

# CLIMATE MOVEMENT



A ZINE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE,  
IMMIGRATION & JUSTICE

This zine was edited and orchestrated by Cascadia Action Network. We are a student-run climate action group from the University of Oregon, that operates using an environmental justice framework and implements a diversity of tactics, including direct action. We aim to uplift and empower marginalized communities experiencing climate change and environmental hazards, by organizing and participating in actions that center them. Contact: [climatechangesux@gmail.com](mailto:climatechangesux@gmail.com)

We made this zine to spread awareness about the intersectionality of climate change and immigration. Climate change is already happening, and it's exacerbating the current global immigration crisis. Droughts, hurricanes, landslides, inadequate environmental policies that perpetuate an unstable climate - all are fueling mass migrations of people, from Central America to South Asia.

These debilitating climate events are linked with the eruption of political turmoil in some nation-states, instigating and intensifying the violence. Those who belong to some of the most vulnerable communities, including impoverished working class people, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of color), people with disabilities, or LGBTQIA people are often the first to be forced out. In these ways, the environment is inextricably linked to the social, political and economic spheres of our global society.

With this in mind, we reached out to community members for submissions and resources to help us spread our message: That immigrants are undoubtedly on the frontlines of climate change.

All proceeds from this zine will be donated to: Grupo Latino de Acción Directa.

GLAD is a non-profit in the Eugene area that serves as a liaison for the immigrant/asylum seeker community, providing services and legal aid. If you would like to volunteer, donate or work for them, you can email GLAD at [gladprobono@gmail.com](mailto:gladprobono@gmail.com)

Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped make this zine possible!

In solidarity,

# Climate Justice and Immigrants

By Pablo Alvarez

A world with rigid Borders and a world suffering the effects of climate change is a world that is incompatible with itself. As an environmental and climate justice organizer, I find myself giving a lot of presentations about climate change. Every event always has a climate change denialist who claims “the climate has always been changing”, (insert illogical claim about



Artist: Chandra Lamp

the ice age). Leaving aside that this person is not taking into consideration the rapid rate of global warming vs. thousands of years in ice ages, let's assume this person's argument is correct. Let's assume that in reality the climate has always changed and that it is just part of life on earth.

An advanced society, like we claim to be, would have different mechanisms in place that would allow people to move to a place that is more hospitable to life. If islands in the Pacific were flooding, if massive droughts in the Americas were naturally occurring, if hurricanes continued in the Caribbean, if farming became impossible in the Middle East. You would think that world governments would come together to ensure that people could freely move. What we have instead is island-nations with no land, massively criminalized immigrant caravans from Central America, thousands of dead and homeless people in Puerto Rico and the Bahamas, and a decade lasting civil war in Syria.

Even within our own country, internal migration will certainly cause problems if we do not act quickly. In Eugene, Oregon the city estimated that the increase in population will be in part due to climate displacement from individuals fleeing inhospitable living environments elsewhere. The city also found that summers in Eugene by 2100 will be 10 degrees warmer and the cascade snowpack will be nearly gone. Where will our drinking water come from for an increased population? We also get more than 80% of our electricity through hydroelectric power so where will our electricity come from if

we have less water melting from the cascades and more people using air conditioning due to hotter temperatures? How will the city and county change zoning laws to allow for more equitable construction of housing for people migrating to Eugene? How will cities, counties, states and national governments ensure that social resentment isn't placed on low income communities and communities of color who will disproportionately be impacted by climate change around the world, thus most likely to move to more hospitable environments such as Eugene's?

Criminalizing migration will not be the answer. Increased border militarization will not be the answer.

Increased visa and passport burdens for travel will not be the answer. Failing to decarbonize our economy and not help the most vulnerable will not be the answer. We have to change this incompatibility that we are facing as a world facing climate change and a world with imaginary lines on the ground or the effects of Climate Change will only result in more unnecessary death and suffering.

That is the reality we face.

## Esto'k Gna

By Alder Cone

**"The bottom denominator is the land. The land is what owns us. And it owns that native part of who we are." - Juan Mancias, Tribal Chair of the Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe**

Since time immemorial, the Esto'k Gna (Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe of Texas) has inhabited Somi S'ek, or so-called southern Texas. To Esto'k Gna folks and other original people of the area, the Rio Grande River was a center of life connecting people, ecosystems, and lifeways - not dividing them. People and wildlife traveled freely across the valley, integrating ecosystems, trade networks, and lifeways.

In stark contrast, the Rio Grande demarcates the border between the colonial-imperial powers of the United States and Mexico. Recent border militarization including the infamous border wall (already under construction in the Rio Grande Valley) threatens ancestral remains and endangered wildlife - not to mention the millions of migrants who are fleeing oppression at home in search of a better life. Further, proposals for new liquified natural gas (LNG) export terminals in Brownsville threaten to further solidify the region's status as a sacrifice zone to capitalism and climate change.



*Artist: Ela Meadow*

*Instagram: @ela\_meadow and  
@ch.ch.chili.art*

Last winter and spring, I had the honor to stand in solidarity with the Esto'k Gna people, briefly inhabiting Yalui (Butterfly) Village in the Eli Jackson Cemetery outside of McAllen. The broad vision of the tribe is to establish several similar villages to re-establish the culture and presence of the Esto'k Gna in the Rio Grande Valley in addition to resisting border militarization and environmental degradation.

Historically significant in its multi-racial heritage, the Eli Jackson cemetery is home to several ancestors of Rio Grande Valley locals. Along with the Esto'k Gna, the Jackson family, which

included freed slaves and white settler abolitionists, were integral in resistance to slavery in Texas providing aid and refuge to slaves who traveled along the southern route of the Underground Railroad to Mexico.

Located about twenty minutes up river, the National Butterfly Center was briefly home to another similar village. If completed, the wall would divide the wildlife refuge, discarding most of the wildlife refuge to the "no man's land" between the wall and official US-Mexico border. This will inhibit the travel of migratory birds and butterflies (who are unlikely to expose themselves to predators by flying high above the wall) as well



as the endangered ocelots. As the National Butterfly Center has pointed out, the border wall requires the waiving of dozens of environmental and cultural resource protection laws, including the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Protection Act.

Somi S'ek (so-called southern Texas) has always been a dynamic land of migration and movement. Esto'k Gna and other indigenous people traded and traveled through the valley; with the conquests and ethnic cleansing campaigns, the Esto'k Gna welcomed other indigenous refugees; escaped slaves made they journey across the river to freedom in Mexico; butterflies, birds, and ocelots migrated seasonally; and today, millions of families from countries ravaged by capitalism and US imperialism make the trek northward seeking refuge. The white supremacist capitalists intend to further devastate this region which has always been so integral to migration. But make no mistake - they are not opposed to all movement across the border, so long as they can ensure natural resources flow out of Mexico, cheap American commodities flow in, and LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) can flow across the valley. At the intersection of it all, the Esto'k Gna people are restoring their traditional lifeways and blockading every step by Trump and the rest of the capitalist-imperialist class.

Panyowen Ah'e - Agua es Vida - Water is Life

Please consider donating to the Carrizo/ Comecrudo Tribe of Texas: <http://carrizocomecrudonation.com/donate.html>



*Artist: Sophie Weir*

# Houselessness and Climate Refugees in Portland

*By Kira Jacobson*

As global temperatures increase, sea levels rise, and climate catastrophes become more and more common, those displaced by such events will likely head north. The Willamette Valley has become a haven for those fleeing California's fires in recent years, and it is likely that it will continue to be over the course of the next few decades. According to data from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Oregon is warming the second slowest of any other state, beat only by Washington (Herron). This makes it a key destination for those seeking refuge from the elements. However, Portland is already failing to support its communities currently struggling.

Portland has long been viewed as the liberal playground of the Pacific Northwest, and frequently touts its status as a sanctuary city. This narrative doesn't acknowledge a long history of white supremacy, segregation, and redlining of its marginalized communities. Gentrification in NE and SE Portland has continuously pushed out black and brown communities while claiming emphasis on liberal values. Urban renewal projects have decimated communities of color while claiming to lift them up.

The gentrification of Portland has brought greater socioeconomic disparity. The Oregon Center for Public Policy recently reported that IRS figures show that the rate of millionaires in Oregon has grown faster than in any other state, and the incomes of Oregon's richest families are at record highs (Hauser and Ord ez). This influx of wealth stands in stark contrast to the struggles of Portland's marginalized groups. According to Oregon Housing and Community Services, on a single night in 2017, almost 14,000 people were experiencing homelessness in Oregon. CITE. There are nowhere near enough resources for this population and a severe lack of affordable housing.

Portland is already failing its residents and is not currently equipped to handle a potential influx of climate migrants, many of whom will be at risk for homelessness themselves. If there is hope for creating a community ready to welcome and support those afflicted by climate change, the city must shift its focus from rapid expansion to thoughtful infrastructure changes made with strong community input and reckon with their racist history. It is only then that we can hope to cultivate a true culture of empathy and care for all.

Artist: Heidi Osaki



## EXODUS:

### Opinion Piece on Sri Lanka and India

*By Sakina Shahid and Cally Hutson*

India has been under prime minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist regime since 2014. Modi was internationally condoned for his passivity in the 2002 Gujarat riots, where a chain of incidents led to a communal conflict between Hindus and Muslims. Thousands of innocents were slaughtered, lynched and burned. Members of his party were convicted by the Supreme Court of Justice, but have been freed since Modi gained power. Since his election, India has been in a state of disarray. Freedom of speech has been targeted, limiting any anti government

sentiments. This was evident in the assassinations of journalists Gauri Lankesh, Govind Pan-sare and M.M. Kalburgi.

Most recently, Modi passed an amendment to the Citizenship Act, initially created in 1995, where it grants fast tracked citizenship to "Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian community from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan, who entered into India on or before the 31st day of December, 2014". This leaves out Muslims. This is fundamentally unconstitutional because India is supposed to be a secular nation. Also excluded from gaining citizenship were Sri Lankan Tamils. This directly impacts and unfairly targets people who seek to find refuge in India to escape environmental vulnerabilities and threats in their respective countries.

In Sri Lanka, Tamils fought for a separate state against the Sinhalese government during a devastating civil war from 1983-2009, with thousands of lives lost. These scars of conflict and environmental disaster continue to afflict the island nation. Today, the Tamil minority is concentrated in the northern coastal areas of Sri Lanka, many of them displaced to this area due to the war. They



are experiencing a tragic loss to their traditional way of life: the famous fishing-on-stilts is now becoming less and less lucrative as fish and other species are rapidly ebbing away. This is combined with agricultural losses due to unpredictable weather patterns, including flooding, landslides, and droughts. Ultimately, a historically persecuted people are feeling the impacts of climate change at a greater rate but are prohibited from seeking sanctuary.

The environment is intricately tied to our sociopolitical climate. Our capitalist economy is dependent on natural resources, and the repercussions are unjustly faced by people on the lowest economic and social classes in society. Physical environmental harms amongst minorities and dispossessed people are exacerbated when these communities are targeted by policy structured around racist, casteist and islamophobic sentiment. Without a doubt, the global South is facing disproportionate levels of climate catastrophe in combination with corrupt regimes that attack the socially and economically vulnerable. These groups are ultimately land locked into disaster prone zones, where local or global policy doesn't allow migration.

Refuge should be a right, not a privilege.

*Artist: Katey Williams*  
*Instagram: @klairvoyance*



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## IF ICE COMES TO YOUR DOOR...



DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR!

- THEY MUST HAVE A WARRANT SIGNED BY A JUDGE
- ASK FOR AN INTERPRETER IF NEEDED
- ASK TO SEE WARRANT (through a window or under a door)



REMAIN SILENT

- ANYTHING YOU SAY CAN AND WILL BE USED AGAINST YOU

\* ALL INFORMATION  
SOURCED FROM THE  
ACLU &

THE NORTHWEST  
IMMIGRANT RIGHTS  
PROJECT



DO NOT SIGN

- DON'T SIGN ANYTHING WITHOUT SPEAKING TO AN ATTORNEY



RECORD AND REPORT

- TAKE VIDEOS AND NOTES IF POSSIBLE



FIGHT BACK

- FIND AN ATTORNEY
- GATHER RESOURCE

## Call for Hope

A letter from Iranian Political Refugee  
Alireza Tabani and his niece Chasen  
Afghani

"Some bird calls me today and asks me, if I want writ some thing about refugee, a very touching subject! I don want to talk about politics or economy or society, I want talk about hope! I was a refugee at age 19. I left the house and the family, scared and

confused, but with hope for better. After two weeks on the road, that with a normal flight just take 4 hours, I got to West Berlin. Not speaking English or German, with an overwhelming feeling for past, friends, family and memories that I left, I was still happy because I got there, but it doesn't take that long you understand you are a refugee and in many eyes a 2nd citizen. You be under a microscope for doing anything, because you are a refugee. I do have a lot of stories, but this is not about me. It is about

*those people on the road for better with hope to make it. Hope is one of the most import tools for humans, to keep them pushing forward. Human movement from location to location is happening for thousand of years and that was necessary for humans not just to live but to share developments, art, culture and list is long. In all that- humans hope for better! When I watch news and see those clips of refugees on their road or ocean or desert, I see humans unjustly bent to break, but hope for better and hope keeps them to continue their human journey. Now the question is how we can help them to keep them hope!”*  
-Alireza Tabani

In 1979 a revolution of hope took place in Iran. Prior to this, Iran was a monarchy ruled by the Shah whose agenda was entirely geared toward reaching power on the western global stage of capitalism. This condoned exploitation of the Iranian people and land. On top of oil exports and radical economic inequality, the Shah also enforced the White Revolution which dealt with land reform, and put a majority of Iran’s rural land under the control of the state. This pushed farmers from this land to the larger cities, such as Tehran, where they were left with no work. The repercussions of these reforms persist in Iran, seen through farmer led movements as recent as 2018, organizing against water scarcity,

primarily in the regions of Esfahan and Khuzestan where dams and poor irrigation systems have essentially drained several vital rivers.

Following the revolution, individuals against the religious-dictatorship who protested and attempted to spread the word against censorship and serious societal damage were targeted, arrested, tortured and often executed. This was the story for Alireza Tabani, who was arrested as a political prisoner at 14 years old. Inside prison he experienced torture, suffered extreme illness and witnessed the execution of many comrades and friends. Those who were not executed were forced to seek asylum. Alireza Tabani left Iran in 1985 as a political refugee to West Berlin. There he worked with revolutionary groups, participated in the fall of the Berlin wall, and eventually made his way to the US where he is still experiencing the hardships of growing up in a maximum security prison, being forced to leave his country at the age of 19 and being treated as an alien on a day-to-day basis. The fight never ends and neither should our hope.

### **Suggested Reading:**

We are not experts by any means, so we encourage further reading on this topic.  
The following are some recommended articles/books:

“How climate change is pushing Central American migrants to the US”.

Markham, Lauren. The Guardian

“How Climate Change Is Fuelling the U.S. Border Crisis”. Blitzer, Jonathan. The New Yorker

“Innovative solutions to the plight of climate migrants”. Swart, Mia. Al Jazeera

“Mining the Future: Climate Change, Migration, and Militarization in Arizona’s Borderlands”. Devereaux, Ryan. The Intercept

“Undoing Border Imperialism”. Walia, Harsha. AK Press

Community Resources:

### **Lane County:**

No Lost Generation (UO student group): [www.nlgoregon.weebly.com](http://www.nlgoregon.weebly.com)

Lane County Refugee Resettlement Coalition: [www.rrclc.org](http://www.rrclc.org)

Centro Latino Americano: [centrolatinoamericano.org](http://centrolatinoamericano.org)

### **Oregon Statewide Resources:**

IRCO – The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization: – [www.ircor.org/](http://www.ircor.org/)

PCUN – Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste: [www.pcun.org](http://www.pcun.org)

APANO – Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon: [www.apano.org](http://www.apano.org)

Causa – Oregon’s Immigrant Rights Organization: [www.causaoregon.org](http://www.causaoregon.org)

### **National/International:**

No Más Muertes

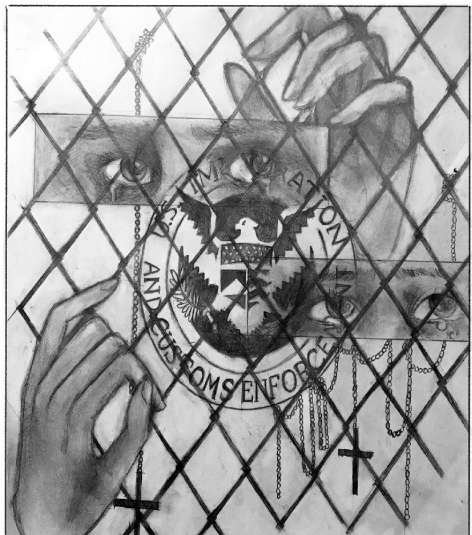
United We Dream

Immigration Equality

RAISES

*Artist: Kavita Hutson*

*Instagram: @spaghettichamp69*



# **ABOLISH ICE**

