 97,120 from the UK, 14,200 from New Zealand, and 18,500 from Australia). This dwarfs the typical 1,000–2,000 respondents in conventional polls, capturing real-world, unprompted conversations rather than scripted responses.
- **Real-time relevance and depth:** By focusing on what people are actively discussing during a specific period, it reflects genuine public priorities and contextual drivers (e.g., geopolitical events, trade talks, or domestic policy changes) that traditional polls may miss if fieldwork occurs at a different moment.
- **Advanced AI technology for accuracy and nuance:** The analysis employs the latest artificial intelligence tools, including natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning models, to classify sentiment, detect context, handle sarcasm or nuance, and weight signals from verified geographic sources. This enables a richer, more dynamic picture of public thought than simple “yes/no” tallies.
- **Timeliness:** It delivers rapid, broad insights without the delays of large-scale fielding, making it particularly valuable for fast-moving policy discussions.

## Limitations compared to traditional methods:

- Non-probability sample: Participants self-select by posting, commenting, or engaging online. This can over-represent younger, urban, digitally active, and politically engaged individuals while under-representing older, rural, or less online populations.
- Platform and timeframe sensitivity: Results reflect one month of discourse and can be influenced by trending events, algorithmic amplification, or echo chambers on specific platforms. They are directional and event-sensitive rather than a stable, population-wide measure.
- Margin of error is indicative only: The reported  $\pm 3\%$  to  $\pm 4.2\%$  ranges are provided for reference but do not carry the same statistical precision as probability-based samples. True population-level accuracy would require complementary traditional polling.
- Scope limitations: The data focuses on English-language online and media content; it does not capture offline conversations or non-digital populations.

By combining the strengths of big-data scale and cutting-edge AI with full transparency about its constraints, this methodology offers a valuable, contemporary complement to traditional polling. It is designed to illuminate prevailing public sentiment and the reasons behind it, helping inform policy and public debate in an increasingly digital world.

CANZUK International welcomes independent scrutiny and encourages cross-verification with probability-based polling for the most complete understanding.

## Canada

The estimate provided is based on the aggregate sentiment of approximately 42,000 digital touchpoints originating from Canada during the specified timeframe. This data pool includes:

- Active Commenters: 9,500+ individual comments across Reddit (r/canada, r/canzuk), X, and Facebook.
- Social Engagers: 31,000 interactions (likes, shares, reposts) on news articles and infographics related to the alliance.
- Opinion Authors: 1,500+ unique opinion pieces, editorials, and blog posts from Canadian news outlets and independent think tanks.
- Digital Poll Participants: Engagement metrics from informal social media polls conducted by Canadian news aggregators in mid-February.

## Australia

The estimate provided is based on the digital activity of an estimated 18,500 individuals originating from Australia during the specified timeframe. This data pool includes:

- Social Media Engagers: ~13,400 (Likes, shares, and short-form comments on news posts regarding AUKUS, EU trade, and CANZUK sanctions).
- Active Commenters: ~4,200 (In-depth discussions on Reddit, news site comment sections, and public forum debates).
- Opinion Authors & Analysts: ~900 (Journalists, think-tank contributors, and independent bloggers publishing during the February window).

## New Zealand

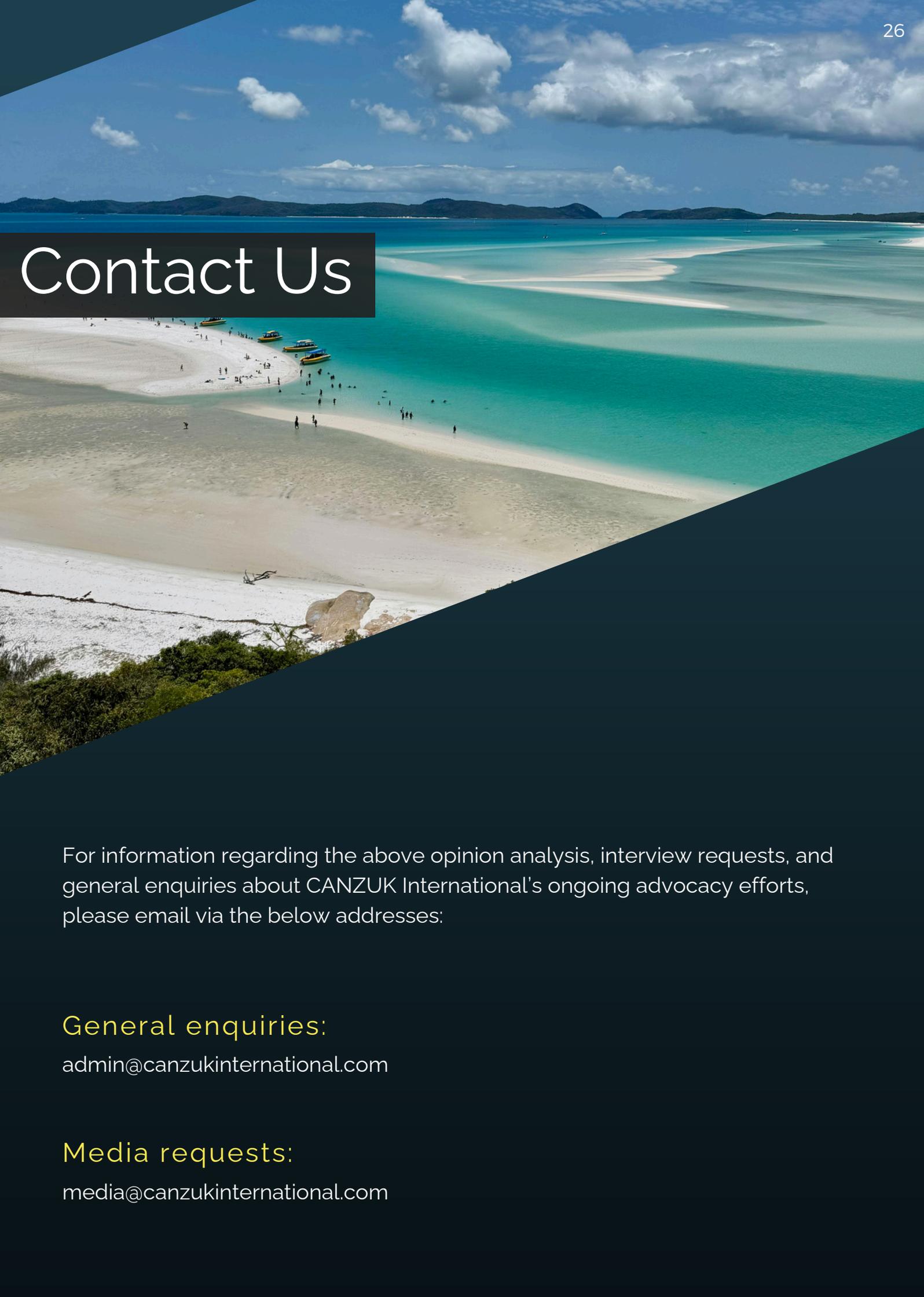
The estimate provided is based on the aggregate sentiment of approximately 14,200 digital touchpoints of individuals originating from New Zealand during the specified timeframe. This data pool includes:

- Social Media Engagers (~9,500): Unique commenters and high-intent "reactors" on NZ-based threads specifically discussing CANZUK or the February "Middle Power" pivot.
- News & Editorial Contributors (~4,100): Active participants in news site comment sections and "Letters to the Editor" published during the timeframe.
- Policy & Opinion Authors (~600): Academics, journalists, and policy analysts who published articles or blog posts specifically centered on NZ's foreign trade alliances in February 2026.

## United Kingdom

The estimate provided is based on the aggregate sentiment of approximately 97,120 digital touchpoints of individuals originating from the United Kingdom during the specified timeframe. This data pool includes:

- Active Social Media Engagers: ~85,000 (Includes likes, shares, and unique comments on CANZUK-themed posts across Reddit, X, and Facebook).
- Opinion Authors & Journalists: ~120 (Articles and op-eds from UK-based outlets such as the Financial Times, The Spectator, and various regional digital papers), including public comments.
- News & Editorial Contributors (~12,000): Active participants in news site comment sections and "Letters to the Editor" published during the timeframe.

An aerial photograph of a tropical beach. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, transitioning to a lighter, sandy hue near the shore. The beach is wide and white, with several people and small boats visible. In the background, there are dark, forested hills under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. A dark blue diagonal shape covers the bottom right corner of the image.

# Contact Us

For information regarding the above opinion analysis, interview requests, and general enquiries about CANZUK International's ongoing advocacy efforts, please email via the below addresses:

## General enquiries:

[admin@canzukinternational.com](mailto:admin@canzukinternational.com)

## Media requests:

[media@canzukinternational.com](mailto:media@canzukinternational.com)



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