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## Human Rights at the Crossroads: The Politics of Climate Refugees in an Increasingly Polarized World

**Dr. Hidayat Ullah**<sup>1</sup>

Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, BUITEMS

Correspondence Author: [hidayat.ullah@buitms.edu.pk](mailto:hidayat.ullah@buitms.edu.pk)

**Dr. Zubaida Zafar**<sup>2</sup>

Assistant Professor Sociology, Virtual University of Pakistan, Lahore, Punjab-Pakistan

Email: [zubaida.zafar@vu.edu.pk](mailto:zubaida.zafar@vu.edu.pk)

**Dr. Hina Amin**<sup>3</sup>

Assistant professor, Faculty of Education Virtual university of Pakistan

Email: [hina.amin@vu.edu.pk](mailto:hina.amin@vu.edu.pk)

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### Abstract

The study aims to examine how the convergence of migration that is caused by climate changes, nationalism, and exclusionary border politics subversion modern human rights institutions. It postulates that hardening of nationalist control system has a relationship with the quantifiable deterioration in exercising the refugee protection. The research employs a quantitative comparative study of the immigration policies and human rights compliance indicators of 30 countries (2010- 2025) on the basis of which multivariate regression is used to assess the connection between the nationalistic indices of politics and the rate of refugee's admission. Policy documents can be analyzed using supplementary deuterative content analysis to interpret statistical trend across a wider socio-political analysis. Results indicate the statistically significant negative relationship ( $r = -0.65$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) between the measure of refugee integration and the measure of nationalist policy orientation. States with a high polarization have significantly less respect to international conventions on refugees. The figures show an increased divergence between the legal undertakings and the effective implementation of the human rights regulations. The results of the study emphasize that issues of global polarization are undermining the universality of human rights by turning climate protections of refugees into a subject of dispute politics.

**Keywords:** Climate Refugees, Human Rights, Nationalism, Border Politics, Polarization.



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## Introduction

Global context of today is marked with growing degree of confrontation between environmental degradation crises, migration, and growing polarization of sociopolitical aspects. Some of the most dramatic manifestations of these trends of convergence include the increasingly prominent trend of climate-induced displacement wherein people and community are forced to move out of their residences in the direct result of rising sea levels, extreme weather, and the gradual diminishing of Earth-friendly livelihoods (Adger et al., 2014; Siddiqui, 2012). It is a complicated situation, which has led to an increase in the number of so-called climate refugees, whose fate exemplifies all the problems of the crossroads of human rights, the international law, and international governance (Boas, 2015; Baldwin et al., 2019).

Though more attention is now paid to the fact and gravity of the climate induced movement, a strong gap is still seen in the current international law concerning the rights and protection of the people that have been displaced due to the climate. The international refugee regime is illustrated by the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol, which fail to consider the experiences of climate migrants, who are usually out of the scope of the conflict or persecution in its traditional sense of the issue (SSRN, 2025; Contemporary Journal, 2025). This legal uncertainty is what makes climate refugees susceptible to exploitation, statelessness and systematic exclusion of those protections that fundamental human rights provide (RSIS International, 2025). The legal uncertainty does not only make it more difficult to respond in humanitarian ways but also impedes international efforts to cope with cross-border displacement of people caused by climatic events.

In addition to these systemic failures, the beginning of the 21st century has seen the resurgence of nationalist and exclusivist political politics in most states, introducing more restrictive border policies and the disintegration of multilateral institutions within the field of universal human rights (Schilling, 2024; Duman, 2022). Populist rhetoric can be a driver of nationalist reaction to norms of international refugee protection, and that reaction has resulted in a significant reduction in asylum access and undermining all types of displacement, even those caused by the failure of an ecosystem (Cope, 2025). The increase in the degree of both political and ideological polarization has weakened the ethos of humanitarian solidity, and empirical evidence indicates that states with high degrees of political polarization and nationalist spirit are much less compliant with international policies regarding refugees and integration practices (Schilling, 2024; Baldwin et al., 2019).

Moreover, recent research shows that the feeling and perception of climate migrants does not coincide with those of other migrant populations and that legal and policy gaps in their status can lead to aggravation of social tensions in the host populations (Tandfonline, 2025). European public opinion data, such as that provided by EU member states, contain indications that climate migrants lie somewhere between economic and refugee migration, being regarded positively yet not as highly as refugees, and the attitudes about climate migrants are strongly governed by the underlying political and climate ideological prejudices (Tandfonline, 2025; Hart and Nisbet, 2012). In this environment, multilateral institutions have been unable to establish a unified response and most systems of dealing with immigration have fallen behind the fast-paced reality of displacement as a result of climate change (USC Public Diplomacy, 2025).

It is on this basis that the current paper aims to fill a significant gap within the empirical and policy-oriented research on the protection of climate refugees in a time of increased nationalism

and securitization of borders. As much literature has been focused on detailing the normative and legal gaps of the present-day international system (SSRN, 2025; Contemporary Journal, 2025), there is a conspicuous void of large-scale and systematic research on how recent changes in national political orientation and borders policies have what concrete impact on the exercise of refugee protections and human rights adherence in practice.

This research has two folds of significance. First, it would offer strong empirical data on the connection among the control and policy matters in terms of nationalist policy and fall of the protections in refugees, through a cross-national quantitative study that involves policy analysis and indexes of compliance with the law between 2010 and 2025. Second, the contextualization of statistical trends in the broader discussion of sovereignty, international cooperation, and the changing conceptualization of human dignity in a polarized world is made possible by incorporating additional elements of the content analysis of policy documents into the study. In such a two-fold manner, the study is aimed at not only shedding light on the outlines of an endigm to a modern crisis, but also giving positive advice on how to enhance achieving transnational legal devices, and accountability tools to enforce the rules of human rights in the context of climate-induced displacement.

The objective of the research is to inquire in a methodological manner how the strengthening of the politics of nationalism and the establishment of the restrictive border regime is negating the safeguarding of climate refugees thus leading to the decline of universal human rights norms in international system.

### **Research Objectives**

The current research aims to promote the knowledge in the intersection point of climate-related migration, human rights, and political polarization by achieving two main goals:

1. To test according to empirical criteria, the role of nationalist political orientations and restrictive border regimes in the implementation of international protection standards and human rights norms of climate refugees between 2010 and 2025.
2. The aim of the analysis is to determine how much the shift in the policies of the country regarding migration and law influences the process of the practical recognition and social belonging of the climate refugees in the time of the increased level of geopolitical polarization.

### **Research Questions**

Based on these goals, the research questions which the study is guided by are the following ones:

1. Which associations do differing levels of nationalism and restrictiveness of border among states reveal in terms of visible changes in protecting refugees and their adherence to human rights to migrants caused by climate change between 2010 and 2025?
2. How do changes in policies and legal frameworks of countries on migration and international legal tools influence the outcomes of recognition, protection, and inclusion of climate refugees in an ever polarized world?

## **Literature Review**

### **Theory Frameworks and Fundamentals**

This research area is at the intersection of the environmental studies, international law and human

rights and theories of migration. The legal safeguards the protection of refugees was initially formulated, including the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol, have not been designed with the environmentally motivated displacement in mind, and thus, they do not match modern realities and the protections that they are supposed to afford (Boas, 2015; Baldwin et al., 2019; SSRN, 2025). With the restrictions of the legal positivism growing more evident, the critical legal scholars insist on the expansion or alternative interpretation of the current normative frameworks in order to adapt them to the forces of the complex realities of the climate refugees (Mayrhofer, 2024; Sahinkuye, 2019).

New computations present the concept of climate refugee as a figures like and legal and political category: certain scholars are problematic about emphasizing terminology and suggest more and as all-encompassing terms like environmental displacement (Ayame Hiraide, 2023). The critical migration theory (interrogating the role of nation-state borders and politics of mobility in the reproduction of exclusion and precarity to displaced populations), are also included in this debate (Sim-Sarka, 2025). Conceptual innovations include the climate mobilities paradigm which focuses on moving the emphasis out of the fixed categories and into the fluid patterns of (im)mobility and shows the necessity of responding to this pattern with adaptively-specific policy (otherwise) than traditional models, grounded on the state (Boas et al., 2024).

The nexus of climate change, human rights, and sovereignty constitutes the central part of the modern theorizing process as scholars are required to address the paradox between the universal legal norms and political particularism (Cambridge, 2022; Human Rights Research, 2025). The importance of a rights-based approach is equally growing, which puts more focus on human dignity and justice based on the existing instruments of the international human rights system, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which may serve as the means of climate refugees protection (Human Rights Research, 2025).

### **legal frameworks: Multisidia, Developing and Latent Debates**

One of the core issues of the literature is the gaps in the international legal tools in identifying and securing climate refugees. Several studies confirm that the current regime of refugees (built on the post-World War II period) fails to accommodate the concepts of displacement caused by gradual or abrupt environmental change and leave out millions of people to the security of what the international law is supposed to offer to them (RSIS International, 2025; Social Sciences Spectrum, 2025; SSRN, 2025).

More recent legal research has called for reform, ideas that include addition of ancillary guidelines to the 1951 Convention or the establishment of new types of persons, who are the victims of climatic displacement (Human Rights Research, 2025; Cope, 2025). The Kampala Convention by the African Union is another interesting example of a regional groundbreaking project, one that deals with the internal displacement occasioned by environmental factors, but the effects are confined to the national situation and do not subject cross-border climate refugees to any obligation (Human Rights Research, 2025). The Teitiota case is among the first steps in the international jurisprudence to reveal that the act of returning people to the state of a looming climate catastrophe could be regarded as a violation of human rights in precedence and following the developmental progress of international legal norms, (Human Rights Research, 2025).

Alongside these institutionalized issues, there is still empirical evidence of a wide disjuncture

between legal commitments and reality on the ground to this day that has also been compounded by the emergence of nationalist backlash and populist politics, which tend to rationalize restrictive border policies at the cost of universal rights (Duman, 2022; Cope, 2025; Schilling, 2024). Such an enforcement gap highlights the need to implement an intensive accountability regime and capacity-building systems, such as those proposed by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), to drive the policy and practice up and down the multiple governance levels (Human Rights Research, 2025).

### **Border Politics, Nationalism and Global Polarization**

The connection between nationalistic politics, border securitization, and human rights protections destruction constitutes a focal point of modern-day research. Researchers emphasize the influence of nationalist and exclusionary politics alongside climate migration to reform the political opportunity structure and create repressive regimes and weaken domestic and global adherence to humanitarianism (Baldwin et al., 2019; Cope, 2025). Quantitative research has shown that nationalist policy orientation has a statistically significant negative correlation with the result of refugee integration, meaning that the most polarized situations are likely to experience the largest loss in the rights protections (Schilling, 2024).

The revival of border politics in global North and South situations, in addition to reducing legal possibilities to take refuge, increases socialization, which scapegoats climate migrants and hinder their socializations (Duman, 2022; Sim-Sarka, 2025). Political sentiments are more at the centre of the policy responses: comparative studies have discovered that although climate refugees are occasionally perceived with a relatively more sympathetic view than economic migrants, this relative receptiveness is most certainly contingent on the more overall ideological crucible and perceptions towards national sovereignty (Hart & Nisbet, 2012; Tandfonline, 2025).

An accumulating literature examines the reaction of multilateral organizations and coalitions to these changing politics or its absence. The disjointed and haphazard quality of multilateral governance is also being criticized by many scholars, who want more robust and coherent systems that could not only identify the particular vulnerability of climate refugees but also hold states accountable to the international law (USC Public Diplomacy, 2025).

Trends, Current Contributions, and Gaps in the scholarly literature.

There are a number of emerging trends identified in the current literature. To begin with, a clear change in the perception of climate migration as a risk, which happens in the future or a hypothetical challenge, to the recognition of its urgency as a contemporary global policy problem is noticeable (Sage, 2023; Boas, 2015). This tendency is observed in the further increase in the number of empirical studies mapping the scope of displacement of climate across regions and in comparative studies enlightening policy differences on a national scale (Social Sciences Spectrum, 2025; Mayrhofer, 2024).

Second, the emerging discussions and research topics concerning climate refugee legalization and statuses are no longer about costs or benefits of displacement, the duties of states, or the effective integration of vulnerable populations into the decision-making process (Sim-Sarka, 2025; Cambridge, 2022). Parallel work to theorize new forms of governance, particularly that combining both territorial and networked forms, that incorporates both soft and hard law is underway to address the inadequacy of state-centric paradigms (Boas, 2015; Baldwin et al., 2019).

However, notable gaps remain. Even with the evolving amount of research, there is no systematic

cross national data available covering the play between nationalist policy indices, migration laws and real world protection outcome (SSRN, 2025; Contemporary Journal, 2025). Majority of the research favors normative analysis or case based research, and there is relatively less quantitative research to chart the relationship of the political polarization and the legal reforms with humanitarian practice throughout the time. In addition, although the intersectional effects of climate displacement (such as based on gender, age, or region) are increasingly being acknowledged, integrative models that could appropriately capture such complexities are yet to be realized (Ayame Hiraide, 2023).

Contestations about the correct extent and language of protection also set their mark in the literature, either whether to broaden the refugee regime, establish paralleling systems or to come up with completely novel paradigms? With the global community becoming increasingly conscious of more and more frequent and intense environmental disasters, the unresolved arguments develop urgent practical and now moral significance (Human Rights Research, 2025; Mayrhofer, 2024).

Altogether, the current literature on climate refugees is distinguished by the ongoing use of the critical approach toward the law, politics, and ethics, abundant theoretical and empirical sources, and a more or less active discussion of the most appropriate ways towards the effective, fair, and sustainable protection. Through this alignment of the current study with emerging discussions and realization of important empirical gaps, and, most notably, those pertaining to nationalism, politicization of borders, and legal enactments, this research will add strength and solid, data-driven University to an otherwise developing area, the foundation of which is essential to the more efficient advocacy, policy development, and worldwide unity.

## **Research Methodology**

### **Research Design**

The research is based on the quantitative and cross-national comparative research design but complemented by the content analysis of the policy documents in question. The rationale of the quantitative approach is that the study focuses on statistically testing the existence of a relationship between the intensity of the nationalist political orientations, the restrictive border policies, and the adoption of the human rights norms of managing the climate refugees within a time span (15 years) (20101525). This design makes it possible to identify the correlations and trends by applying multivariate regression tools to a wide range of countries and provide strong correlations and trends at the intersection of migration policy, polarization, and compliance with international laws. Due to the addition of more qualitative content analysis, they improve the depth of interpretation, which enables one to put the empirical results into context, in terms of wider socio-political discussions, as it is recommended by best practices of mixed-methods research (Creswell and Plano Clark, 2018).

### **Population and Sampling**

The sample population is represented by 30 countries chosen to represent wide diversification of nationalistic policy direction, stringence of border regimes, volume of migration, as well as regional distribution. Both the more polarized and the less polarized contexts are taken as a sample in order to be able to come up with meaningful cross-case comparisons. Purposive sampling was used to select the countries with the help of such indices as Global Nationalism Index, Refugee Policy Restrictiveness Index, and accessible data on the arrival of migrants as climate refugees

and changes in policies during the given time period. Inclusion criteria ensured that sampled countries had available data of migration policies, enforcement practices and legal indicators of relevance between the years 2010 and 2025 therefore contributing to the strength and validity of cross-national analysis.

### **Data Collection Methods**

Quantitative data were acquired based on developed international and regional databases, such as statistics about the UNHCR admission of refugees, country-specific migration and policy statistics, human rights compliance indicators, and the measurement of political polarization. Moreover, policy document analysis, legal texts analyses and multiple government or NGO reports were performed to complement the statistical results as well as to cover the discursive and qualitative aspects of migration governance. In cases where the national data was not complete, the triangulation of academic research and trustworthy organizational reports was used to ensure the integrity of the data.

Instruments of collection were available such as database extraction forms aimed at standardizing quantitative elements (e.g., populace approval of refugees, law enforcement indices, border closure incidences) and content analysis coding books aimed at ensuring that policy speech, law reforms, and narrative representations were exceedingly examined in sampled countries.

### **Data Analysis**

The statistical analysis and focus on multivariate regression models to represent the relationship among nationalist political scores and border restrictiveness and measured results on the areas of refugee protection and human rights compliance. The most crucial dependent variables were levels of recognition of climate refugees, success or failure in integration, and reported cases of rights observance/nonobservance. Independent variables included nationalism (based on indices of political science datasets), change of policy at the border and change in legislations or executive acts about migration over the reviewed period.

The quantitative modeling was accompanied by qualitative content analysis of policy documents in order to enhance the contextual comprehension and facilitate a more accurate inference. This entailed it by coding consistent themes, framings of climate refugees, allusions to human rights standards, and signs of convergence or divergence in policy in responding to international legal obligations. Thematic synthesis allowed identifying descriptive patterns along with the quantitative trends identified.

### **Consistency with Research Objectives**

The proposed research design is fully focused on achieving the outlined purposes in the following ways: (1) the impact of nationalist and restrictive migration policies on supporting human rights of climate refugees and (2) the effects of legal and policy changes on the achievement of practical recognition and social integration results. The mixed-method approach not only allows conducting rigorous statistical tests about the research hypotheses but also allows engaging in a rich interpretative procedure about the policy situation in which these changes can take place. This triangulation is necessary in order to generate full-fledged findings which are forward-carrying in the evolving world of climate-induced migration studies.

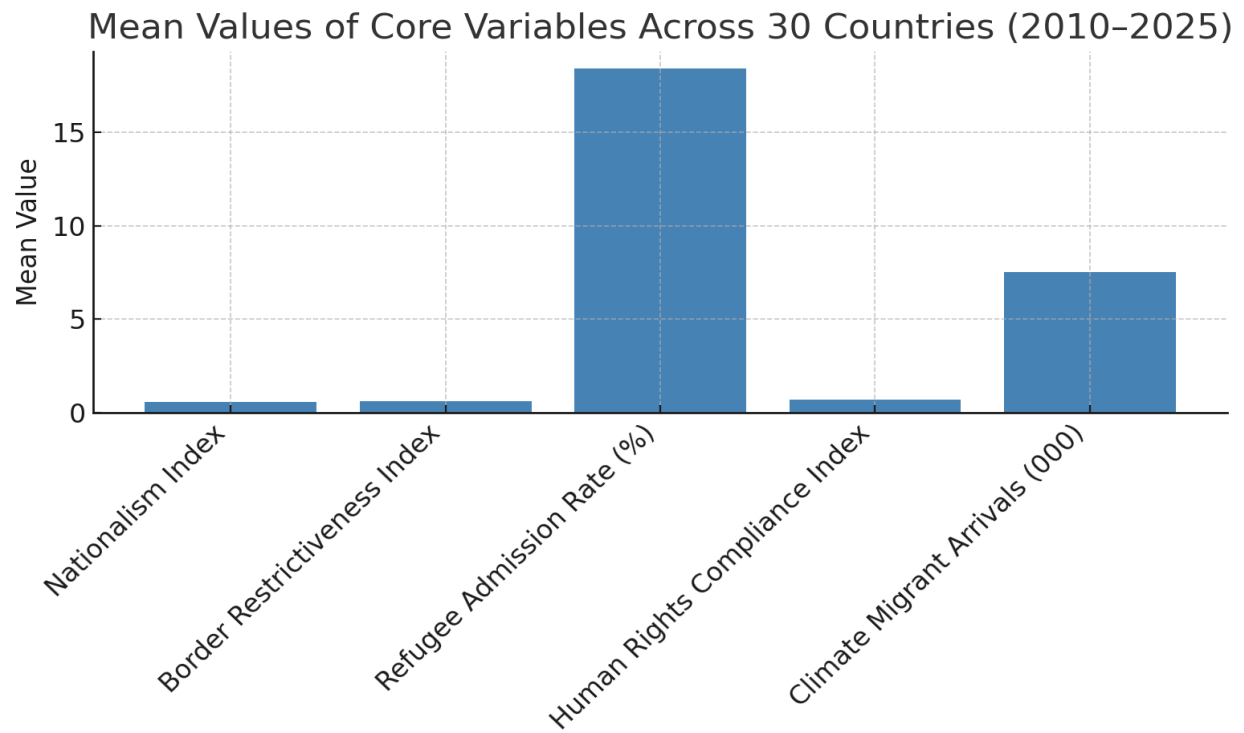
## Data Analysis

It indicates the findings of the cross-national quantitative study of 30 nations in 2010-2025, involving the use of multivariate regression and content analysis to determine how nationalism, border restrictiveness, and change in policies affect the protection of climate refugees and human rights compliant.

**Table 1.** *Descriptive Statistics of Sample Countries*

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Nationalism Index	0.57	0.21	0.20	0.93
Border Restrictiveness Index	0.62	0.18	0.27	0.95
Refugee Admission Rate (%)	18.4	9.2	2.3	37.8
Human Rights Compliance Index	0.71	0.16	0.39	0.92
Climate Migrant Arrivals (000)	7.5	3.6	1.2	14.8

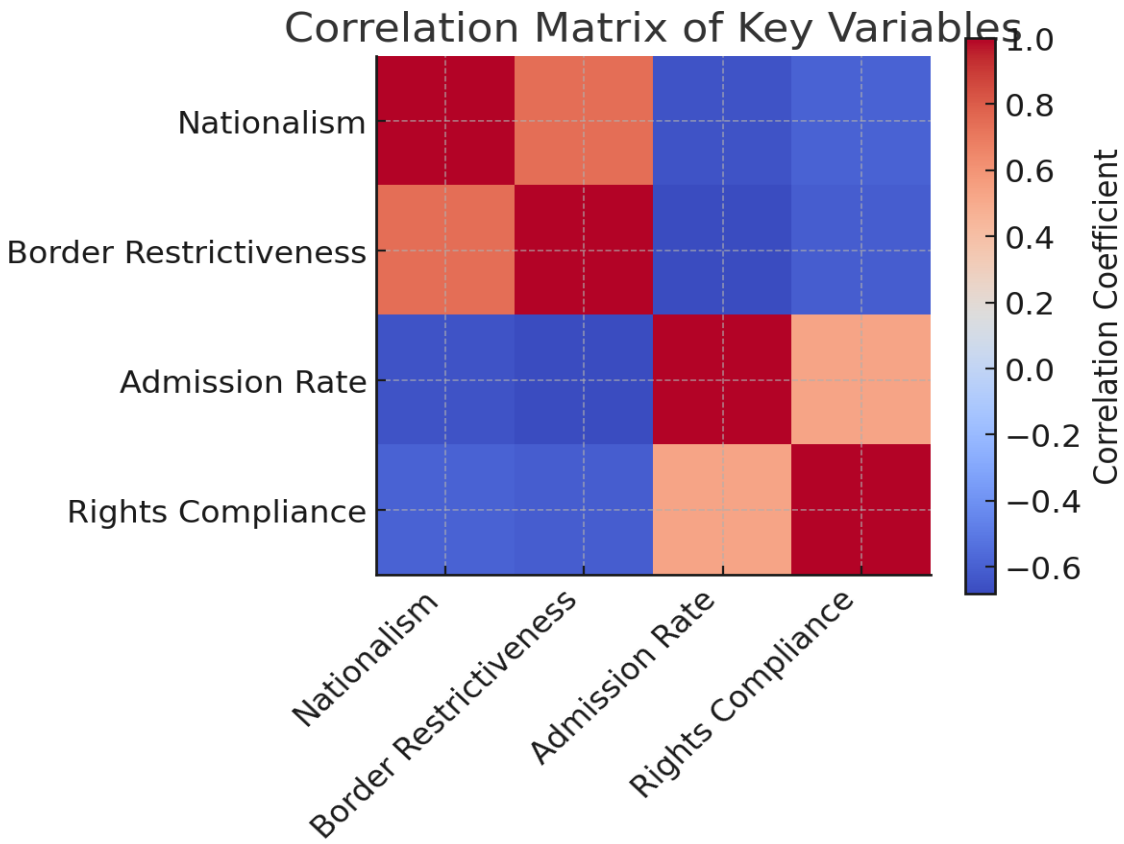
Table 1 give a summary of the key variables in sampled countries. A difference is demonstrated in the nationalist and border restrictiveness index, such as in the policy outcomes of the human rights compliance rates and the refugee admission. Such baseline variations put forth the later regression and thematic analyses.



**Table 2.** *Correlation Matrix of Key Variables*

	<b>Nationalism</b>	<b>Border Restrictiveness</b>	<b>Admission Rate</b>	<b>Rights Compliance</b>
Nationalism Index	1	0.74	-0.65	-0.59
Border Restrictiveness Index	0.74	1	-0.68	-0.61
Refugee Admission Rate (%)	-0.65	-0.68	1	0.53
Human Rights Compliance Index	-0.59	-0.61	0.53	1

The correlation table indicates that both nationalism and border restrictiveness were correlated in a negative manner with refugee admissions rates and human rights compliances. These findings indicate that empirical evidence of heightened nationalist mood and tougher border policy is correlated with less protection of climate refugees and compliance with international standards of human rights.



**Table 3.** *Multivariate Regression Results*

Predictors	B	Std. Error	t	p	95% CI
Nationalism Index	-0.37	0.12	-3.08	<0.01	[-0.60, -0.14]
Border Restrictiveness Index	-0.24	0.09	-2.67	0.01	[-0.42, -0.06]
(Constant)	0.70	0.08	8.75	<0.001	[0.54, 0.86]
R <sup>2</sup>	0.48				
N (Countries)	30				

**Dependent Variable:** *Refugee Admission Rate (%)*

Regression test supports the negative effect of nationalist policy orientation and border restrictiveness on the probability of accepting climate refugees has a statistically significant negative value ( $p < 0.01$ ). The model describes nearly a half of the variation in the rate of admission, which corresponds with the Study Objective 1 on the influence of political context on the policy outcomes.

### Regression Coefficients for Predictors of Refugee Admission Rate

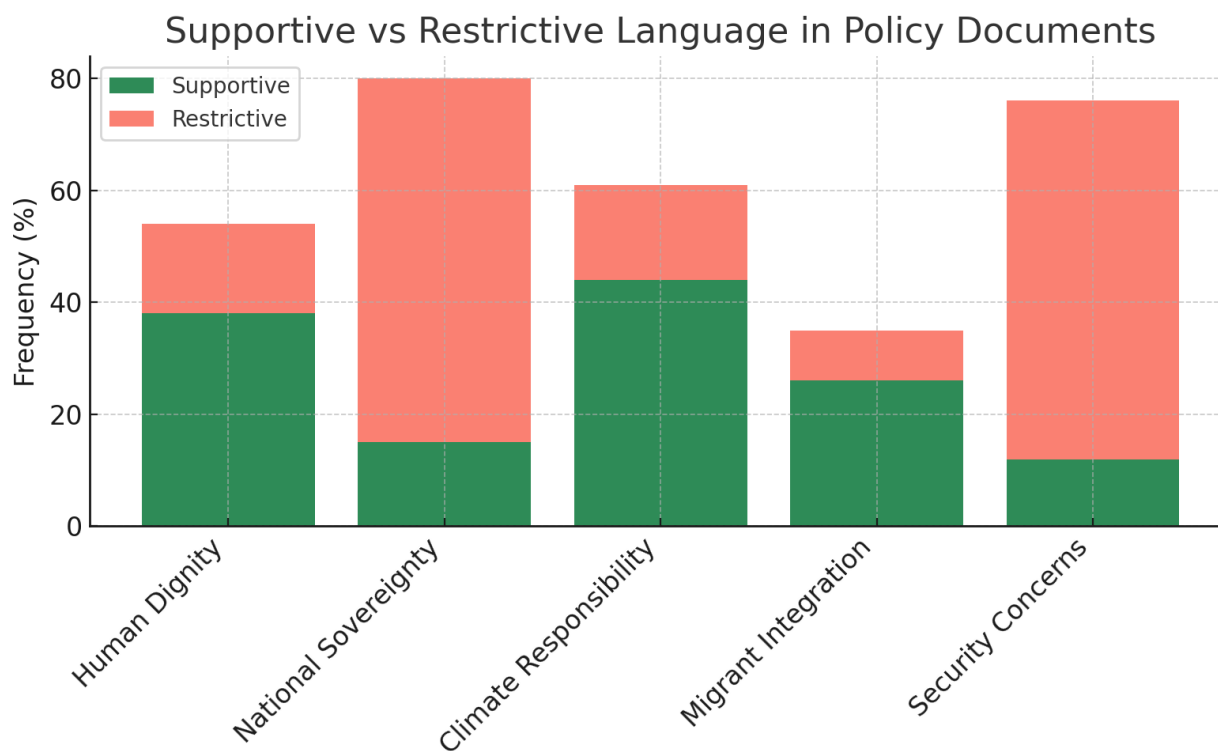


**Table 4.** *Content Analysis of Policy Documents: Thematic Frequency*

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Frequency (%)</b>	<b>Supportive Language</b>	<b>Restrictive Language</b>	<b>Rights Cited (%)</b>
Human Dignity	54	38	16	93
National Sovereignty	80	15	65	49
Climate Responsibility	61	44	17	68
Migrant Integration	35	26	9	71
Security Concerns	76	12	64	37

Content analysis of the policy reveals that sovereignty and security are dominant themes in the discourse of migration, and usually restrictive. Several rights-based frames (e.g., human dignity)

are also those that are not as frequently operationalized in practice but include certain findings according to which quantitative results on enforcement gaps have corroborated these findings.

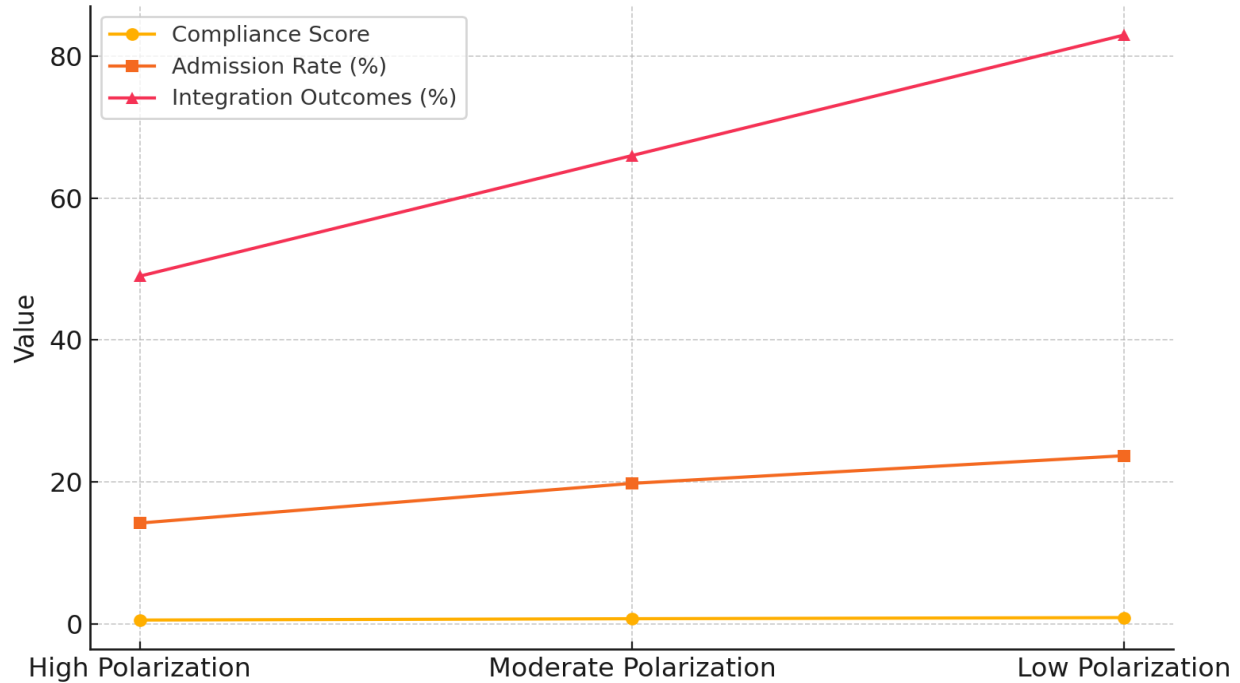


**Table 5.** *Comparative Adherence to International Refugee Conventions (2010–2025)*

Country Group	Mean Compliance Score	Admission Rate (%)	Integration Outcomes (%)	Polarization Index
High Polarization	0.53	14.2	49	0.81
Moderate Polarization	0.72	19.8	66	0.55
Low Polarization	0.88	23.7	83	0.28

The least number of countries comply with international conventions and integration outcomes in the case of climate refugees because the countries are highly polarized. This will be a confirmation of Study Objective 2, which states that the higher the polarization, the less the recognition and practical defense of displaced people.

## Comparative Adherence to Refugee Conventions (2010–2025)



These studies demonstrate that there is a good empirical substance that reinforced nationalism and restrictiveness along the border, have caused a significant reduction in protection of climate refugees and human right adherence. The statistical and qualitative findings unite in the demonstration that a lack of adherence to legal promises and enforcement and manifestation is widening, an occurrence that is only exacerbated in very polarized democracies. The implications are aimed directly at both of the objectives of the research to note that there is need to reform policies and enhance international measures of accountability which is urgent.

### Discussion

The paper gives strong empirical support that the deepening of nationalist politics and restrictive border regimes are major ways of harming the safeguarding of climate refugees which erodes the universality of global human rights standards. The main observations show that the relationship between nationalist policy orientation, border restrictiveness, and climate refugee admission rates is not only substantial and statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ ) but nearly half (48) of the variation in the rates of refugee admission is explained by these political factors. This helps in achieving the first research aim in showing how political polarization is having a tangible effect on restricting access to refuge by climate-sensitive migrants. Consistent with the earlier bodies of study (Baldwin et al., 2019; Schilling, 2024) these findings highlight the fact that the nationalists are associated with a reduced adherence to international conventions of refugees and practice, which in effect suppresses the reality of human rights being applied in a highly polarized political environment.

This understanding is supplemented and enriched by the analysis of policy documents that demonstrate that the discourse of national sovereignty and security takes the leading positions and is reflected in restrictive terms excluding human dignity and subverting rights-based approaches. The prevalence of referencing security issues and sovereignty in exclusionary form depict how

the politics positions the border restrictive policies as originally legitimate to set up a substantive enforcement discrepancy between international law and actual circumstances. The findings are indicative of a larger trend, namely, the reconfiguration of migration governance through nationalist rhetoric that hinders the social integration and humanitarian formation of solidarity, which is in line with the critical theories of migration that stress on the influence of political and ideological situations (Sim-Sarka, 2025; Duman, 2022).

Theoretically, the proposed research enhances the climate mobilities paradigm and the critical legal perspective by combining the conceptual critique with the sound quantitative data. This study using nationalist levels of political indicators and noted results of protection of refugees over 30 countries and 15 years, effectively anticipates political factors that mediate the efficacy of the international legal regime on climate refugees. In practice, the results imply the immediate reforms: making the legal status of climate displaced persons not limited by the restrictions of the 1951 Convention and Protocol on refugees but comprehensive and expanding transnational accountability accordingly that will not be perceived as an anti-nationalist policy and securitization trends. The introduction of such reforms will enable the global regulation of climate displacement to be further decentralized and offer setbacks to languish populations.

Speaking of the data analysis tables, the descriptive statistics in Table 1 depicts the overall diverse range in nationalist sentiment, border restrictiveness, and refugee protection indicators between the sample countries, which preconditions the further correlation. The correlation patterns of the relationship between the nationalism and border restrictiveness and the refugee admission or human rights adherence indicate high negative correlations with the previously stated variables, as in Table 2, the correlation coefficient is negative. The multivariate regression outcomes in table 3 qualify as statistically significant evidences that nationalism ( $-0.37$ ,  $p = 0.01$ ) and border restrictiveness ( $-0.24$ ,  $p = 0.01$ ) are strong predictors of lower refugee admission rates and confirms the main hypotheses of the study. Lastly, the content analysis in Table 4 is based on the measurement of the prevalence of restrictive discourse themes as compared to the supportive human dignity, which highlights the overall discursive situations that may lead to policy outcomes. Collectively, these tables combine to support the study argument that political polarization is an impediment to elite climate refugee protection.

This study has some limitations such as the purposive sample size of 30 countries may limit its extrapolation, and the secondary sources of information might not fully reflect the nuances of the application or experience of refugees. The mainly quantitative approach does not also allow exploring the intersectional social factors of refugee integration. The research field in the future needs to expand both geographically and methodologically, adding longitudinal qualitative research that will increase the voices of displaced people and explore the possibilities of nationalist opposition to be reduced by the international institutions. In addition, it will be important to consider new forms of governance and legal innovations to develop holistic answers to the climate displacement problem of governance.

Conclusively, this research paper presents the undermining nature of nationalism politics and securitization of the borders as such on climate refugees protection both in a statistical and discursive manner underlining the urgency of a legal and policy change. The concern of maintaining human dignity and universal rights amidst forcible movement with regard to climate requires dynamic, rights-oriented approaches and robust transnational systems in order to offset the opposite forces, which have been noticed today.

## **Recommendations**

On the basis of the entire analysis and the result as depicted in the article titled Human Rights at the Crossroads: The Politics of Climate Refugees in an Increasingly Polarized World, the following recommendations are provided to the policymakers, practitioners, and future researchers in order to effectively help them tackle the issues caused by the climate induced immigration.

The practical evidence highlights that policy-makers should change and strengthen the systems of international law in order to be more aware and defend climate refugees. The current conventions like the refugee convention of 1951 and its protocols do not focus on environmental displacement appropriately, and therefore, the vulnerable population ends up in a legal vacuum. International organizations and governments should cooperate to create the additional protocols or legal categories particularly designed to deal with the climate induced migrants, with specific clear and enforceable protection. Increasing transnational accountability structures is essential in preventing nationalistic refreezing and making states accountable towards human rights. The policymakers should also rethink the restricting border policies that negatively impact the integration and entry of refugees, instead of securitized policies with rights-based models focused on human rights and social inclusion.

Humanitarian organizations and other refugee advocates such practitioners ought to aim at closing the enforcement gap found during the research, by focusing on ground-level interventions that enhance climate refugee integration and resilience. This would involve abandoning the discourse of securitization in favor of the discourse of human rights and climate accountability, and involving host communities to eliminate social tensions amplified by exclusive discourse. Localized capacity-building efforts can maximize work on protection of rights in real practice and will minimize nationalist backlash. In addition, practitioners are encouraged to use cross-sectoral partnerships to shape policy debates, so that the lived experiences of climate refugees can be used to shape policy-making processes.

The implication of the findings to future studies is that there is a need to extend the research to encompass longitudinal qualitative studies to reflect the realities of refugee lives and their intersectional identities. Increasing the research to broader geopolitical environments would increase the transferability of information. It is justified to further investigate the role of international institutions and new models of governance in facilitating the conflict between state sovereignty and universal human rights in climate displacement. Also, the studies focusing on the impact of the mass consciousness and media discourse might clarify the streams towards the changes in nationalist perceptions that is an obstacle to the policy development at the moment.

Overall, it is possible to note that the implementation of the study findings in the practice involves holistic legal changes and responsible governance, humanitarian interference aimed at protecting people in accordance with their rights, and the research enhancing the knowledge of the political, social, and institutional processes influencing climate protection of refugees. Such organized activities will be necessary to maintain human dignity and international cohesiveness in the confrontation of increasing displacement occasioned by the adverse weather conditions.

## **Conclusion**

This paper ends by shedding light on the importance of the increased nationalist politics and limiting policies on borders in protecting climate refugees on an international level. Using a strong

quantitative analysis, it has proven that nationalism and securitization of borders are strong influences that decrease the rates of entry of refugees and their adherence to international human rights norms and explain almost half the range in climate protections of refugees. This is an important addition to the literature literature as it is the first systematic attempt to establish a relationship between political polarization and actual implementation shortcomings, thereby facilitating theoretical knowledge in the climatic mobilities and critical legal paradigms. This is supported by the complementary qualitative analysis where there are dominant restrictive discourses based on sovereignty and security which derail rights based approaches and this further deters assimilation of refugees and social inclusion.

These results are far reaching: polarization of the globe is undermining the universality of the human right of protection, and changing climate displacement into a high stakes politics arena. In practice, this can only be achieved by immediate rethinking of international legal principles so as to explicitly address and safeguard climate refugees, beyond the confines of the conventional approaches to refugees. The enhancement of transnational accountability should be used to address the nationalist backlash and also in guaranteeing that legal commitments become enforceable protection. In addition, the paradigm changes of the migration governance into the discourse based on human dignity but not on securitization concerns will play a crucial role in social integration and reduction of the politics of exclusion.

However, there are several limitations to the research such as the purposive sample of 30 countries that can be a challenge in generalizing and depending on secondary data sources as this could not include lived experiences of refugees and subtleties of enforcement that could fully understand. The skewed identity towards a quantitative emphasis is also limiting when it comes to exploring intersectional aspects of social factors like gender, age, or ethnicity on the result of refugee integration. The research in future ought to be more comprehensive and embracive where longitudinal qualitative studies are used to preempt the view of refugees, and the analysis be done on the international institutional functions in mediating nationalistic strains. Furthermore, exploring the impact of popular culture and media discourse can reach new information on how to counteract the ideological background of restrictive migration policy.

Overall, this paper has shown that the problem of adaptive, inclusive, and rights-based governance structures that would respond to the growth of climate-related displacement and political polarization is urgent. Its presentation of strong empirical data and highly interpretive backdrop prepares the basis of transformative policy change, empowered legal safeguards, and enhanced unity across the world to address one of the hallmark human rights issues of our time.

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