

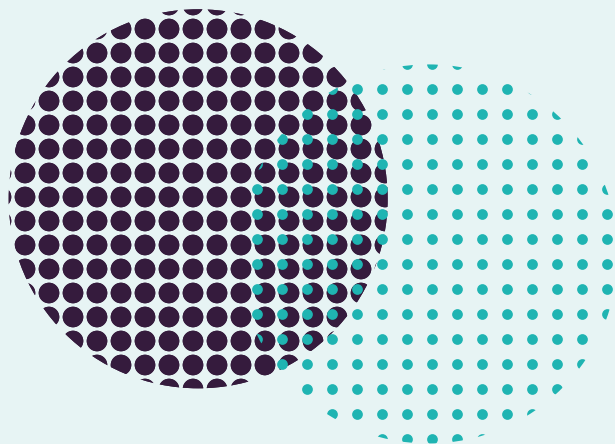


# Building Common Ground

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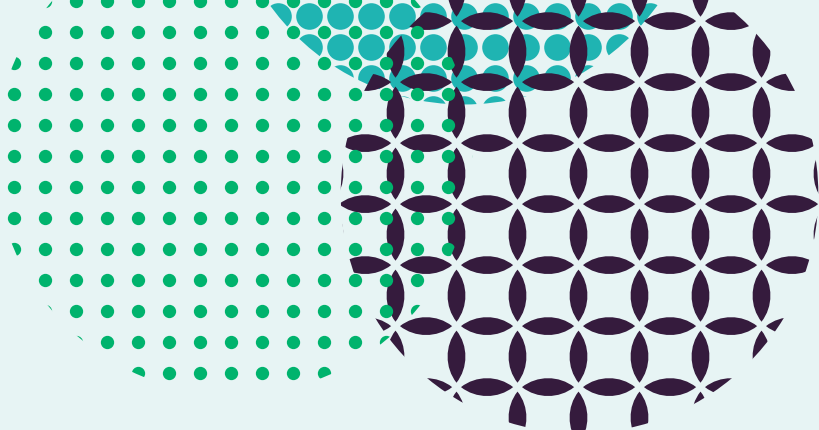
Showcasing inspirational work  
on climate change and migration





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## Introduction to the Case Studies

We are delighted to feature a selection of organisations, both in the UK and globally, that are pioneering work at the intersections of climate change and migration in this short booklet.

The impact of the climate crisis on human mobility means that these two issues are increasingly connected, with significant implications. In 2024, in our Building Common Ground report, we mapped the ecosystem of actors working on climate mobility to identify key priorities and gaps. Our research identified a need for greater coordination between civil society organisations and funders working on climate and migration, alongside other related sectors including human rights, international development, racial justice and social justice.

There are real imperatives to strengthen this ecosystem of work. Growing numbers of people are being displaced by climate disasters. Economies transitioning away from fossil fuels need international skills and talent, although many lack the pathways to attract them. Societies risk being further polarised by false narratives about climate mobility.

In the UK, we draw hope from the resilience and energy of a growing number of NGOs, think tanks and policymakers working in this space. The sample of organisations chosen for this booklet reflects the breadth of work underway - from research, legal and policy analysis, to media and narrative development; from community organising and campaigning, to work on arts and culture.

Their work is innovative and inspiring. It is led by people with deep lived and learned experience of migration, refugee issues and climate change, whose insights point towards new ways of meeting these urgent challenges head-on.

We hope these examples shine a light on what work in this critical area looks like - and why it is so important to support civil society organisations making the link between climate change and migration, now and into the future.

The selection of organisations featured here is far from exhaustive. There are many more initiatives carrying out valuable work on climate mobility that we hope to feature in future case study collections. If you would like to suggest organisations to be featured, please let us know.

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# A project by Climate Outreach



A panel representing diaspora communities in the UK discuss climate-related mobility.  
Credit: Saira Butt @sairascontentmen

## Who

Climate Outreach is a UK-based NGO focused on public engagement with climate change, and has pioneered work on climate-driven migration for over 15 years. It runs the Climate and Migration Coalition, bringing together NGOs, analysts and researchers concerned with the rights and welfare of people who move due to climate change.

## The challenge

Until recently, there has been a limited evidence base or advocacy focus on climate-related mobility. The Climate and Migration Coalition (CMC) was established to meet the need for dedicated research, coalition building and strategic communications to equip policymakers, civil society and the media with the evidence and tools to shape just, humane and effective responses.

## The intervention

Over the last 15 years, the CMC has developed a number of tools and tactics to achieve its aims. These include:

- **Centring lived experience and promoting accurate, empathetic storytelling** to build a stronger, more united movement for climate and migrant justice.
- **Using research and evidence-based guidance** to understand and influence how climate-driven mobility is described in the media and in policy debates.
- **Challenging unhelpful media narratives** about climate-driven migration - especially those that use sensationalist rhetoric or paint migrants as a threat - and producing practical guidance to help organisations communicate effectively about the issue.
- **Building a strong ecosystem of organisations** across the climate, migration, development and human rights sectors, united in addressing climate-driven migration.
- **Using convenings, training sessions and resources** to help organisations explore how they can engage with the issue and their role in the ecosystem.
- **Collaborating with creatives** to find fresh, impactful ways of communicating climate-driven migration including the first dedicated film festival on the issue and the development of guidance for ethical, nuanced visual storytelling.

## The impact

The CMC has played a unique role in producing evidence-based recommendations for governments and civil society that have led to a raft of important developments over the last 15 years. These are a few highlights:

- Widely-used guidance recommending the best use of language and visuals to positively shape public understanding and support the rights, safety and dignity of people moving due to climate impacts.
- The CMC has been influential in the Platform on Disaster Displacement since its inception, and has consistently raised displacement issues within COP climate negotiations.
- Extensive policy-focused research which has informed expert analysis on key policy pathways which are likely to work, and those which risk causing further harm.

## What's next?

The CMC have identified a priority to expand their work on messaging and framing with a new focus on the language and stories that shape the public and media discourse on climate driven migration. With more organisations entering the space the role of the CMC will shift to focus on providing policy expertise and convening as the movement grows.

[www.climateoutreach.org](http://www.climateoutreach.org)  
[www.climatemigration.org.uk](http://www.climatemigration.org.uk)

# Green Horizons



Khaled, a Palestinian engineer working in Dublin

## Who

Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB) is a global NGO focused on creating skilled migration pathways, to enable displaced people to migrate for work safely and with dignity.

## The challenge

The world currently faces two urgent and interconnected challenges:

- Millions of skilled people who are displaced from their homes, unable to use their talents, often trapped in unsafe, irregular, and exploitative situations.
- A clean-energy transition that urgently needs more skilled workers to meet climate targets and keep pace with infrastructure demands.

## The intervention

TBB is pioneering a new approach: enabling refugees to migrate for work through regular labour mobility pathways, directly into sectors facing critical shortages. This includes a growing number of work placements in clean-energy industries vital for green transitions in many countries around the world.

The scheme works by enabling skilled, displaced people to register their skills on the Talent Catalog, a software and database of over 135,000 profiles. TBB then works directly with employers, governments and others to match candidates to real job needs. It supports candidates to receive work permits, relocate with their families, and begin contributing to their new communities.

## The impact

- Globally, over 2,300 people have secured durable roles in 10 countries, with 320 employers worldwide, and in diverse industries including IT, healthcare, skilled trades and engineering.
- In the UK, nearly 300 candidates and their families have been placed nationwide, with a 96% retention rate after one year.

Some examples of individuals helped thus far by the TBB pathways work include:

- Danial, a Syrian data scientist, is now employed in Northern Ireland as a Functional Consultant with Deloitte.
- Diala, a refugee nurse in Lebanon, became a front-line health worker in Canada.
- Khaled, a Palestinian engineer, now boosts Dublin's workforce at Entegro, designing and deploying gigabit networks for future generations.
- Mojahed, a Sudanese refugee with expertise in high-voltage transmission lines, hybrid PV solar systems, and energy storage, is now contributing to Scotland's clean power grid
- Mohamed, a Palestinian Electrical & Mechanical Maintenance Technician is now contributing to the Manufacturing industry in Ghent, Belgium.

## What's next?

In autumn 2024, TBB convened leaders from across governments, the UN, the private sector, philanthropy, and green-energy experts to launch the new Green Horizons Platform.

The goal of this project is to build large-scale, cost-effective pathways connecting refugee talent to the green economy through apprenticeships and train-to-hire programs. By embedding these pathways into national labour market systems, it hopes to drive down unit costs, sustain training platforms, and move from hundreds to thousands of refugee work placements annually.

TBB is bringing together key actors for the October 2025 Green Horizons Commitment Summit, which aims to secure the partnerships, funding, and blended investment needed to make this a reality and cement the narrative that refugee talent is climate talent.

TBB is exploring diverse funding models combining philanthropy with investment in order to:

- Design and run large-scale apprenticeship and train-to-hire platforms.
- Build employer and philanthropic partnerships anchored in real market demand.
- Invest in communications to shift narratives and mobilise support.

[www.talentbeyondboundaries.org](http://www.talentbeyondboundaries.org)



## CLIMATE SPRING

# Harnessing Culture to Shift Climate Narratives



A still from *More Flames*, a comedy-satire short film co-executive produced by Climate Spring and Yellow Dot Studios

### Who

Climate Spring is a UK-based Community Interest Company that works globally to transform climate narratives through popular culture, particularly focusing on film and TV. It partners with organisations in the screen industries to tell compelling stories about the root cause and solutions to the climate crisis that resonate with and inspire public audiences around the world.

### The challenge

Mainstream culture—often unintentionally—upholds narratives that block climate progress, reinforces extractive, polluting systems and shifts blame for systemic failures on to individuals or marginalised scapegoats. Migration narratives are often framed through fear or threat, fuelling inaction

and polarisation. Climate change is often depicted as inevitable, or too hard to solve, despite clear scientific evidence that it is a solvable crisis with solutions that could also address a range of systemic issues, such as inequality, rising energy bills, the health crisis and human rights.

### The intervention

Partnering with leading production companies, broadcasters, and streamers, Climate Spring funds the development of commercially viable film and TV projects that tell systemic, human-centred stories—including those exploring climate-linked migration. The impact of this work can be seen in shows such as *Families Like Ours\** - a Danish TV production (also broadcast on the BBC) which tells the story of a white, middle class family being impacted by the scenario

of a whole European nation being forced to migrate because of climate change. The show was viewed by 1 in 6 people in Denmark and flipped the narrative on refugees by creating a national debate.

Through development funding, editorial expertise, and executive producing, Climate Spring works with top-tier talent to reframe migration. Climate Spring also provides consultancy on projects heading into production, such as advice to the BBC's *The Dream Lands*, an upcoming TV series based on the best selling book, which looks at climate migration in a near future UK through the experience of teenagers in Margate. Unlike many climate stories that focus on global catastrophe in abstract terms, *The Dream Lands* shows who suffers first and most: those already living on the edge. Climate change becomes a class issue—a multiplier of existing poverty, housing crises, unemployment, and failing public services.

### The impact

In just two years, Climate Spring has built a portfolio of over 70 projects with production companies and studios in the US, UK and Australia, many engaging with themes of movement, justice, and resilience. Their development funding model accelerates the journey from concept to distribution, unlocking millions in entertainment industry investment and engaging top creative talent. This has shifted how major broadcasters such as Netflix, BBC, and ITV approach climate storytelling.

Beyond screen media, Climate Spring launched the first Climate Fiction Book Prize with Hay Festival, stimulating the literary market for climate narratives. The inaugural winner, Abi Daré, explored displacement and the disproportionate impacts of climate change on women and girls in rural Africa—becoming a prominent cultural voice offering fresh, engaging perspectives on climate justice.

By working to reshape the narrative landscape, Climate Spring aims to create space for stories that humanise migration, connect audiences emotionally to climate justice, and inspire systemic solutions.

### What's next?

With further investment, Climate Spring now plans to expand and deepen its climate and migration-focused storytelling work, building high-impact campaigns to maximise the opportunities for change with the 'persuadable middle' audience - those that are not hugely engaged on the issue although are not skeptical of the problem but are not yet engaged on the solutions, which represents a large proportion of the public especially centre right and center left voters across Europe, the US and Australia.

[www.climate-spring.org](http://www.climate-spring.org)

Follow Climate Spring:  
[@climate\\_spring](https://twitter.com/climate_spring)

[Keep up-to-date via Climate Spring's community newsletter.](#)

*\*While not directly supported by Climate Spring, *Families Like Ours* is a strong example of the kind of storytelling Climate Spring champions. The Danish family drama is available to watch on BBC iPlayer [here](#).*

## COUNTERPOINTS.

# A social change retreat



Participants at the social change retreat

### Who

Counterpoints is a leading national organisation in the field of arts, migration and social change. It supports the arts by and about refugees and migrants and produces a range of programmes in the UK and internationally, including Refugee Week and Platforma festival. Counterpoints run PopChange, a pioneering project exploring how the power of pop culture can be harnessed to shift the way we talk, think and feel about migration and displacement.

### The challenge

Refugee artists and creatives are some of the most powerful voices for influencing cultural discourse and narratives around migration and related issues, including the climate crisis. However, there remain very significant barriers to their words, art and voices being heard and cutting through.

### The intervention

Counterpoints is building a community of artists and creatives interested in exploring climate change and migration. In October 2024, Counterpoints hosted 50 change-making filmmakers, cultural innovators, activists and philanthropists for three days bridging storytellers from the climate and migrant justice movements to harness narrative power. The retreat focused on exploring climate displacement and migration narratives in TV and film, and how to create and amplify game-changing content. More about the programme [here](#) and a blog from Comic Relief [here](#).

### The impact

As well as growing trust and building new relationships, Counterpoints' work has resulted in several concrete partnerships so far, including:

- The launch of the Counterpoints & Climate Spring Climate-Focused Development Fund, supporting scripted storytelling at the intersection of climate change, migration, and displacement centring lived experience. [More info here](#).
- A partnership with the British Council to commission a research project into case studies of art practices at the intersection of climate and displacement, to be published in Autumn 2025.
- A collaboration with the AKO Storytelling Institute to commission digital research to identify relevant social media content and impactful

interventions at the intersection of displacement, migration, and climate, with a focus on younger audiences not as connected to traditional media.

- As part of BAFTA's Green Light Season, a special Refugee Week Q&A bringing together filmmakers, climate content change-makers and activists to explore the responsibility of the screen industry to tell stories about people displaced due to climate with dignity, authenticity and agency.
- Several attendees have had their work championed, including: Hassan Kattan who received the inaugural Displacement Film Fund; Hassan Akkad who has received development funding from the BBC for his new feature film; and influencer @OutsideWithLira who created the digital [content](#) for the Refugee Week Simple Acts campaign.

### What's next?

Counterpoints is continuing to support artists, projects, and initiatives working on climate change and migration. In the short term, this includes strengthening artist and organisational development, fundraising support, network building, and developing new commissioning opportunities with mainstream partners. Longer-term, Counterpoints is seeking to increase their in-house expertise and capacity, including additional resource and digital reach, to mainstream this intersection, reach wider audiences and support wider systems change.

[www.counterpoints.org.uk](http://www.counterpoints.org.uk)



# Climate Leadership Group



## Who

C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, a global network of mayors of the world's leading cities united in action to confront the climate crisis, in partnership with the [Mayors Migration Council](#) (MMC), a mayor-led initiative addressing the impact of the climate crisis on migration in cities, and the [Climate Migration Council](#) (CMC), a leadership group committed to putting people at the center of climate action.

## The challenge

There is growing recognition of the adverse impacts of climate change on human mobility, yet discussions in the Global North, including the UK, are negative and alarmist; with

limited attention being paid to opportunities that well-managed migration can unlock for a green and just transition. Despite being on the frontline of challenges and at the forefront of inclusive solutions, city leaders are often sidelined from global discussions on climate migration.

## The intervention

Mayors have a strong track record of setting the international agenda on issues of social and climate justice, including on climate-related migration. The [C40-MMC Global Mayors Task Force on Climate & Migration](#) has been working to advance integrated responses, including on just transition and immigration solutions, leveraging research, mayoral advocacy and city-led action.

Highlights of the work include:

- **Cutting-edge evidence and arguments** - in 2024, working in partnership with the CMC, C40 and MMC released new policy analysis mapping over 30 examples of how cities are already driving the demand for good green jobs and preparing the supply of a green and diverse workforce, aligned with inclusive immigration policies. To strengthen this policy evidence, C40, CMC and MMC will release new data (Sept 2025) outlining projected labour and skills shortages in key green urban sectors, emphasising the need for ambitious workforce development and inclusive immigration policies.
- **Influential international diplomacy** - C40-MMC mayors have been continuously advocating for increased climate investment in good green jobs, creation and green skills training for all, including migrants and refugees. This included, among others:
  - C40-MMC Task Force mayors - including former Mayor Rees of Bristol, launching a mayor-led [Action Agenda on Climate & Migration](#) (2021).
  - C40 Mayors, led by C40 co-chair, Mayor Khan of London, committing to creating [50 million good green jobs by 2030](#).
  - Coalition-building efforts with leading partners at [2024 New York Climate Week](#) and 2025 London Climate Action Week.

- **Innovative local solutions** - Bold city-led action underpins this advocacy, developed both through partnerships - including [C40 Inclusive Climate Action Fund](#) and [MMC Global Cities Fund](#) - and their local programming. In this last regard, for instance, [Greater London Authority's](#) expanded adult education programme supports under-represented groups, including refugees, access skills training.

## The impact

- The availability of localised data has driven narrative shifts from a focus on crisis to opportunities within national and multilateral discussions on climate and migration.
- Mayors and multi-stakeholder coalitions are equipped with solid evidence and arguments, positioning on core issues of climate and social justice.
- Cities are equipped with targeted data and technical support to inform local programming, increasing global awareness on a key issue of climate justice.

## What's next?

C40 and its partners are committed to scaling up this work, through 2026 and beyond, continuing to support leading mayors and their partners with solid evidence, arguments and access to high-level spaces, to continue championing inclusive solutions, through city-led advocacy and action.

[www.c40.org](http://www.c40.org)



# The Climate & Migration Justice Organising Group (CMJ)



Campaigners calling for migrant justice on the climate march at COP26

## Who

The Climate & Migrant Justice Organising Group (CMJ) is a collective of 12 climate, migrant and racial justice organisations that supports a cross movement network of over 150 groups across the UK. It sits within the Climate Justice Coalition, a national network of individuals and groups working to build solidarity and power for climate justice in Britain and around the globe.

## The challenge

The CMJ was first convened in April 2023 to deliver collaborative campaigns, organising and mobilising at the intersections of the climate

crisis and human mobility. The urgency to connect these sectors was driven by the deepening impact of the climate crisis on forced migration, alongside the rise of anti-immigration and anti-climate rhetoric.

## The intervention

CMJ works to build a common agenda across the climate and migration sectors, to defend people's right to stay, and their right to move. It aims to build stronger interconnected communities with the shared trust, understanding and collaboration needed to win both climate and migrant justice.

CMJ's key activities include:

- **Cross-movement organising and convening.** Building connectivity, trust and solidarity between climate and migrant justice groups across the UK to develop coordinated action, skills and resource-sharing. This includes in-person and online UK network summits, a collaborative policy working group, and support for grassroots and marginalised groups.
- **Education and communication.** Coordinating and promoting a justice-centered understanding of the connections between the climate crisis and human mobility, building positive narratives around 'climate-linked migration' through workshops, public events, resources and strategic communications.
- **Collaborative action.** Working to secure meaningful change through collaborative campaigns, joint mobilisations and support for migrant groups to engage in climate action and vice versa.

## The impact

The CMJ has become a key nexus of grassroots mobilisation and campaign work on climate change and migration in the UK, foregrounding the need for a justice-centered response to these linked challenges. Through relationship and network-building, the CMJ works to build trust across movements to deliver meaningful, long-term change.

The CMJ has helped to move climate organisations and their supporters towards a justice-centred understanding of climate-linked migration. During Refugee Week in 2024, it organised collaborations between 20 leading climate and migration NGOs for the #WeFightTogether online campaign, reaching hundreds of thousands of people with messaging rooted in migrant voices.

The CMJ has delivered several successful collaborative campaigns and policy interventions. At its 2025 cross-movement summit, 120 groups from both sectors across the country came together to develop shared principles and collaborative action. There is growing momentum and energy behind this work.

## What's next?

Resources permitting, CMJ aims to:

- Organise cultural events with local partners to build more interconnected communities of solidarity.
- Develop collaborative research, strategic litigation and other interventions that connect academics with NGOs and grassroots groups.
- Bring communities together for national and local mobilisations ahead of the next general election to demonstrate public support for priority policy goals.

[www.climatejustice.uk/migrantjustice](http://www.climatejustice.uk/migrantjustice)



# Earth Refuge



Yumna Kamel speaking on a panel exploring the roots and meaning of climate justice

## Who

Earth Refuge is a legal think tank, based in the UK, working to build community-based solutions to climate displacement. Since 2020, Earth Refuge has been developing legal strategies shaped by, and for, the communities most affected by the climate crisis.

## The challenge

There is a striking absence of legal pathways for people displaced

by climate change, and an even wider gap in engaging those most impacted to design them. There is currently no international legal definition of a 'climate migrant', and the 1951 Refugee Convention does not explicitly protect those displaced by climate events. Climate and migration groups in the UK remain largely unaware of emerging legal and policy tools in this space. Earth Refuge aims to meet this moment by providing legal analysis, educational tools for policy makers, and accessible resources to help evolve the field.

## The intervention

Earth Refuge is working to build a more robust and tailored legal architecture in support of climate-displaced people. It produces analysis of how existing legal frameworks and protections can be used in this context, and advocates for new, more comprehensive legal pathways to support climate migrants. Earth Refuge creates collaborative spaces where communities co-create legal tools to navigate this highly complex and important area. It shares these tools, mobilising lawyers to take up cases and contribute to this urgent and innovative body of law and rights. The model is threefold:

- **Research:** Earth Refuge works on active cases - both legal and field-based - where climate change drives human mobility, bridging legal frameworks with lived realities.
- **Advocacy:** Earth Refuge supports communities, NGOs, and legal networks to turn research into action including through social impact litigation.
- **Education:** Earth Refuge works to turn insights into practical, accessible resources, partnering with universities, campaigners, and legal networks to build capacity worldwide.

## The impact

Earth Refuge is one of a small group of expert NGOs in the UK spearheading cutting-edge legal responses to climate-related migration. To equip UK lawyers, policymakers, and grassroots groups to creatively respond to legal gaps, Earth Refuge has built the ground-breaking [Climate Mobility Case Database](#): a free, global hub tracking climate-related migration litigation in this emergent area. It has launched several in-person trainings and convenings in the UK and internationally, collaborating with partners including Refugee Legal Support, Immigration Law Practitioners Association, UNHCR, Doughty Street and DLA Piper.

## What's next?

With a full-time Executive Director and upcoming cultural and educational collaborations (including a major conference in October 2025), Earth Refuge is entering a pivotal new phase. Its team now hopes to build on the growing engagement with this area among UK lawyers and policymakers to scale its impact and reach.

[www.earthrefuge.org](http://www.earthrefuge.org)



RECOVER

RE-ENERGISE

REBALANCE

**Building Common Ground:  
Showcasing inspirational work  
on climate change and migration**

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These case studies have been collated  
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