



**The
Faith
& Belief
Forum**

Climate Migrants and Social Integration in the UK:

Issues, concerns and need for further discourse

Climate Migrants and Social Integration in the UK

A report from F&BF's Research & Policy Team

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1. Executive Summary

This executive summary provides a comprehensive overview of the policy report on climate migration conducted by the Faith & Belief Forum's Youth Council. It seeks to raise awareness and initiate a dialogue regarding the challenges associated with climate-related migration, with a specific focus on identity, belonging, and community cohesion. The project adopted a three-pronged approach, consisting of a policy brief, case studies, and a community consultation survey.

The policy brief highlights the inadequacies of current policies in addressing the specific needs of climate migrants entering the UK. It emphasises the significance of social integration and proposes policy interventions based on successful strategies implemented in other countries. The report emphasises the need for policymakers to adapt existing policies to accommodate climate migrants and enhance social integration for both climate migrants and migrants in general.

Two in-depth case studies were conducted, examining the experiences of migrants from the Comoros Islands and Pakistan. These individuals encountered climate-related challenges in their home countries and faced difficulties in terms of reception and language accessibility upon migrating to the UK. The case studies underline the importance of reframing the narrative on migration and highlighting the positive contributions that integration brings to society.

Additionally, the research project featured a survey aimed at exploring public perceptions of climate migration and integration. The survey findings indicated that inadequate support for migrants is perceived by the public, thereby underscoring the importance of fostering an inclusive environment where individuals feel a sense of belonging.

The report draws upon a diverse range of data sources, including international law, migration reports from international organisations, government documents, case study results, and survey data.

Within the larger policy context, migration is on the rise amidst growing hostility towards migrants. The escalating climate crisis further exacerbates the likelihood of increased migration. Currently, international law does not encompass climate migrants within the definition of refugees. This report contributes to the ongoing policy discourse by calling for greater attention to be given to climate migration and improved social integration for migrants in the UK.

The key conclusions of the report centre on the urgent need for policymakers to address the challenges associated with climate migration. The report aims to raise awareness, highlight the inadequacy of existing policies, and advocate for practical resolutions.

Based on the report's findings, policymakers are recommended to invest greater efforts in tackling climate migration, enhancing social integration measures, and adapting policies to effectively address the needs of climate migrants. These recommendations are aimed at fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment for all individuals, regardless of their migration status.

In conclusion, this policy report offers valuable insights into climate migration, underscoring the significance of identity, belonging, and community cohesion. By engaging policymakers and amplifying the voices of young people, this report serves as a foundation for policy interventions that address the challenges posed by climate-related migration and strive towards a more inclusive society.

RESEARCH & POLICY



About The F&BF Research & Policy Team

The Research & Policy project comprises a group of passionate young people interested in social change and sharing our perspective to develop policies that are grounded in real life experiences.

As part of the youth network at the Faith & Belief Forum we work towards a more connected and supportive society where people of different faiths, beliefs and cultures have strong, productive, and lasting relations. We represent over 700 people who have graduated from the UN Award winning ParliaMentors programme and the wider body of young leaders who have engaged with our work over the years.

We are champions of social justice, and believe in a democratic, grassroots approach to achieving it. Our team represents a diverse range of backgrounds and viewpoints, ensuring a pluralistic outlook to identifying policy change. As part of our mission to champion underrepresented communities, our current focus area is migration and climate migrants (a community increasingly neglected by government programmes) as climate change threatens to drastically increase the number of those affected seeking safe haven in the UK.

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Policy Brief

Background to briefing paper:

2.1. Migration and the United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has generations that can claim migration as part of their social and cultural history. Over the last decade migration has continued to increase. Net migration to Britain reached a record high of 606,000 in 2022. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak continues to advocate for the reduction of new arrivals, but the continuing rise of immigration numbers underscores the difficulty of doing so at a time of acute labour shortages after Brexit (1).

Further to this is the issue of climate migration. Due to the climate crisis faced by a number of nations (2) and events such as environmental disasters, crop failures, famine and poverty, people within these geographical areas will be forced to migrate to places more conducive to

survival. The United Kingdom is an attractive destination for migrants due its historical links to some of the affected nations, some within the commonwealth, and the economic opportunity that it provides to build and re-establish their lives and livelihoods. We will show that increasing numbers of people will be forced from their homes due to climate change, and that UK policy is unfit to deal with its responsibility to rehome them. We would therefore like to begin a dialogue on the topic of climate-based migration and the need for better policies on social integration of all migrants and displaced communities. This is key to a sense of identity and belonging of migrants to their new home.

Climate Migration – Defining the Problem

2.1.2. What is a climate migrant?

2.1.3. Lack of current international and UK policies to protect climate migrants

Currently, climate migrants are not recognized as refugees under international law because the legal definition of a refugee is based on the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, which omits the notion of climate displacement since it was not nearly as significant a problem at the time, nor as widely understood (6). However, climate change is currently a growing problem and according to UNICEF, estimates of how many environmental migrants there will be by 2050 range from 25 million to 1 billion (7). Since 2010, weather emergencies have forced around 21.5 million people a year to move on average. According to UNHCR “roughly 90 per cent of refugees come from countries that are the most vulnerable and least ready to adapt to the impacts of climate change”. These countries also host around 70 per cent of people internally displaced by conflict or violence” (8). Despite climate migrants not being recognised as refugees, many of them will be forcefully displaced and thus it is an urgent problem that needs to be addressed.

A climate migrant, also known as an environmental migrant, is a person who is forced to move from their home or community due to the impact of climate change on their environment (3). Climate change can cause sea-level rise, desertification, flooding, droughts, and other extreme weather events, which can lead to the displacement of people from their homes (4). Climate migrants may also be driven away by the resulting resource scarcity, food insecurity, and other socio-economic effects of climate change (5).

2.1.4. Lack of policy framework for social integration of migrants and refugees

Social integration in the context of migrants refers to the process of incorporating migrants into the social, cultural, economic, and political fabric of their host society (9). The United Kingdom faces significant challenges in achieving social integration (10). Issues such as language barriers, limited access to education and employment opportunities, and cultural differences contribute to the difficulties faced by migrants in fully integrating into British society. Discrimination and hostility towards migrants further hinder their ability to participate and contribute to their communities. Policies of social integration can include a range of measures, such as language and skills training, employment support, access to education and healthcare, and the provision of social and cultural activities that facilitate interaction between migrants and host communities.

The UK government currently has no general policy framework when it comes to social integration (11). The practise of integration is supposed to be a shared responsibility among different government departments like the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, which focuses on community cohesion. However, due to climate migration being relatively new and the UK government's lack of standardised approach to social integration policy (13), it is currently unclear as to how the UK government will support the potential influx of future climate migrants (14). Without addressing these issues, the UK risks perpetuating social divisions, hindering social cohesion, and failing to fully harness the potential contributions of migrants to the country's cultural diversity and economic growth.

2.1.5. Overview of International Law and Human Rights Regarding Migrants

The UK has adopted or is a signatory to various international instruments which address migration and the treatment of migrants. Here are some of the international protocols that the UK has signed onto which relate to climate migration and social integration:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) (2015)

The UK has pledged to take steps to “facilitate safe, orderly, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies” (15).

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants

Adopted by the UK and other UN member states in 2016, the declaration recognises the need for comprehensive approaches to human mobility and enhanced global cooperation. It emphasises the protection of migrants’ safety, dignity, and human rights, as well as the integration of migrants in humanitarian and development assistance frameworks (16).

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

The GCM is the first inter-governmental agreement to cover all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. The UK adopted it in 2018 and it provides an unprecedented opportunity to enhance cooperation in international migration governance, strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement around the opportunities and challenges of migration, and shift the nature of the public debate. While the GCM is not legally binding, it builds upon the UK’s commitments under international law, including human rights treaties,

the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the objectives under the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. It aims to identify more balanced ways to address the challenges and to maximise the benefits of international migration.

The global compact recognises the need to address the challenges faced by climate migrants and emphasises the importance of respecting, protecting, and fulfilling their human rights and fundamental freedoms through the following provisions:

- It encourages states to minimise the adverse drivers and structural factors that contribute to migration, including natural disasters, climate change, and environmental degradation.
- It calls for joint analysis, information sharing, and the development of adaptation and resilience strategies to address the impacts of these factors on migration (17).
- It also urges states to cooperate in identifying, developing, and strengthening solutions for migrants who are unable to return or adapt in their country of origin, including through planned relocation and visa options (18).
- It highlights the significance of international cooperation and global partnerships to address the specific vulnerabilities and needs of migrants affected by climate and environmental factors (19).

By adopting the GCM and other international instruments recognizing these obligations, the UK has a responsibility to develop policies and initiatives that provide adequate support and protection to climate migrants, ensuring their social integration and safeguarding their rights in accordance with international standards.



2.1.6. A moral responsibility?

Unlike state policy and legislation, International human rights instruments take a more migrant-centred approach, reflecting on the benefits of mobility to migrants, their families, and their communities. As well as legal obligations, the idea of state “responsibility” suggests a moral argument about who is most responsible for the factors driving climate migrants from their homes. Climate migrants largely reside in States that have not been the major sources of high and increasing CO2 emissions (20). To foster more compassionate immigration policy, the approach to global environmental mobility could be redefined. Rather than merely managing the flows that pose challenges to individual states, policy makers could acknowledge the responsibility of the international community to confront the harms inflicted by its own members and take effective measures to address them. The national response to climate migration should be viewed as an integral part of a comprehensive international strategy for climate action, rooted in accountability and driven by the pursuit of environmental justice.

2.2. Approaches to Potential Recommendations

Policy related to climate migration has been nation-state focused to date. Policy to address climate migration across national borders has been limited. The international legal framework lacks clear provisions regarding the admission, rights, and solutions for disaster displaced persons, including those affected by climate change. While international law does not explicitly address their status, certain states have developed temporary humanitarian protection measures to address the needs of such individuals. The Nansen Initiative, a state-led consultative process, aims to identify effective practices and build consensus on principles for protecting and assisting cross-border displaced persons in the context of disasters and climate change (22). The Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), launched in 2016, builds on the Nansen Initiative to encourage countries to assist climate migrants by integrating its principles into national laws (23). Similarly, in our approach, we have examined successful policies implemented in other countries to propose potential recommendations for adapting UK policies to address the needs of climate migrants and enhance social integration. By leveraging the knowledge gained from existing practices, we aim to contribute to the development of comprehensive and effective strategies that can support climate migrants and ensure their successful integration into society.

2.3. Statement of Key Policy Concerns and Needs

The UK's current policy framework and practices concerning migration and social integration reveal significant gaps and failure to meet its international obligations.

The UK needs a policy to provide for safe access routes for climate migrants that reflects the current concerns.

The UK must also uphold human rights principles (21) by developing its policy on social integration. This would foster a welcoming and supportive environment for all migrants seeking refuge and a better future in the face of climate change-induced displacement.

3.1.1. Temporary Protection Status (TPS)

Temporary Protection Status (TPS) is a program that grants legal residency in the UK to migrants from designated countries for up to eighteen months. TPS provides various rights and benefits to its beneficiaries, including a residence permit, employment authorization, access to housing, the ability to travel outside the UK, education opportunities, and family reunification. The selection of countries for TPS is based on specific conditions, such as the inability of the country to ensure safety or necessary conditions for returning nationals, often due to environmental disasters or epidemics. It could be adapted to provide for climate migrants. Given the high climate-related disaster vulnerability and significant number of climate migrants from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and the Philippines, TPS should be extended to nationals from these countries. The European Union's successful implementation of TPS for Ukrainians fleeing their country serves as a precedent (24). TPS would effectively manage the future influx of climate migrants, establish their rights, and facilitate their integration in the UK. The policy is flexible, allowing for indefinite renewals and selective implementation within countries.

3.2.1. Establish the Climate Migration Impact Fund (CMIF)

The following policy suggestions are aimed at improving integration for migrants that already have a permit to stay in the UK.

The CMIF is proposed as a non-profit organization aimed at addressing the impacts of climate migration. It would be funded through a levy on goods contributing to climate change (25). The CMIF would allocate funding to three sub-projects:

1. The Climate Integration Fund (CIF) focuses on aiding the integration of climate migrants into UK culture. It supports initiatives such as language classes, job training programs, and community outreach efforts, aiming to reduce social isolation and foster a sense of belonging for climate migrants.

2. The Climate Migration Structural Action Plan (CMSAP) addresses the structural challenges of climate migration by creating job opportunities for both climate migrants and UK citizens. It ensures environmental sustainability while prioritizing community engagement and consultation, as well as supporting UK businesses (26).

3. The Pre-Arrival Integration Initiative (PAII) establishes outreach programs to countries likely to experience significant climate change impacts (27). It provides information on UK climate migration policies, assigns point of contact volunteers, facilitates job network introductions, and offers pre-arrival language courses to help climate migrants adapt to life in the UK.

3. List of Policy Recommendations

Inspired by Other Countries

The following is a list of policy recommendations that have been inspired by other countries and adapted to fit the criteria of helping climate migrants settle into the UK. In specific, this section draws upon strategies used by the European Union and its members states such as Germany and, New Zealand – which has been hailed the country with the best migration policies in the world by the Centre for Global Development.

In preparing for the growing number of climate-induced forcibly displaced people, it is important for the UK government to learn from the countries who have more robust policies on migration and whose policies have shown clear advantages, such as reduced pressure on immigration services. This list sheds light on how the UK could apply some of the learnings of other countries to its domestic context.

3.2.2. Migration counselling for UK Migrants

A migration counselling service would offer support and guidance specifically tailored to adult migrants in the UK. The service would be confidential and free of charge, catering to various groups of migrants, such as climate migrants, asylum seekers, and youth migrants. Each user would have an assigned counsellor, consultations would be available in multiple languages, and an app would provide convenient access to counselling. Employment opportunities as qualified interpreters would be provided to migrants, inspired by successful projects like the 'Language Justice' initiative in Nottingham (28). The establishment of accessible bureaux in major cities is recommended based on the German Migration Counselling service's success (29), aiming to bridge the gap and facilitate a smoother integration process for migrants in the UK.

3.2.3. Temporary protective directive

The temporary protective directive could offer a range of initiatives to support climate migrant integration in the UK. One example is the Talent Pool Pilot (30), which facilitates labour market integration by matching migrants' skills and qualifications with job vacancies. This initiative has been successful in helping those fleeing Russian aggression in Ukraine, connecting them with over 4,000 EU employers and 3.9 million vacancies. Additionally, the TPD includes initiatives like Safe Homes (31), which matches migrants with temporary accommodation and provides support to hosts. Integration grants, rehabilitation services, and accessible solutions for persons with disabilities are also part of the directive's initiatives. These examples demonstrate the effectiveness of the TPD in assisting migrants and promoting their successful integration.



3.2.4. Implement an integration course system

Implementing an integration course system could facilitate better integration of migrants into the UK. These courses would include language and orientation classes, providing migrants with essential language skills and knowledge about the country's history, culture, and legal system. The general integration course would consist of a specific number of lesson units covering language and orientation topics. For migrants with a strong command of English (B1+ level), a fast-track course could be offered, covering half the number of lesson units. The orientation course would follow the language course, focusing on practical skills such as writing, completing forms, making phone calls, and job applications. Youth integration courses would also be included. The final stage of the language course would involve an "English language test for immigrants" (SELT). Data from the German Integration Course System demonstrates that migrants who attended the course achieved good or very good language skills, while only 17 percent of those who did not attend had similar language proficiency (32). By providing these integration courses, migrants will be better equipped to seek employment, navigate administrative processes, support their children in school, and engage socially within their new communities.

3.2.5. Migrant Refresh Project

The Migrant Refresh Project proposes a series of meetings between the Home Office and refugees and migrant communities, aiming to review and assess the effectiveness of existing migration strategies. This project emphasises the importance of active participation from migrants and refugees, offering opportunities to attend settlement strategy engagement sessions, participate in co-design workshops, and express their concerns in a safe environment. Drawing inspiration from successful migration strategies in New Zealand (33), which is regarded as a leading country in this field, the Migrant Refresh Project aims to prioritise the involvement of migrants in the development of migration policies. By placing migrants at the forefront, this initiative seeks to promote inclusive and effective decision-making in crafting migrant policies, which could be particularly beneficial for climate migrants seeking refuge in the UK.



3.3. Key implications

The strategies mentioned above have significant implications for UK policymakers. There is no denying that climate related migration is on the rise and the UK will need to prepare for this to ensure societal cohesion between migrants and UK nationals. The establishment of an integration course system would require resource allocation and the development of comprehensive language and orientation programs to facilitate the integration of migrants. This aligns with the findings of our survey, which revealed a strong need for language classes and cultural orientation among migrants in the UK. Additionally, the Migrant Refresh Project highlights the importance of engaging with migrant communities and involving them in the decision-making process.

This approach resonates with the survey results, indicating a desire for migrants to have a voice and be included in policy discussions. Furthermore, the Climate Migration Impact Fund (CMIF) presents an innovative funding mechanism to address the impacts of climate migration. Policymakers need to consider the feasibility and effectiveness of levies on goods contributing to climate change as a means of funding the CMIF. The survey findings also indicate support for initiatives that facilitate job opportunities, language courses, and community engagement for migrants. These strategies underscore the importance of inclusive and proactive policies that address the unique needs of climate migrants while promoting their successful integration into UK society.

3.4. The need for community cohesion

In conclusion, migration and resettlement of new communities will be a major part of the policy and legislative work of the UK government for significant years to come. The need for a model and inclusive approach to community cohesion and integration that will benefit new and older communities as well as indigenous populations in the United Kingdom is vital not only for social integration but also for the building of successful economies. As the global north faces an ageing population and reduced population growth with a need for a growing workforce, migration should be seen as a solution. We need to address the issues of human sustainability in a rapidly changing environmental landscape with a humanitarian lens.

Therefore, we encourage an urgent conversation regarding migration, climate migrants and social integration. We are recommending that we begin this dialogue to promote partnership working with agencies such as Faith and Belief Forum and other social and community enterprises/organisations to create solutions for an inclusive and integrated United Kingdom where we all belong. The F&BF policy team will therefore aim to work with our local communities and agencies and explore via discourse and engagement, recommendations that could bring about effective social integration of migrants. We aim to champion these recommendations more broadly with a public campaign to raise awareness and promote conducive dialogue on supporting all migrant communities coming to our shores.

CONCLUSION

Survey Report

4.1. Introduction

On the 7th of June 2023 we launched an exploratory, quantitative, online survey to gather information and understand public perspectives on climate migration to develop our briefing paper. This survey report is an integral part of the broader policy report on climate migration and social integration, focusing on public perception and levels of integration in the UK. It delves into the attitudes and

perspectives of the public towards migration policy, shedding light on their understanding of climate migration as a distinct phenomenon. By assessing public knowledge and awareness regarding climate migration, the survey aims to provide insights into the challenges and opportunities surrounding the integration of climate migrants into UK society.

4.2. Methodology

The survey was conducted using Google Forms and distributed through our networks, reaching a total of 45 respondents. A non-probability, convenience sampling technique was utilized to gather data from UK residents of diverse ages, spiritual beliefs, genders, and migration histories. The online platform allowed for easy accessibility and convenience in completing the survey. While the sample size was limited, the data collected provides valuable insights into the perspectives of a varied group of individuals regarding immigration policy, social integration, and climate migration.

The survey asked respondents to provide their perspectives on the following seven key questions:

1. What are your thoughts on the current immigration policy in the United Kingdom?
2. How do you perceive the level of social integration in the UK at the moment?
3. Do you believe migrants are adequately supported in integrating within UK society?
4. In your opinion, are refugees and asylum seekers protected in the UK under the current immigration policies?
5. Are you familiar with the concept of climate migrants and why they leave their home countries?
6. How many climate migrants do you anticipate there will be in the next decade? (multiple-choice options provided)
7. What actions do you believe UK communities can take to support the integration of new migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers into UK society?

By posing these questions, the survey aimed to gather insights into public perceptions and attitudes towards immigration policy, social integration, climate migration, and community support for migrants. The responses to these questions provide valuable data for understanding public perspectives and informing policy recommendations in the broader report.

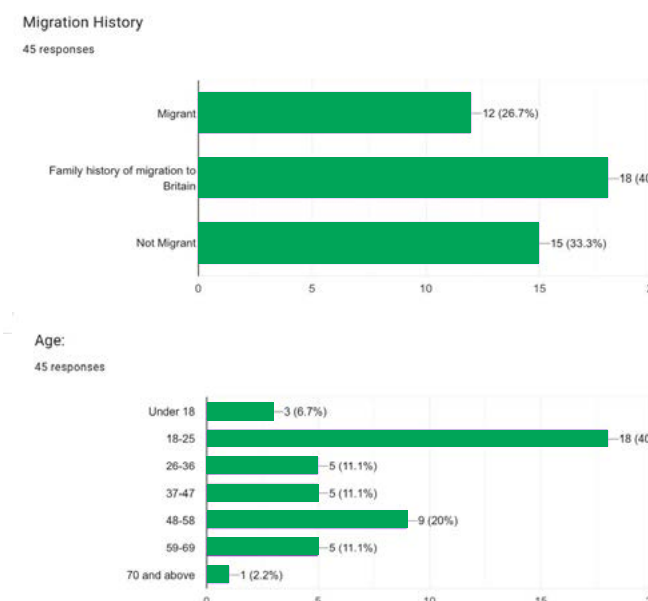
4.3. Overview of Survey Respondents' Demographic Characteristics:

Gender: The survey respondents consisted of a diverse mix of gender identities. Male respondents represented approximately 40% of the sample, while female respondents comprised around 55%. A small portion identified as queer, encompassing less than 5% of the total respondents.

Location: Most respondents, approximately 95%, were located in England, indicating a predominantly English sample. Additionally, a small number of respondents were from Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Germany, Afghanistan, and India, showcasing a limited international representation.

Migration History: A notable proportion of respondents, about 60%, reported a family history of migration to Britain, indicating a strong generational connection to immigration. Around 30% of the respondents identified themselves as migrants, signifying personal migration experiences. The remaining respondents indicated a non-migrant status, suggesting their families have resided in Britain for multiple generations.

Religious or Spiritual Beliefs: The survey respondents exhibited a diverse range of religious and spiritual beliefs. The largest religious affiliation was Christianity, with approximately 40% of respondents identifying as Christians, including various denominations such as Catholic, Protestant, and Seventh-day Adventist. Other prominent religious affiliations included Islam (around 15%), Judaism (around 5%), and Hinduism and Sikhism (each comprising less than 5% of the sample). A significant portion of respondents (approximately 25%) expressed atheism/agnosticism or a belief in universal love, while a smaller number embraced an interfaith or spiritual perspective.





Key Questions & Findings

4.4.1. Respondents' thoughts on current immigration policy in the United Kingdom

Overall, respondents expressed a strong sentiment of dissatisfaction with the current immigration policy, with calls for greater fairness, compassion, and adherence to international standards. There was a widespread perception that the policy needs improvement and should consider the rights and well-being of migrants and asylum seekers. The key trends can be summarised as follows:

NEGATIVE PERCEPTION

78% of respondents expressed a negative view of the current immigration policy, highlighting concerns that the idea of immigration is being demonised. They also emphasised the lack of conversation around the impact of climate change, which may lead to increased migration in the future.

BIAS & INEQUALITY

Several respondents perceived the immigration policy to be biased and unfair, particularly in how certain demographics, such as people from the Caribbean, are treated differently. They mentioned instances of racism and inequality in the system, with a focus on the Windrush scandal and differential treatment of European migrants.

NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT

Many respondents believed that the immigration policy needs improvement and called for its evaluation and review. They emphasized the importance of treating asylum seekers with dignity and respect, providing better support and access to services, and creating a fairer and less restrictive system.

HOSTILITY & INHUMANITY

A significant number of respondents criticised the current policy for being hostile, inhumane, and lacking compassion. They expressed the need for a more humane approach, considering international law and conventions, and providing safe and legal routes for asylum seekers. The policy was described as dehumanising and creating a hostile environment.

LACK OF AWARENESS

Some respondents admitted to not having a specific opinion on the policy due to a lack of awareness or knowledge about the current policies in place. They highlighted the need for more information and education about immigration policies.

The idea of immigration is being demonised and there is a lack of conversation around the fact that more and more people will be moving as a result of the climate crisis

4.4.2. Perceptions on the level of social integration in the UK

The survey revealed a range of perspectives on social integration in the UK. While positive community-level efforts were highlighted, there was a recognition of challenges, inequalities, and the need for government support and inclusive policies to foster better social integration. Language learning, addressing discrimination, and valuing diversity were identified as important factors in creating a more integrated society. These key trends are outlined below:

1 Positive Community-Level Efforts

Many respondents expressed a positive outlook on social integration, highlighting that at the community level, people are finding ways to live together better and fostering positive relationships.

2 Complexity and Changing Dynamics

Respondents acknowledged the complexity of social integration in the UK, noting that factors such as Brexit, lockdowns, and ongoing conflicts have influenced the “new norm” and created a constantly changing environment for social integration.

3 Racial and Ethnic Considerations

Some respondents mentioned that social integration varies depending on a person’s race or colour, with black individuals facing both good integration and poor treatment. There was an awareness of discrimination and the need to address issues related to race and ethnicity.

4 Challenges and Inequality

Respondents recognized challenges and inequalities in social integration, stating that communities tend to stick to their own and that discrimination and hate speech are still prevalent, particularly against minority groups. High levels of inequality were seen as hindrances to social integration.

Need for Improvement and Support

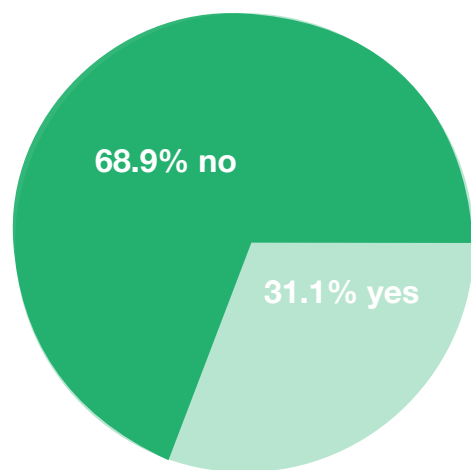
Many respondents felt that more could be done to promote social integration, including providing support, funding, and acknowledgement to initiatives and organisations working in this area. Faith groups were recognised for their role in aiding the integration of refugees and asylum seekers.

Criticism of Government Policies

Some respondents criticised the government's role in restricting social integration and fostering hostility, particularly through right-wing policies. There was a call for the government to play a more active and supportive role in facilitating integration.

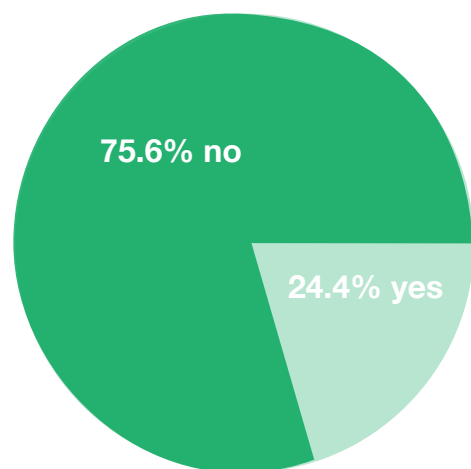
Individuality and Diversity

Several respondents emphasized the importance of preserving individuality and diversity in the process of social integration, rejecting the idea of erasing identities in favour of assimilation.



Do you think migrants are supported in integrating within UK society?

Faith groups play a vital role in supporting new arrivals and aiding social integration of refugees and asylum seekers



Do you think refugees & asylum seekers are protected in the UK under current policies?

What actions do you believe UK communities can take to support the integration of new migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers into UK society?

The survey revealed a range of suggestions to support the integration of new migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers into UK society. The key areas where communities can make a positive impact are outlined as follows:

1 Education and Awareness

Respondents emphasised the need for education and awareness about migration, refugees, and the challenges they face. They suggested that local authorities should drive openness between communities and include this topic in the education system to foster a more conscious and understanding society.

2 Welcoming and Inclusive Environment

Creating a welcoming and inclusive environment was highlighted as crucial. This includes being open, approachable, and communicative, as well as treating migrants as human beings and not being hostile towards them. Communities were encouraged to be empathetic, accepting all individuals regardless of their colour or background.

3 Practical Support

Respondents mentioned the importance of providing practical support to new migrants and refugees. This includes housing them properly, offering free English lessons, and giving them access to benefits after a certain period of self-support. Practical ways of getting to know and supporting migrants, such as organising community events and providing support for migrant children in schools, were also suggested.

4 Advocacy and Policy

Respondents called for advocating for refugee rights and pushing policymakers to bring forward policies that fight conservative and anti-migration laws. They emphasized the need for a better system in place to support migrants and refugees, with support networks, legal help, and translators to understand their rights.

5 Volunteerism & Community Engagement

Engaging in volunteer activities, joining community groups, and organising workshops within local communities were seen as ways to provide support and integration opportunities. They highlighted the importance of volunteers, including both younger and older people, who could offer their time, expertise, and support to help migrants integrate into the community.

6 Cultural Exchange and Understanding

Encouraging cultural exchange and understanding was mentioned as an important aspect of integration. This includes creating spaces where migrants can share their experiences and needs, as well as facilitating activities like language learning, financial advice, and job support. Building connections and bonds between individuals from the same ethnic backgrounds was also emphasised.

7 Increased Funding and Resources

Respondents acknowledged that communities are already doing a lot to support migrants and refugees but highlighted the need for more funding and resources to further enhance their efforts. They noted that financial struggles and limited support from local governments often hinder these initiatives.

“ I enjoy how diverse the UK has become ”

4.5. Implications & Recommendations

The survey responses reflect the growing public concern for current government immigration policy. The polarising debates around migration and the narrative of migration as a problem at national level in government and media has implications for social integration within communities. The data highlights the need for policy changes that promote inclusivity, provide adequate resources, and address societal divisions.

Recognition for the role faith communities and other local groups in providing services and improving social integration demonstrate the potential for community-led solutions and the importance of grassroots engagement in supporting integration. Policy makers should look at how these local projects could be better supported with resources and funding to continue their work. They should also examine where local communities are stretched and national initiatives would be better placed to provide services such as education, housing, healthcare, and access to benefits.

The survey responses indicate that social integration in the UK is a complex subject influenced by factors such as diversity, discrimination, economic division, and political narratives. The inclusion of climate migrants adds an additional layer of complexity to the migration context and integration process. More research should be conducted to examine the specific challenges climate migrants face when integrating into UK society and inform policy proposals. This research should also look at the potential intersectionality between a person's status as a climate migrant and race, faith, class, or gender. Future research should overcome the limitations we faced and include a larger sample size with a broader range of perspectives.

4.6. Integration with Policy Report & Conclusions

The survey provided valuable insights into public perceptions towards migration policy and levels of integration in the UK, which helped to identify gaps and areas for improvement. By gauging some public knowledge on the topic of climate migration, the survey shed light on the existing awareness and understanding among the population. These findings, combined with in-depth analysis and research, informed the policy recommendations by highlighting the need for targeted education and awareness campaigns, community engagement programs, and inclusive policies to ensure the successful integration of climate migrants.

In future studies and surveys, it is crucial to explore intersectionality and social integration. By considering factors such as gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status, researchers can understand the unique challenges faced by different groups in climate migration. Additionally, focusing on social integration helps identify mechanisms that foster community cohesion and support for migrants. Incorporating these dimensions generates comprehensive insights, informing inclusive policy recommendations for equitable social integration.

“ The UK has diversity at its best. The real challenge is inclusion now ”

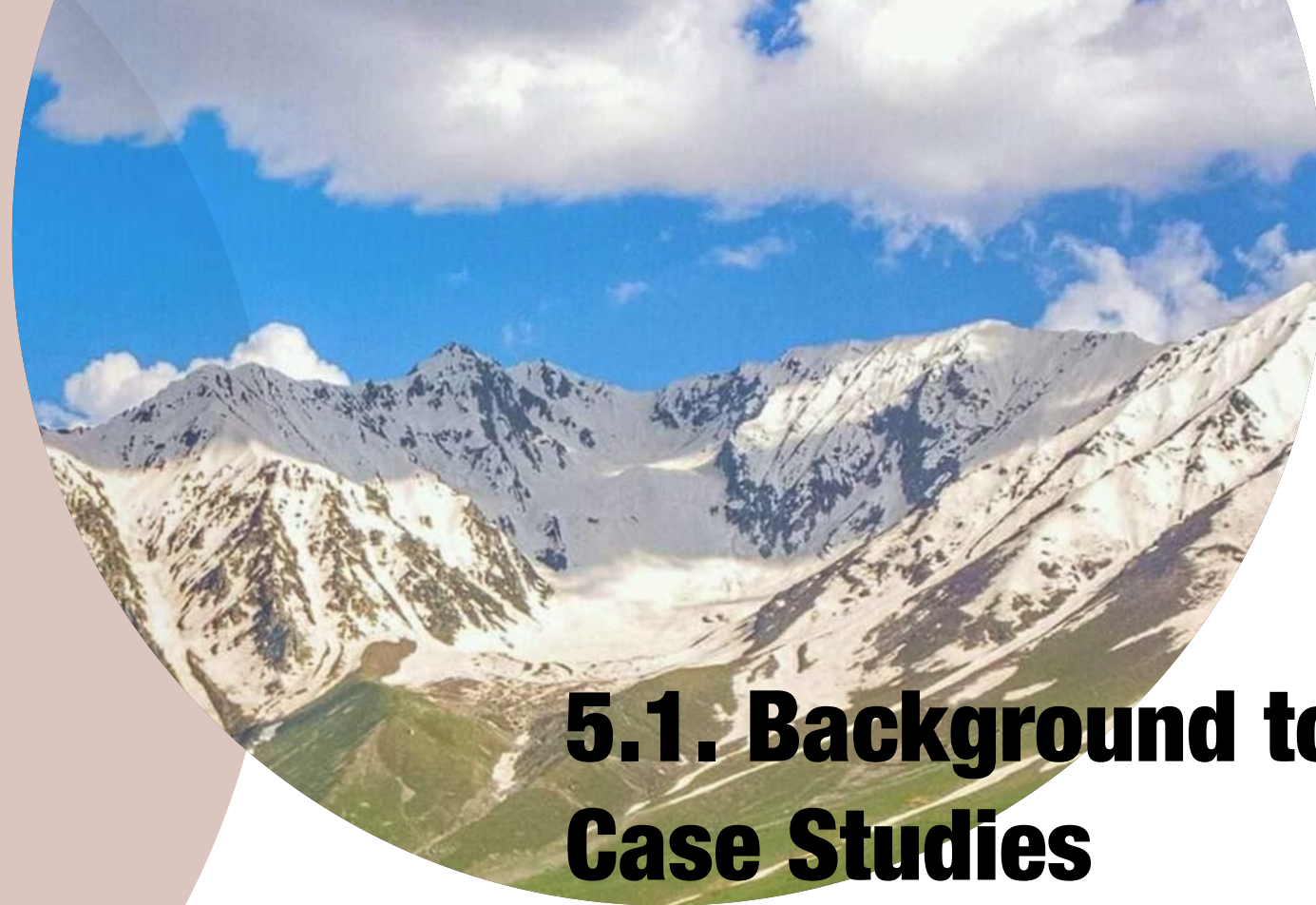
Case Study

5. Voices of Climate Migrants:

Enhancing Social Integration for a Sustainable Future

To provide a platform for those affected by climate migration and lacking social integration, we conducted structured interviews with migrants from Pakistan and the Comoros Islands. The interviews aimed to gather insights into their backgrounds, experiences, and suggestions for improving the migration process and promoting social integration. This case study sheds light on the narratives of Atheema and Ameel, who were compelled to migrate to the UK due to the impact of flooding and sea-level rise exacerbated by climate change.

“ Climate migrants are no different from you; they are human beings with families, occupations, skills, and talents. They are kind, caring and extremely hospitable. Their cultural background and ethics will truly inspire you more than you can imagine – Atheema ”



5.1. Background to the Case Studies

Atheema's Story

Atheema, a migrant from the Comoros Islands in the 90s, embarked on a journey in search of a better quality of life and employment opportunities, with climate change acting as an additional push factor. The Comoros Islands are already experiencing the adverse effects of climate change, including water shortages and an estimated displacement of 10% of coastal inhabitants by 2050 (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2002). However, Atheema faced limited support in integrating into the UK, particularly in terms of language acquisition. The language barrier posed significant challenges, hindering her ability to communicate with neighbours, health-care professionals, and her daughter's schoolteachers.

Ameel's Story

Ameel, along with his family, migrated from Pakistan in 2013. They were compelled to leave Pakistan due to security concerns related to their religious and political beliefs, with climate change exacerbating the situation through monsoon rainfall and subsequent flooding. Ameel had to bid farewell to his family and friends, adapting to a new life in the UK. Unfortunately, his asylum claim was initially rejected, rendering him unable to work for eight years. Eventually, after receiving his British Residency Permit (BRP), he gained admission to a university where he now studies Law.

5.2. Methodology

In order to capture the experiences of climate migrants, we employed a case study approach that involved designing a poster to attract individuals willing to share their stories. We reached out to our networks and local communities for assistance. It was through this outreach that we had the privilege of connecting with Atheema and Ameer, two individuals whose experiences became the focal point of our study.

Structured interviews were conducted with both participants, utilizing a combination of in-person meetings and remote interviews conducted via Zoom. The interviews provided us with rich insights into the challenges and realities Atheema and Ameer faced.

In addition to the interviews, we explored the connections to climate migration within our group by recording a podcast.

This reflective podcast allowed us to engage in meaningful conversations about what motivated us to do this work, share personal insights, and delve into the broader implications of climate migration. The podcast provided a platform for open dialogue and further enriched our understanding of the subject.

[listen to the podcast](#)

“I want people to know that devastating circumstances have pushed climate migrants out of their country, and they are coming from a place that is uninhabitable. They have lost everything - Ameer”



5.3. Key Findings

Drawing from the experiences of Atheema and Ameer, we identified key themes that align with our policy recommendations and the results of the survey:

Language Barrier and Insufficient Support

Atheema's struggle to learn English and subsequently communicate with others underscores the lack of opportunities for migrants to acquire language skills. Access to English language courses is essential for securing employment and facilitating social integration. These findings align with the survey results, where a significant percentage of respondents indicated that migrants are not adequately supported in this regard.

Employment Challenges

Both Atheema and Ameer's experiences highlight the need for better support in terms of employment. Ameer and his father were unable to work for seven years due to the absence of a BRP. Furthermore, Atheema emphasises the importance of recognising migrants' skills and providing employment opportunities that align with their qualifications, moving beyond limiting migrants to manual labour.

Flawed Immigration Processes

The case study brings attention to the flaws in the UK's immigration processes. Ameer's asylum claim was initially rejected, despite having legitimate grounds related to religious and political persecution in Pakistan, which should have afforded him special protection. Considering climate migration as a valid basis for asylum claims could have facilitated Ameer's progression to university and spared him years of waiting for a British Residency Permit. A more inclusive approach to immigration is necessary to uphold fundamental human rights, including the right to work and access to education.

Importance of Integration Support Organisations

The findings emphasise the need for organisations that support and promote the integration of migrants. Ameer's limited opportunities to connect with like-minded individuals and his diaspora left him isolated and vulnerable to bullying. Atheema proposes a solution through the implementation of mini workshops within local communities, facilitating networking among migrants and fostering relationships with native English speakers. Such initiatives can create a sense of belonging and promote a welcoming environment for migrants.

“I felt unwelcome at school. It's difficult to integrate when there is one group of people. I experienced racism and was made fun of for the way I spoke - Ameer”

5.4. Conclusion

This case study amplifies the voices of climate migrants and highlights their experiences of social integration in the UK. Atheema and Ameer's narratives underscore the importance of addressing language barriers, improving employment support, reforming immigration processes, and establishing integration-focused organisations. By implementing policies and initiatives based on these key findings, the UK can pave the way for a more inclusive society that embraces climate migrants, providing them with opportunities to thrive and contribute to their new communities.

“Migration is never going to stop. Rather than ostracising migrants and allowing mainstream media to vilify them, acknowledge their skills and what they can bring to the UK – Atheema”

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