

Supporting work at the intersection of Digital Rights (DR) and Environmental & Climate Justice (EJ-CJ)

Intersection #5

Migration justice

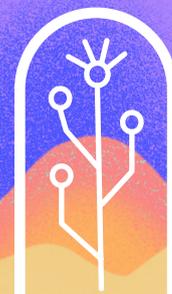
The connection between **climate change and displacement** has been increasingly established and documented throughout the past decade as a **root cause** of migration movements, and famine and conflict have proven climate change-based links (e.g. droughts in rural areas leading to displacement).

At the same time, we also see **states** increasingly relying on technology to support their efforts to curtail migration - in some cases also deploying invasive **migration-monitoring** schemes within their own borders. As one research participant told us:

“On the ground in China and Mongolia, because of climate change, there’s a lot of [in-country] migration due to folks having their traditional livelihoods upended and a lot of surveillance and tracking these boundaries, tracking people ... that really intersects with digital rights.”

Practitioners from both CJ-EJ and DR spaces said that both digital rights and climate & environmental justice movements have a responsibility to **address injustices around migration** – whether across borders or in-country.

THE ENGINE ROOM



Opportunities for the digital rights space to support migration justice

There are a number of areas where important work happening across DR and EJ-CJ spaces would benefit from further support and expansion. This could include, among other things:

- Supporting **organisations, campaigns and coalitions** working on tech, borders and migration and climate change. Groups that came up in our research include No Tech for ICE⁰¹ and No Tech for Tyrants⁰², Abolish Frontex⁰³ and Abolish ICE, Amnesty Tech (who have been stewarding a community on tech and migration), and Climate Refugees⁰⁴
- Supporting **petitions and strategic litigation** challenging non-transparent data practices and tech use in border management and migration repression. These measures have thus far seen a degree of success, especially in Europe: civil society organisations have won lawsuits in the UK, Germany and France challenging issues such as the practice of searching asylum seekers' personal phones and the refusal to allow asylum seekers access to the personal records being used for their asylum process.
- Supporting **research and documentation** at the intersections of migration, climate change and tech. The Border Violence Monitoring Network,⁰⁵ for example, documents pushbacks, police violence and other violations at the EU's external borders, including where technology is used to aid border violence.

Find more intersections, opportunities and recommendations in our report:

At the confluence of digital rights and climate & environmental justice – a landscape review

• engn.it/climatejusticedigitalrights

⁰¹ #NoTechForICE campaign, spearheaded by Mijente
⁰² No Tech for Tyrants
⁰³ Abolish Frontex
⁰⁴ Climate Refugees/
⁰⁵ The Border Violence Monitoring Network

About this info sheet: In 2022 The Engine Room, in collaboration with Ford Foundation, Ariadne and Mozilla Foundation, conducted research designed to support funders in advancing work at the intersection between Digital Rights (DR) and Environmental & Climate Justice (EJ-CJ). Our findings identified six cross-cutting themes, five key intersections, and a substantial set of recommendations for those interested in supporting work in this area.