



Building Common Ground

Showcasing inspirational work
on climate change and migration

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Introduction to the case studies

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

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 now 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 change and human mobility. Organisations working on climate, migration and social justice face many shared challenges in building a fair and sustainable future for all.

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.

This publication is an expanded version of a case study booklet produced in 2025, and we are pleased to be able to feature more organisations carrying out valuable work in this area. Some of the organisations in this booklet are grantees of Unbound Philanthropy and some are not, but we are keen to raise up their excellent work.

To find out more about the organisations featured in this booklet, share information about other work in this area, or to join the conversation about climate change and migration, please get in touch with us directly.

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Climate Leadership Group



A woman cleans a solar panel, part of the energy supply for a women's cooperative that uses a borehole to supply water to a market garden, in southern Mauritania

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 are analysing data on 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 have been equipped with solid evidence and arguments, positioning on core issues of climate and social justice.
- Cities have been 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, over the coming years, 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



City of Sanctuary UK staff and volunteers celebrating its 20 year anniversary in 2025

Who

City of Sanctuary UK has worked since 2005 to build a movement of welcome for people seeking sanctuary. It coordinates and supports rapidly growing networks of community groups, councils, schools and universities, libraries and theatres across the UK, encouraging inclusivity, solidarity and compassion for people from a forced displacement background.

The challenge

Although the climate crisis and migrant justice are closely connected, national debates about both issues are sharply divided in the UK. This can impact social cohesion within local communities, leading to tensions and hostility towards new arrivals. Now, more than ever, there is a need for local networking and actions that sustain shared approaches towards inclusion, welcome and a more sustainable future.

The intervention

Building upon its expansive local and national networks, CoS UK is engaging a wide range of people in learning, debate and action on climate and migration issues, including:

- **Network engagement.** CoS UK is raising the profile of climate-related migration across local City of Sanctuary groups, and Sanctuary Awarded organisations and networks, producing information materials and workshops exploring this critical intersection. It is actively connecting the climate justice and migrant justice movements through education and collaboration across its networks.
- **Capacity-building and training.** CoS UK runs dedicated workshops and training to strengthen engagement of climate and migration intersections among activists,
- **Centering lived experience.** CoS UK centres the personal stories of people displaced by climate change wherever possible, including through written briefings and public events.
- **Cultural programming.** In 2025, CoS UK partnered with Counterpoints Arts to hold the Our Shared Future Film Festival. This festival hosted over 170 separate community screenings of documentary films on climate-linked displacement across the UK.
- **Collaborative learning.** CoS UK is committed to peer learning on climate-linked migration with several other

networks and initiatives, including the Climate Migration Collaborative and Culture for Climate Scotland.

The impact

City of Sanctuary UK is nurturing a movement that understands climate and migration justice as inseparable, with people with lived experience at its heart. Its work on climate-related migration issues has begun to engage some local authorities, faith groups, businesses, and the wider voluntary sector, demonstrating the potential for local engagement with these complex issues.

The positive engagement with the Our Shared Future Film Festival, which hosted dozens of public screenings and talks on climate-related migration in communities across the country, demonstrates the real appetite for local conversations about these issues. This work builds the scope for cohesive and sustainable responses to migration, diversity and climate change.

What's next?

The CoS UK 2026–2031 strategy places justice - migrant, racial, and climate - at its core, recognising that none can be achieved without the others. Funding permitting, CoS UK hopes to develop dedicated staff capacity to coordinate climate and migrant justice work across the networks, scale its offerings to experts by experience and activists, and build its capacity to offer positive and hopeful narratives about climate and migration.

www.cityofsanctuary.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 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.

climatejustice.uk/migrantjustice

The Climate and Migration Coalition

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
www.climatemigration.org.uk

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

Since its launch, 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

Follow Climate Spring:
@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.*

COUNTERPOINTS.

Counterpoints & PopChange



Participants at the 2025 PopChange retreat at Dartington Hall, Devon

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.

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.
- A partnership with the British Council to commission a research project into case studies of art practices at the intersection of climate and displacement.
- 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



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 co-created 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 several cultural and educational collaborations (including a major conference and documentary film festival in 2025), Earth Refuge has entered 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



Friends of the Earth



Friends of the Earth challenges the UK's National Adaptation Programme in the High Court, 2024

Who

Friends of the Earth (FoE) is a leading environmental organisation working to create a sustainable future. It advances climate justice through grassroots campaigns and legal action.

With more than 250,000 supporters and 233 local action groups, Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Scotland has its own Friends of the Earth) is the UK's biggest environmental campaigning network.

The challenge

Climate-related disasters are soaring. When people flee homes they can no longer live in due to climate catastrophe, conflict or oppression, it is not a migration 'crisis'; it is a crisis of justice.

The UK, like other wealthy countries, has a duty to act compassionately and to provide refuge for those affected by climate change, extractive practices or the arms trade. As many communities feel increasingly left behind, divisive forces are growing stronger. These issues can no longer be addressed in isolation.

The intervention

Friends of the Earth centres its campaign, advocacy and legal work around climate justice, responding to the social, racial and economic inequities that sit alongside climate change. FoE's work on climate change and migration includes:

- **National campaigns.** FoE is active alongside migrant rights organisations within national coalitions such as the Together Alliance, standing together to oppose racism and call for hope and justice over fear.
- **Local action.** FoE's work is rooted in local action, helping communities to pursue policy solutions that deliver on both climate and inequality. FoE coordinates a network of over 250 Local Action Groups, which regularly engage with asylum and migrant organisations to build shared activities and actions.
- **Training, support and resources on climate justice.** FoE provides formal training and peer-to-peer campaign development sessions for climate and migrant justice activists, helping them to learn from one another, make connections and pursue wider change.
- **Myth-busting and narrative work.** FoE tackles misinformation by debunking myths about climate change, and challenging hostile narratives on migration.
- **Legal action on domestic climate displacement.** FoE campaigns on the domestic impacts of climate change, including people forced by climate change to leave their

homes. It uses analysis, advocacy and strategic litigation to expose the impacts of flooding, coastal erosion and extreme heat on vulnerable UK communities.

The impact

Using research, policy and legal challenges, Friends of the Earth works to ensure that policy is implemented for the benefit of people and planet. It has a strong track record of campaigning to achieve long-term systemic change.

Campaigning for policy change remains an important part of Friends of the Earth's work. Climate justice means safer communities, lower bills, better health and fairer lives for all. In addition to policy change, FoE believes that building power at the grassroots - by providing opportunities for people to develop the knowledge, skills, confidence and agency to deliver change where they are - builds the momentum for lasting change.

What's next?

Looking ahead, Friends of the Earth will be building on its existing experience, expanding and deepening its presence in local communities.

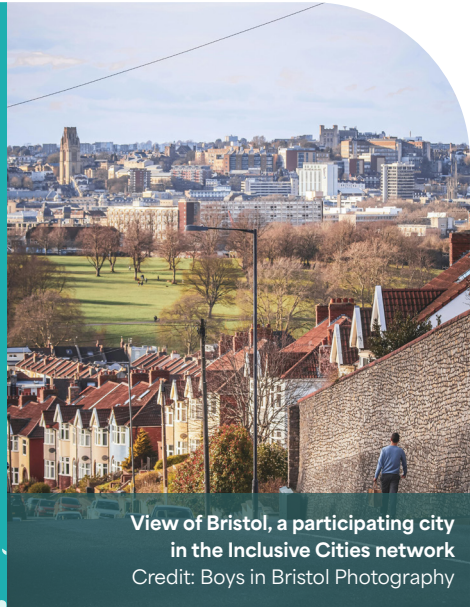
FoE will continue to champion the rights of communities directly affected by environmental and climate injustices, helping them to organise, build skills and confidence, and influence the decision-making that affects their lives.

www.friendsoftheearth.uk



Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity

COMPAS



View of Bristol, a participating city
in the Inclusive Cities network
Credit: Boys in Bristol Photography

Who

The Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity is the knowledge exchange arm of Oxford University's Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS). Global Exchange conducts interdisciplinary research, and supports reciprocal sharing of expertise and ideas among academics, policy makers, professionals, civil society, lawyers, foundations, and other practitioners.

The challenge

Across the UK, the impacts of both climate change and immigration are being seen and felt at the local level. In many towns and cities, decision-makers are facing the emerging realities of these complex dynamics. However, in the absence of a national

UK strategy on community resilience or welcome, many local authorities have lacked the guidance, power or resourcing to take a proactive response.

There is a critical role for local authorities to develop and drive forward strategies to support inclusive, welcoming and climate-resilient communities in the UK.

The intervention

Global Exchange has been leading the way in supporting local authorities to respond to immigration over the past decade, including through building a network of UK cities to share insights and learning. This work has demonstrated how local authority networking and knowledge-sharing can support concrete local

action on welcoming and inclusion. It has increasingly surfaced local insights and action on issues at the intersection of climate change and migration, including housing, energy efficiency, and access to green spaces.

Global Exchange is now deepening its work on community welcoming and climate resilience in several local and regional authorities, through the 'Capacity for Welcoming' programme. This project works in several localities to develop regional migration strategies that support inclusive growth and climate resilience. It brings local authorities together for peer learning and reflection, focusing on how to build welcoming narratives, connect communities, and encourage broad and diverse civic participation in response to local climate issues.

This work offers insights that are highly relevant to central government, on how resilience and inclusion can be enhanced in UK towns and cities. To support its impact, the project is building sustained engagement with central government, as well as with the devolved administrations.

The impact

Global Exchange's work is already shaping the thinking about the intersection between climate and welcoming, and the role of local decision-makers in developing and steering community responses. It sheds light on the need for decision-makers to reflect on migrants'

experiences not just upon arrival but also their long-term challenges, compounded by the wider impacts of climate issues on communities across the UK.

This work is timely and relevant, and policy briefs and convenings aimed at central government and other policymakers have already opened conversations around the costs of inaction. Global Exchange continues to feed its insights into the work of international policy and advocacy networks, including C40 Cities, Welcoming International and the Mayors Migration Council.

What's next?

Looking ahead, Global Exchange will deepen and develop its engagement with local authorities on the frontline of climate and immigration issues. At a time when budgets are under severe pressure, it will continue to build its network of local authorities, helping them to develop regional migration strategies that can unlock new capacity, enable inclusive growth, and support more inclusive and equitable climate action.

www.compas.ox.ac.uk/global-exchange



Global Strategic Litigation Council



Red River flooding in Hanoi after Typhoon Yagi
Credit: Marcus Lacey/Shutterstock.com

Who

The Global Strategic Litigation Council uses the power of the law and the power of people to protect and advance the rights of at-risk and displaced communities worldwide through strategic litigation and advocacy. It unites a global coalition of over 650 grassroots organisations, refugee leaders, advocates and lawyers across 79 countries, and brings high-impact legal cases and advocacy that has ensured access to shelter, education and healthcare for over 400,000 displaced people.

The challenge

The climate crisis forces millions to flee their homes annually. Displaced and at-risk communities are often

denied basic rights including housing, healthcare and the right to stay safely in their homes, with marginalised and Indigenous communities disproportionately impacted.

However, despite the growing number of people affected by climate impacts, there is currently no dedicated international legal framework to protect and uphold their rights. There is a need for greater global coordination, strategic legal and advocacy interventions and coalition-building among legal practitioners and impacted communities.

The intervention

Responding to its membership, the Council is applying an established community-led model to advance climate justice in the UK and

beyond. It aims to protect and advance the rights of people affected by the climate crisis in several ways, including:

- **Building knowledge:** equipping UK lawyers and partners with cutting-edge resources on climate (im)mobility law to enhance future litigation.
- **Coordinating strategies:** aligning UK and global litigation approaches for cross-border impact, supporting lawyers and advocates to replicate successful arguments and accelerate impact around the world.
- **Advancing high-impact cases:** supporting precedent-setting domestic and international litigation.
- **Narrative Change:** uplifting the voices of those affected to help shape welcoming and resilient societies.
- **Capacity-building:** empowering practitioners and frontline communities to lead effective, community-centred action.

The impact

In recent years, the Council has delivered impactful legal and advocacy work to protect the rights of people at risk of the climate crisis.

The Climate Mobility Case Database, developed by the Council with leading academic and pro-bono partners, is the world's first open-access platform tracking climate (im)mobility cases, and an essential resource for UK practitioners navigating this emerging area. It distills global case law into

practical insights, and amplifies the voices of frontline communities and practitioners through a dedicated blog.

The Council is working to shape legal protections in this area, including through expert international legal interventions on climate-linked migration. This includes interventions in landmark Advisory Opinion proceedings before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, aiming to ensure that affected communities directly shape emerging climate standards.

To further empower communities, the Council is delivering targeted training and advocacy toolkits, helping to translate legal judgements into tangible impacts. It also aims to influence states by campaigning for progressive policies that protect future generations in the face of the climate crisis.

What's next?

The Council will be continuing to scale its impact in the UK and beyond. Resources permitting, it will establish a dedicated UK climate justice team, including a litigator and a narrative change lead, to bring cases and campaigns that shift policies and public opinion. It will continue to strengthen cross-border litigation, connecting UK work with its global coalition, and expanding its training for lawyers on climate mobility litigation.

www.global-council.org



Institute for Public Policy Research



Pedestrians, cyclists and taxis pass the Houses of Parliament in London
Credit: georgeclerk/iStock.com

Who

The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) is an independent charity in the UK, working towards a fairer, greener, more prosperous society.

IPPR produces cutting edge research and innovative policy ideas, aiming to define new agendas for change and provide practical solutions to challenges across public policy issues.

The challenge

As climate change reshapes patterns of displacement and labour mobility globally, two challenges stand out in the UK context.

First, there is limited clarity about where realistic policy levers lie - whether through foreign policy and climate adaptation, industrial strategy and workforce planning, or tailored routes for those displaced by climate impacts.

Second, there is insufficient understanding of how climate pressures and migration debates interact with public attitudes - particularly in areas experiencing environmental risk and economic strain.

The intervention

IPPR is in the early stages of scoping a cross-programme strand of work on climate and migration, bringing together its migration, environment and international teams. The scoping phase has focused on:

- Developing a shared understanding of where UK influence is most realistic - particularly through foreign policy, industrial strategy and labour market policy.
- Mapping key policy tensions and opportunities, including how green industrial ambitions interact with migration rules and skills shortages.
- Convening cross-sector actors and policy makers to clarify feasible priorities.

In partnership with the Centre for Global Development, IPPR co-hosted a roundtable in 2025 on green skills and labour migration. The discussion brought together policymakers, researchers, business and civil servants to examine how migration policy can complement domestic training to meet net zero workforce needs, and how greater coherence could be built between industrial strategy, skills development and migration policy.

IPPR is now developing further activities focused on climate displacement and the UK's global role, exploring responsibilities and opportunities for intervention.

The impact

IPPR's work in this area is exploratory and relationship-focused. It has begun to unpack live tensions between different agendas including UK foreign policy, net zero ambitions, labour market needs and immigration management.

This phase has enabled IPPR to begin building relationships across migration, climate and development actors. It is using its convening role to bring a range of actors together around shared questions.

What's next?

IPPR will continue to develop this work over the coming period through further roundtable discussions, analysis and coalition-building across climate, migration and development issues, focusing on the scope for credible policy entry points.

Alongside this policy-focused strand, IPPR intends to explore a distinct line of work on how climate impacts and migration debates interact in UK public attitudes. IPPR hopes to undertake focused analysis and deliberative engagement in selected UK areas facing acute climate risk to understand how environmental pressures shape attitudes toward migration and whether government action is seen as fair and legitimate.

www.ippr.org



More in
Common

More in Common



More in Common UK's Executive Director, Luke Tryl, conducting a focus group

Who

More in Common (MiC) is a public opinion research agency aiming to understand shared public views on major issues, centre overlooked voices in political debate and help thought leaders find common ground with the public. It has offices in seven countries, including the UK.

The challenge

There is currently relatively little known about UK public opinion on the links between climate change and migration. Available evidence indicates, however, that for many Britons, the potential connections between climate change and migration are not immediately obvious. Only 16% cite climate change as a future driver of immigration to the

UK, with respondents far more likely to select conflict, economic pressures, or changes to the UK's migration system.

The low public profile of climate-related migration raises important considerations for UK organisations working on climate and migration. Raising the public profile of this sensitive set of issues potentially carries risks as well as opportunities

The intervention

MiC conducts regular UK public opinion polling, focus groups, and segmentation on many issues, including climate change and immigration. Its ongoing analysis indicates that, although a majority of the British public are fairly, or very, concerned about climate change, there is currently a drop in salience against a backdrop of the cost-of-living crisis and political polarisation.

Immigration remains a top concern for the British public who would support an overall reduction in numbers, and are particularly concerned about small boat arrivals to the UK.

MiC's work to explore UK public opinion on the links between climate change and migration is relatively new. It includes survey experiments gauging voter perceptions on how these issues interlink, and testing public opinion on relevant narratives.

The impact

More in Common's work on climate change and migration is used by a wide range of campaigners, NGOs and policymakers to inform public communications, media coverage and policy development on these issues. Its work on climate-related migration is still in its early stages.

For now, these findings are shaping engagement with partners across the climate and migration sectors and paving the way for more in-depth work in this area.

What's next?

Looking ahead, More in Common will continue to test a range of narratives and foundational questions on climate-related migration to track how salient the issue is in the UK.

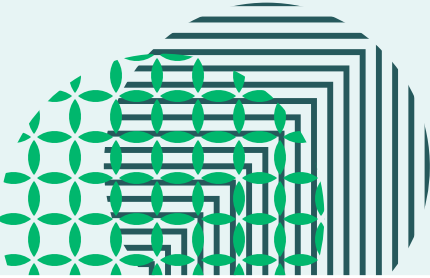
MiC also plans to explore which policies for managing climate-related migration are seen to be most effective, and how Britons would prefer the government to respond to its impacts.

www.moreincommon.org.uk



TALENT BEYOND
—BOUNDARIES—

Talent Beyond Boundaries



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 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 brought together key actors for the 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 now 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





Grassroots organisations participate in a Tipping Point workshop

Who

Tipping Point UK works to build an open, people-powered movement for climate justice. It brings together grassroots organisations focusing on climate, racial, migrant, social and economic justice issues, to develop their skills, connections and collective impact. It prioritises work with communities on the frontlines of climate impacts, and those historically underrepresented in climate organising spaces.

The challenge

Climate and migrant justice movements frequently operate in silos, with grassroots organisations often under-resourced and disconnected from one another. The result is fragmented responses to interconnected crises.

The intervention

Tipping Point UK supports grassroots groups to build their capacity, collective power and solidarity with frontline communities. It works towards a society based on care and repair, in several key ways:

- **Mapping & connecting:** Tipping Point has mapped hundreds of grassroots groups working across climate, migration and related justice issues, and actively builds connections between them.
- **Infrastructure & tech:** Tipping Point equips and trains climate and migrant solidarity groups with free digital tools and crowdfunding support.
- **Training & workshops:** Tipping Point convenes mixed cohorts of organisers to develop practical skills, shared strategies and cross-movement learning.
- **Migrant solidarity & anti-racist organising:** Tipping Point's regional organisers provide trusted local support, guidance and infrastructure to local campaigners.
- **Building community resilience & relationships:** Visioning workshops have brought together different groups in a dozen communities to collectively imagine and organise around local solutions to the climate crisis.

- **Climate & Migrant Justice:** Tipping Point is a core part of the Climate Migrant Justice organising group, co-convening a national gathering in Sheffield that brought together over 100 groups to build shared analysis and catalyse collaboration.

The impact

Tipping Point's work has already strengthened local rapid-response networks to uphold the rights and dignity of climate-displaced people. It has increased community knowledge of rights, resourced frontline solidarity efforts, and seeded new collaborations between climate and migrant justice groups. It has built confidence and connections among grassroots actors working in the UK on migration and climate justice issues.

What's next?

Over the next three years, Tipping Point is focused on strengthening support to uphold the rights and dignity of immigrants, in pursuit of a just and sustainable future.

In practical terms, this work will involve supporting and training frontline communities to innovate and develop mutual aid, rapid response, and care-based organising models, building an open, people-powered movement for climate justice.

tippingpointuk.org

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

These case studies have been collated by Ben Margolis and Ruth Grove-White with support from Unbound Philanthropy

March 2026

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