

Editors' Note by Yun Jeong (YJ) Choi & Yusra Patni

As a newly opened Policy Centre partnering with STAR, we, Yun Jeong (YJ) and Yusra, could not be more grateful for such a talented group of writers who are truly passionate about the study of refugees. In the world today, with increasing natural disasters, wars, and crises, the number of refugees have startlingly increased. These refugees must be treated with dignity and humanely, according to their human rights, and not seen as mere statistics now more than ever in a divided, resource-scarce world. As co-editors who know the imperative and relevance of this Policy Centre, we would truly like to thank all of our writers for their hard work, time and effort spent writing their articles - every single article brings to light the severe conditions refugees face in various countries, and how it should be addressed in order to defend their fully deserved rights.

In the winter edition of the King's Policy Journal, there has been a very large spectrum of policy analysis, briefs and articles. Not only are the topics as diverse as it can be, many critical theories have been used to analyze refugee-related subject areas, such as discourse analysis, realism and liberalism, and Rawls' conception of justice. As co-editors, we are excited and look forward to further reading writers' future articles, as we were truly impressed with the quality of the articles written.

Within the 9 articles from the Policy Centre for Refugee Studies, numerous topics have risen, starting from how populism affects refugee status and media portrayal; the situation of asylum seekers and their strenuous waiting period and conditions in the UK; and comparing the United Kingdom and the European Union's asylum governance. Other articles approached their analysis from the perspective of gendered exclusion, and how grassroots centres can aid specific refugees, while others focused on how bureaucracies can harm refugees: through damaging refugees' mental health and creating subtle, intentional rhetorics against refugees.

Further articles explored the growing tension between state security objectives and humanitarian obligations, highlighting how surveillance practices and administrative barriers disproportionately affect refugees. Beyond Europe, contributions also addressed refugee livelihoods and integration in non-Western contexts, emphasising the importance of sustainable, rights-based policy responses that account for historical, political, and socio-economic conditions. Together, these articles reinforce the necessity of policy approaches that prioritise human security and the long-term integration of displaced populations.

This collection from the Centre for Refugee Studies brings together a diverse and thoughtful body of work that reflects both the breadth and depth of contemporary refugee policy debates. While many of the articles focus on the United Kingdom and Europe, at times engaging with highly specific policies and localised contexts, including individual boroughs such as Southwark, others extend the journal's scope across continents, offering important perspectives on refugee protection and livelihoods in countries such as Mauritania. Together, these contributions provide a comprehensive overview of the challenges refugees face today. We hope readers will enjoy engaging with these articles as much as we have enjoyed reading and editing them, and that they spark further reflection and discussion. We look forward to continuing this work in future editions of the King's Policy Journal and to welcoming many more articles in the years ahead!

Yun Jeong (YJ) Choi & Yusra Patni