



Briefing Note

# HOW DO WE TALK ABOUT CLIMATE, MIGRATION AND BORDERS IN A HEATING WORLD?

**Our world faces huge challenges:** pandemics, climate impacts, automation, and new technologies fundamentally changing the way we live, work and are governed; a changing and fractious global order; inequalities and declining trust in

governments and public institutions.

A militarised response to a heating world, in the form of walls, camps and drones, will only increase suffering and prolong the climate emergency. Climate actions must include justice for all people everywhere.

## TALKING POINTS

As the climate emergency deepens and intersects with other economic and political crises, more people around the world will be forced to leave their homes in search of safety and dignity.

Governments falsely view border controls, walls and surveillance as a way to control the impacts of a heating world and spend billions of dollars propping up the Border and Surveillance industry that profits from the abuse of refugees and migrants. Resources spent dividing the world are resources not spent fixing it.

Migration is part of the solution not the problem, and there is no just transition without justice for refugees, migrants, Indigenous, and First Nations people. We can and must build a world where everyone has the right to safety and a decent life, and we solve our shared challenges across borders, together.



Photo: Hasina Begum.  
Photo by GMB Akash for an essay on  
climate and migration in Bangladesh 2018

### RESOURCES:

[How the \\$68 Billion Border Surveillance Industrial Complex Affects All of Us | Maeve Higgins](#)

[Europe's Militarised Borders are a Bandaid for Climate Chaos | Nathan Akehurst](#)

[It's Climate Justice or "Climate Security": We Can't Have Both | Dany Sigwalt](#)

[Climate Chaos Is Coming – and the Pinkertons Are Ready | Noah Gallagher Shannon](#)

# BORDER MILITARIZATION AND VIOLENCE IS:

## A CLIMATE ISSUE

- A global border wall is perceived by governments and industry as a way to control climate impacts; and is going to play an increasingly important role as economies come under severe strain.
- Barriers to people moving are also barriers to climate action: the development of extra territorial borders is intended to prevent movement, and thereby provides a (false) option to avoid climate action by using barriers (virtual and physical) to insulate richer countries from climate impacts.

## A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE

because of the direct treatment of migrants and refugees; e.g. family separation, physical and mental abuse, denial of food/shelter/rights, and the broader impact of surveillance and control on all of us.

## A RACIAL AND GENDER JUSTICE ISSUE

because of how migration systems are structured by the legacy of colonialism and inequality between countries, and disproportionately affect women and people of colour.

## A LABOUR RIGHTS ISSUE

because immigrants with insecure migration status or whose status is tied to their job can be exploited by employers, pushing down pay and conditions for all.

## A CORPORATE POWER AND ABUSE ISSUE

because of the cosy relationships between profiteers and states that shape the border system, and the unaccountable behaviour of corporations involved in policing the system.

## A GLOBAL JUSTICE ISSUE

because the factors that cause displacement such as wars, persecution, extreme inequality, are often contributed to by the powerful states who then refuse responsibility for the consequences.

## A DIGITAL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES ISSUE

because of the unaccountable and runaway usage of dangerous surveillance, monitoring and data capture technology against migrants, refugees and racialised populations and ultimately all of us.