

# Policy Matters



Your weekly digest of policy reports that **matter**.  
Edited by [Toby Green](#) and [Gary Price](#) of *Policy Commons*.

**The US Department of Justice released a 575-page [Critical Incident Review](#) of the school shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. The report found “cascading failures of leadership, decision-making, tactics, policy, and training....”**

Tech Against Terrorism Europe found that most attempts to detect terrorist content online are automated and risk disproportionate impact on marginalized groups. [Using Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to Identify Terrorist Content Online](#) calls for more human oversight in efforts to counter this activity.

Yet another “had the UK not left the EU” counterfactual found that Brexit has left Britain worse off. [London’s Economy after Brexit: Impact and Implications](#) was prepared by Cambridge Econometrics for London’s Mayor. (We’ve added this to our new List: [Brexit Counterfactuals](#). If you know of other credible Brexit counterfactuals, [do let us know](#).)

Other reports that caught our eye:

- **Surprise!** [Reimagining the Recipe for Research and Innovation: The Secret Sauce of Social Science](#) finds that there’s a symbiotic relationship between social science and STEM research.
- At a time when integrating migrants is a political issue around the world, Pew surveyed people in twenty countries to find that [Language and Traditions Are Considered Central to National Identity](#).
- Centre for Cities has just released its annual health check on urban Britain: [Cities Outlook 2024](#). (It’s not a pretty read.)
- [A Ten-Year Look at Inadmissible Migrants and Paroled Migrants at Ports of Entry](#) finds that fewer than one in a thousand of those who arrive at US ports of entry is deemed “inadmissible” by border agents.
- It’s not you. [Cars are getting fatter](#). That’s why it’s harder to park, let alone open the door when you have finally squeezed into a space. This is a growing problem, especially for European cities.
- As the 2024 US election heats up, public beliefs about climate change, risk perceptions, policy support, and behavior at the state and local levels are more important than ever. Yale Climate Change Communication has just released [the latest data](#).

## When is a country not a country?

*The Economist* wrote in 2010 that “any attempt to find a clear definition of a country soon runs into a thicket of exceptions and anomalies.” So it’s hardly a surprise that there’s no universal agreement on a list of countries, since several have disputed sovereignty status, and a number of non-sovereign entities are commonly called countries.

At *Policy Commons*, our country list follows the ISO 3166 standard. But what about those that aren’t part of ISO’s standard? Our solution is to build special pages. So far we’ve built seven:

- **Abkhazia** <https://policycommons.net/topics/abkhazia/>
- **Kosovo** <https://policycommons.net/topics/kosovo/>
- **Nagorno-Karabakh** <https://policycommons.net/topics/nagorno-karabakh/>
- **Somaliland** <https://policycommons.net/topics/somaliland/>
- **South Ossetia** <https://policycommons.net/topics/south-ossetia/>
- **Transnistria** <https://policycommons.net/topics/transnistria/>
- **Western Sahara** <https://policycommons.net/topics/western-sahara/>

If you know of others that you’d like us to look at, please [drop us a line](#).

## Which reports caught your eye last week?

Let us know when you find compelling reports. We’ll highlight them in next week’s newsletter—and give you credit, too! It doesn’t matter if they’re not yet in Policy Commons; send us the link and we’ll add them to the database for you. Send your recommendations to [toby.green@coherentdigital.net](mailto:toby.green@coherentdigital.net).

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We choose reports from definitive sources around the globe that are data-rich and timely. Most often they’ll be hot off the press, but sometimes we’ll include older reports we’ve just uncovered. From time to time, we also share key product updates and information through this channel.

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