

## Reframing Refugee Governance in Indonesia: An International Political Sociology Perspective

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### Abstract:

This study examines the analytical value of International Political Sociology (IPS) in understanding the complex aspects of refugee governance in Indonesia, emphasizing the relationships among power, identity, discourse, and the interaction of global and local influences. Indonesia's non-signatory status to the 1951 Refugee Convention creates a disjointed policy environment, where refugee protection is shaped by arbitrary decisions, geopolitical factors, and contradictory views on humanitarianism and national sovereignty. This research utilizes a qualitative methodology based on an extensive analysis of academic literature, policy documents, and relevant case studies related to Rohingya refugees, demonstrating how IPS offers a significant framework for critically evaluating the sociopolitical factors that influence Indonesia's refugee policies. The research findings reveal that Indonesian refugee governance is influenced by a confluence of internal political rhetoric, community-based identity disputes, and external influences from the global refugee system. This study utilizes International Political Sociology (IPS) in the Indonesian context to provide a theoretically robust and critically informed perspective, contributing to academic discourse on refugee protection in Southeast Asia and highlighting the need for more coherent and accountable governance strategies.

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## Introduction

### a. Background

Indonesia functions as a notable non-signatory nation within the context of the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, presenting distinct governance problems regarding the presence and treatment of refugees. Although not a member, Indonesia functions as a transit nation for numerous refugees, especially from conflict-ridden areas like Myanmar, Afghanistan, and Sri Lanka, with the Rohingya crisis being a notable instance (Suyastri et al., 2023; Mushfiya & Riyanta, 2024; Tobing, 2021). This status

results in considerable governance deficiencies in refugee protection, as the nation lacks a thorough domestic legislative framework to provide sufficient support and rights for refugees and asylum seekers (Prabandari & Adiputera, 2019; Tobing, 2021). The Indonesian government frequently implements ad hoc strategies to address refugee situations, depending on temporary policies devoid of substantial legal support, thus engendering a state of "luxury limbo" for refugees who endure precarious conditions while awaiting determinations regarding their status (Missbach & McNevin, 2018; Missbach, 2017). The significance of International Political Sociology (IPS) in this context is manifold. IPS offers an essential perspective on how power dynamics, identity constructions, and discourses converge to influence the treatment of refugees in Indonesia. Comprehending these elements is essential, as they affect views and policies concerning humanitarian aid and the legal status of refugees at both local and international levels (Sanyal, 2018; Nurdin et al., 2020). The interaction between global standards and local reality clarifies why Indonesia's refugee policies frequently embody a blend of humanitarian values and state sovereignty, resulting in ongoing governance issues (Setyardi, 2025).

#### **b. Research Question**

This study aims to investigate the governance of refugees within Indonesia's socio-political context using an IPS framework, with the following research topics proposed: In what manner do power dynamics within Indonesian government structures affect refugee policy in the absence of formal international legal commitments? How do local and global identities converge to shape popular discourse and governmental responses to refugees in Indonesia? What are the implications of the discourses around state sovereignty and humanitarianism for the lives of refugees in Indonesia?

#### **c. Aims and Contributions**

This study aims to elucidate the theoretical and practical significance of employing IPS in the examination of refugees in Indonesia. This project seeks to augment the current literature on refugee studies by integrating IPS perspectives, particularly regarding power dynamics, identity construction, and the impact of language on responses to refugees. The findings of this study intend to educate policymakers regarding the socio-political factors influencing refugee treatment in Indonesia. Given Indonesia's crucial geopolitical position, understanding these dynamics can aid in the formulation of more nuanced policies that reconcile national interests with humanitarian obligations, thereby

improving the protection and integration of refugees into Indonesian society (Yusoff et al., 2022; Prabandari & Adiputera, 2019; Tobing, 2021). This research seeks to underscore the imperative of addressing governance deficiencies by promoting enhanced cooperation between the Indonesian government and international organizations, perhaps reforming Indonesia's refugee policy to a more humanitarian approach (Putri & Ar-Rasyid, 2020).

## **Literature Review**

### **a. International Political Sociology (IPS)**

International Political Sociology (IPS) has developed into a crucial theoretical framework for comprehending the intricate interconnection of social dynamics and political processes across boundaries. In contrast to conventional International Relations (IR), which primarily focuses on state institutions and formal diplomacy, International Political Sociology (IPS) emphasizes the quotidian, the informal, and the micro-political dynamics that influence global processes (Nabers & Stengel, 2019). This ontological change enables IPS to examine how identities, discourses, and power relations shape political realities rather than simply reflecting them. IPS fundamentally contests the false distinction between "domestic" and "international," asserting that global issues—such as forced displacement—cannot be comprehended without examining how local practices and social norms collaboratively shape transnational governance frameworks (Huysmans & Nogueira, 2012). IPS academics assert that refugee administration transcends just bureaucratic or humanitarian functions; it is intricately linked to symbolic conflicts of sovereignty, belonging, and security. This viewpoint is essential for examining environments such as Indonesia, where refugee policies arise from negotiated tensions among humanitarian demands, political identity, and regional geopolitical objectives. IPS examines the epistemic politics of refugee studies, scrutinizing the production of knowledge regarding refugees, the entities involved, and the resultant implications. Pasquetti et al. (2019) contend that the global refugee system frequently institutionalizes hierarchies between "helpers" and "helped," hence perpetuating unequal power dynamics. By highlighting these inequalities, IPS reveals the discursive framing of refugees not only as legal entities but also as political constructs influenced by securitization, humanitarian governance, and border procedures. This analytical

perspective is especially pertinent in Indonesia, where refugees frequently reside in a state of “legal limbo,” regulated by disjointed systems of care, control, and monitoring.

#### **b. Refugee Studies in Indonesia**

Much of the study on Indonesia's refugee governance emphasizes its non-signatory status to the 1951 Refugee Convention and the consequent legal void. This juridical framing, however beneficial, may obscure the underlying sociopolitical factors influencing Indonesia's approach to displaced individuals. Critical IPS perspectives contend that the lack of explicit legal obligations does not indicate a policy void; rather, it fosters an environment where ad hoc governance, informal practices, and discretionary decision-making are institutionalized (Missbach, 2017).

Indonesia's dependence on foreign entities like UNHCR and IOM exemplifies a sort of outsourced sovereignty, enabling the state to preserve political detachment while reaping the advantages of humanitarian infrastructure. This configuration exemplifies what Rahman and Iswara (2024) term a “governance without responsibility” model—where the state engages in selective humanitarianism while evading legal commitments.

Case studies about the treatment of Rohingya refugees underscore the inconsistencies in Indonesia's identity-driven politics. Indonesia's Muslim-majority identity is frequently referenced to rationalize unity; yet, this solidarity is conditional, sporadic, and politically manipulated (Missbach & Stange, 2021). As geopolitical pressures escalate—such as disputes within ASEAN or internal security issues—manifestations of humanitarianism frequently yield to securitization discourses. IPS elucidates how evolving identities portray migrants variably as “brothers in faith,” “temporary guests,” or “security threats,” contingent upon political objectives and rhetorical requirements.

The previous research barely acknowledges the extent to which Indonesia's refugee governance is influenced by greater global hierarchies. Indonesia's role as a transit nation situates it within a geopolitical framework where affluent countries limit resettlement options, hence transferring responsibility to less affluent states. IPS reveals this worldwide disparity and contests the notion that Indonesia's policies can be comprehended exclusively through national legal or administrative structures.

#### **c. Power Dynamics, Identity, and Discourse**

Authority in refugee governance is distributed among state actors, international organizations, local communities, and the refugees themselves. IPS defines power not

solely as institutional authority but as a relational force inherent in language, social institutions, and quotidian behaviors (Foucault, as utilized in IPS studies). In Indonesia, bureaucratic processes such as documentation, shelter distribution, and mobility restrictions serve as instruments of control, frequently constraining refugees' autonomy under the pretext of "protection." Critical scholarship emphasizes how discourses of state security, social order, and humanitarian goodwill concurrently validate restrictive measures. Lischer (2017) observes that humanitarian narratives may obscure coercive techniques, creating a dichotomy in which migrants are depicted as vulnerable individuals while also being subjected to surveillance and control. This paradox is evident in Indonesia, where refugees are publicly considered "victims deserving compassion," yet in reality, they are relegated to marginal regions devoid of long-term rights or integration opportunities. Identity politics exacerbate this complexity. Localized manifestations of solidarity, shown by Aceh, arise from common religious or cultural affiliations, underscoring how identity can both contest and bolster state narratives. IPS advises against overly idealizing communal solidarity, as these responses are often temporary, subject to negotiation, and positioned within broader conflicts concerning resources, representation, and social cohesion. Global-local connections fundamentally influence Indonesia's refugee narrative. Benhabib (2020) contends that contemporary states increasingly emphasize the safeguarding of national identity over universal humanitarian obligations. Indonesia's hesitance to adopt refugee treaties illustrates this overarching global tendency. Indonesia concurrently uses humanitarian gestures to gain diplomatic leverage, particularly within ASEAN. IPS identifies this as a manifestation of strategic humanitarianism, wherein ethical posturing coexists with political pragmatism.

#### **d. Synthesis of Literature Review**

The literature suggests that IPS provides a robust framework for analyzing the complex sociopolitical context influencing Indonesia's refugee administration. Nevertheless, despite the increasing body of study, significant gaps persist:

1. Current research often segregates legal or administrative matters instead of incorporating them into wider identity and discourse frameworks.
2. Analyses frequently neglect the underlying inequities generated by global refugee regimes that constrain Indonesia's policy alternatives.
3. Limited research systematically use IPS to elucidate regional disparities in Indonesia

4. The refugee agency is often overlooked in assessments that emphasize state or institutional actors.

This study fills these gaps by utilizing IPS as both a theoretical framework and an analytical approach to examine how identity, power, discourse, and global-local connections together shape Indonesia's refugee governance.

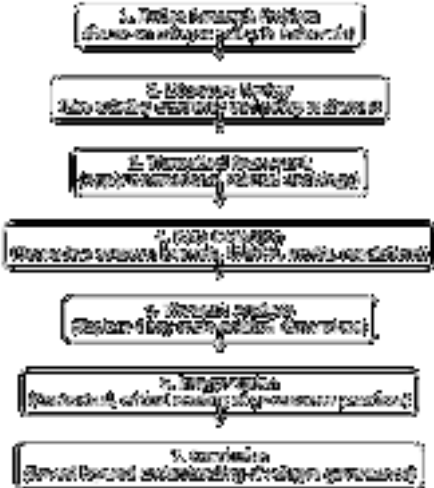
**Methodology**

This research employs a qualitative-descriptive method, emphasizing literature analysis and theoretical interpretation as its core strategy. It does not rely on primary fieldwork or quantitative data collection, but instead engages in critical reading of existing materials to construct a layered understanding of refugee policy in Indonesia. The key analytical tool utilized in this study is the framework of International Political Sociology (IPS), which enables a more dynamic and socially embedded reading of refugee governance than traditional International Relations approaches.

The data sources consist of peer-reviewed academic journals, government regulations and policy documents, official reports from international institutions such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and credible media publications. These diverse materials are evaluated through a critical IPS lens, emphasizing power, identity, social discourse, and structural relationships.

Unlike positivist approaches that seek universal generalizations, IPS encourages context-specific inquiry into how global and local forces interact. Therefore, this research focuses on uncovering the layered socio-political processes that influence refugee experiences and policies in Indonesia.

**Figure 1.** Research Flowchart: IPS-Based Analysis of Refugee Policy in Indonesia



This study systematically explores four interrelated dimensions:

1. The Interrelationship Between Domestic Political Discourse and International Obligations

This dimension investigates how Indonesia's national political narratives both shape and are shaped by global refugee norms. Although Indonesia is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, it frequently articulates commitments to humanitarian norms in public and diplomatic arenas. The analysis examines how security rhetoric, national sovereignty, and public opinion converge to influence state responses to international pressures, particularly in cases involving Rohingya and Afghan refugees. This intersection illustrates how domestic political culture mediates Indonesia's alignment—or selective disengagement—from international refugee protection regimes.

2. The Influence of Cultural, Social, and Economic Variables

Refugee governance in Indonesia cannot be disentangled from the cultural and economic context in which it operates. Societal attitudes toward refugees vary across regions, often influenced by religious affinity, ethnic solidarity, or fear of economic burden. In areas such as Aceh, shared Islamic identity has fostered more inclusive responses, while in urban centers, refugees are often viewed with suspicion or as competitors for limited resources. By integrating IPS with these socio-cultural insights, the research reveals how informal norms and economic structures shape both policy implementation and refugee experiences on the ground.

3. Power Structures at National and Local Levels

Decentralization in Indonesia has produced a fragmented governance system in which local authorities play a significant role in managing refugee presence. However, local governments often lack clear mandates or resources, resulting in inconsistent practices and varying degrees of tolerance or hostility. IPS allows us to analyze how these localized power relations interact with national frameworks and international actors, producing hybrid forms of refugee governance that operate through both formal institutions and informal negotiations. The tension between central policy ambiguity and local administrative pragmatism is a key area of analysis.

#### 4. Indonesia's Role in Global Refugee Governance and International Cooperation Frameworks

While Indonesia maintains a non-signatory status to international refugee conventions, it actively participates in regional cooperation platforms such as the Bali Process. This participation allows Indonesia to exert influence while avoiding binding legal commitments. By engaging in international dialogues, hosting temporary refugees, and coordinating with UNHCR and IOM, Indonesia demonstrates a form of strategic humanitarianism that reinforces its diplomatic profile. This study analyzes how Indonesia navigates these forums to balance domestic constraints with global expectations, often using humanitarian discourse to strengthen geopolitical legitimacy without formalizing legal obligations.

By critically analyzing these dimensions, this study reveals the complex interplay between structural forces and discursive practices in shaping Indonesia's refugee policies. The IPS framework enables the researcher to dissect not only the institutional responses, but also the socio-political meanings and identity constructions that underpin them. This methodological orientation proves especially useful in contexts where empirical data on refugee treatment is limited, allowing for a theoretically grounded yet context-sensitive exploration.

The theoretical grounding of this study also draws comparative inspiration from O'Mahony and Donnelly (2020), whose work on structural barriers to refugee women's access to healthcare in Western democracies emphasizes how identity, gender, and socio-political position intersect with access to rights and services. Though situated in a different geopolitical context, their approach underscores the universal applicability of IPS in revealing the hidden inequalities and institutional biases that shape refugee lives.

### **Discussion**

#### **a. The Intersection of Domestic and International Politics**

An examination of Indonesia's refugee governance necessitates an investigation into the intricate interplay between its domestic and international political landscapes. Indonesia, not having ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention, addresses refugee issues primarily through diplomatic avenues. A key example is the Bali Process, which prioritizes regional collaboration to address irregular migration and improve humanitarian responses to refugee situations. This dual approach reflects the principles of International

Political Sociology (IPS), which suggests that local and global forces mutually shape political occurrences (Kusuma & Octastefani, 2022; Yusoff et al., 2022).

**Figure 2.** Flow of Influence: Domestic and International Dynamics in Indonesian Refugee Policy

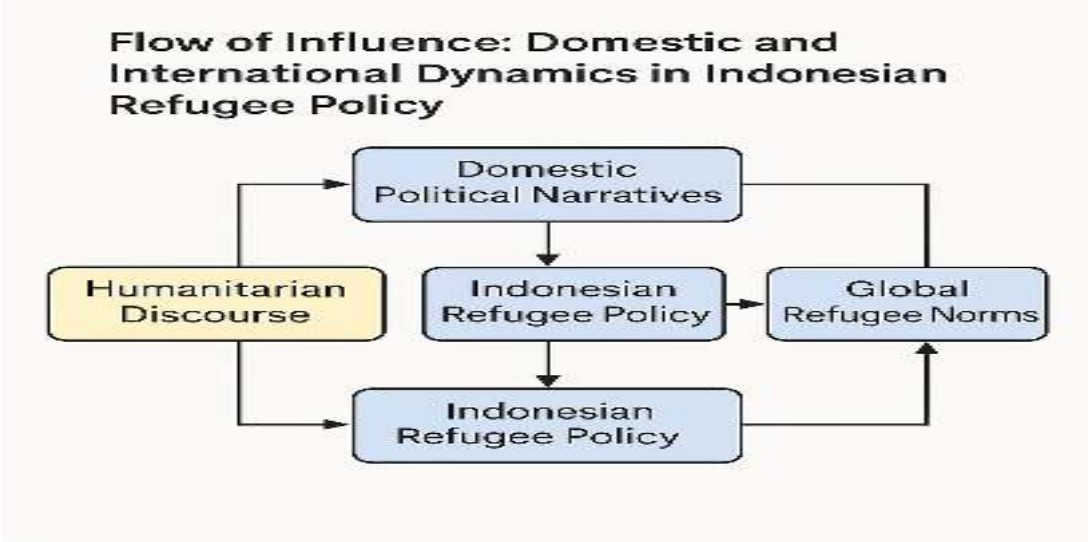


Figure 1 illustrates this interaction, showing how global norms regarding refugee protection and human rights inform local political rhetoric and policy decisions. Indonesia navigates this landscape with a strategy that reflects both humanitarian concern and national priorities. The flowchart outlines key factors such as the principles of non-refoulement and humanitarian obligations, juxtaposed against domestic security discourses that govern public sentiment and government actions regarding refugees. The Indonesian government's efforts to manage the Rohingya crisis, while controversial, demonstrate a willingness to uphold humanitarian principles despite significant domestic challenges, including economic inequality and public dissent, particularly in areas heavily impacted by refugee arrivals (Siregar, 2024; Prabaningtyas, 2019). The Indonesian government's approach encapsulates strategic maneuvering, where diplomatic engagements allow it to respond to international expectations while maintaining sovereignty over its immigration policies. This paradoxical stance, governed by the imperatives of statehood and humanitarianism, reveals the underlying complexities and tensions that characterize Indonesia's refugee governance framework (Briskman & Fiske, 2016; Bahri, 2023).

**b. Socio-Cultural and Economic**

Regional variations shape refugee reception. Aceh displays strong acceptance based on religious affinity, while Jakarta and Makassar show skepticism due to social pressures and resource competition.

**Table 1.** Regional Refugee Reception in Indonesia

Region	Religious Affinity	Economic Capacity	Community Attitude	Policy Support
Aceh	High	Medium	Welcoming	Strong
Jakarta	Low	High	Skeptical	Weak
Medan	Medium	Medium	Neutral	Inconsistent
Makassar	Medium	Low	Resistant	Absent

Source: Author 2024

Variables Socio-cultural factors significantly influence the perception and treatment of refugees within Indonesian society. Local culture, religious identity, and community solidarity significantly shape public attitudes toward refugees. Indonesia, as a predominantly Muslim nation, frequently frames its humanitarian efforts toward Muslim refugees, including the Rohingya, within religious and moral frameworks (Fitri & Sundrijo, 2024). Local communities, especially in Aceh, have demonstrated considerable solidarity through grassroots humanitarian initiatives, notwithstanding the Indonesian government's relatively limited formal support mechanisms at the national level (Frahma, 2024; Falcao & Ernungtyas, 2024). Furthermore, economic variables contribute to the complexities inherent in refugee governance within Indonesia. The arrival of refugees frequently intensifies competition for resources, especially in economically challenged areas where local populations may view them as rivals for scarce prospects. Indonesian public opinion can become hostile when indigenous communities encounter substantial socio-economic difficulties (Siregar, 2024). Despite governmental efforts to mitigate these tensions through diverse policy measures, the persistent economic inequalities frequently intensify communal strife, thereby impacting the resilience of refugees within these environments (Syahrin et al., 2024).

**c. Multi-Level Power Structures**

A unique aspect of Indonesia's refugee governance is the existence of multi-level power structures that include stakeholders from the local, regional, and international

levels. Local authorities, who are often responsible for executing national policies, exhibit varying levels of capacity and inclination to interact constructively with refugees. In regions like Aceh, local government responses have at times demonstrated a high degree of agency, reflecting both local customs and political motivations that align with broader national policies (Missbach, 2019; Hakim & Annisa, 2024). At the regional level, Indonesia's participation in entities such as the Bali Process and ASEAN dialogues allows for a collaborative approach to refugee issues. However, the effectiveness of these engagements can be hampered by the varying priorities of member states and the absence of binding agreements on refugee protection and management (Anshari et al., 2024). This complicates Indonesia's ability to establish comprehensive, cohesive refugee policies that align with its diplomatic commitments while also addressing domestic concerns (Maksum et al., 2020). Moreover, the lack of a strong legal framework for refugee protections means that local and international norms often clash, leading to fragmented implementation and confusion among both refugees and host communities about their rights and responsibilities (Olivia et al., 2021). Ultimately, the complexity of Indonesia's multi-level governance presents not only challenges but also opportunities for more strategic alliances in the management of refugee issues, potentially enriching Indonesia's diplomatic engagement and humanitarian profile (Taha et al., 2024).

**Figure 3.** Network of Actors in Indonesian Refugee Governance



Source: Constructed by the author (2024) using International Political Sociology (IPS) analytical lens

As illustrated in Figure 2, refugee governance in Indonesia operates through a multi-level and hybrid network of actors involving national authorities, local governments, UNHCR, NGOs, local communities, and refugees themselves. This configuration reflects IPS's emphasis on relational power and dispersed authority rather than hierarchical state-centric models.

This network diagram illustrates the distributed and relational structure of refugee governance in Indonesia, as conceptualized through the International Political Sociology (IPS) lens. Rather than placing all authority within the state, the IPS framework emphasizes multi-level interactions among diverse actors.

1. The National Government sets the general tone and diplomatic direction.
2. Local Governments, shaped by decentralization, often bear the operational burden—though frequently lacking mandates or resources.
3. UNHCR and IOM provide humanitarian and technical support, often coordinating with NGOs for service delivery.
4. Local Communities influence on-the-ground realities through their attitudes and actions.
5. Finally, Refugees are not passive subjects but actors who engage, adapt, and respond within this multi-level system.

The asymmetry in influence and responsibility within this network creates fragmentation, inconsistency, and site-specific experiences of refugee life in Indonesia. This reflects IPS's emphasis on relational power and structural embeddedness, showing how refugee governance is shaped through negotiation rather than top-down policy alone.

#### **d. Indonesia's Role in Regional and Global Refugee Frameworks**

Indonesia's involvement in regional and global refugee frameworks underscores its significance within Southeast Asia's political sphere. Nevertheless, its lack of formal adherence to these frameworks presents challenges to its responsibilities and interactions on the international stage. As previously noted, Indonesia's participation in initiatives like the Bali Process demonstrates a willingness to collaborate on refugee issues, though this cooperation is often selective and primarily motivated by national interests (Maula, 2024; Primadasa et al., 2021). Furthermore, Indonesia's humanitarian actions concerning the Rohingya crisis have increased its prominence and stimulated debates regarding the necessity of strong institutional responses to refugee protection.

Local organizations and international NGOs, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), have played crucial roles in providing assistance and advocating for better policies (Nur et al., 2022). However, the interplay of local governance issues and the state's reluctance to commit to comprehensive refugee laws has resulted in a precarious situation for many refugees who discover themselves caught between humanitarian aspirations and state sovereignty (Garibay & Azman, 2024). In summary, Indonesia's broad strategy for refugee governance reflects complex layers of power, socio-political influences, and local-global interactions. The combination of diplomatic engagement, cultural responses, and the operational challenges faced by local authorities demonstrates the need for continued analysis through the IPS framework. This understanding is essential not only for academic inquiry but also for practical policy-making aimed at improving refugee conditions in Indonesia and fostering regional stability.

**Table 2.** Indonesia’s Engagement in Regional and Global Refugee Frameworks

Level	Mechanism / Platform	Nature of Engagement	Motivation	Challenges	IPS Interpretation
Regional	Bali Process	Dialogue, capacity building; non-binding	Diplomatic visibility, burden-sharing	Non-binding commitments → selective compliance	Identity performance; soft power politics
Regional	ASEAN Framework (informal)	Humanitarian assistance; coordination	Maintaining regional stability	ASEAN non-interference → no refugee protection regime	Sovereignty vs. humanitarian norms
Bilateral Relations	Cooperation with Australia, Malaysia	Transit management; border control	Managing irregular migration; security	Power asymmetry; dependence on larger states	Structural inequality in refugee governance
Global	Collaboration with UNHCR	Status determination; basic services	Outsourcing responsibility	Delegated sovereignty; slow processing	Hybrid governance; dispersed power
Global	Coordination with IOM	Shelter, logistics, monitoring	Humanitarian management	Funding dependency; uneven support	Bureaucratic power; humanitarian governmentality
Local–Global Interface	NGOs, local CSOs, religious groups	Grassroots protection; advocacy	Local solidarity; identity ties	Fragmented governance; inconsistent support	Everyday politics; community identity

Source: Author (2024), synthesized from Maula (2024), Primadasa et al. (2021), Nur et al. (2022), Garibay & Azman (2024); interpreted through IPS framework (Huysmans & Nogueira, 2012).

## **Conclusions And Recommendations**

### **a. Summary of Main Findings**

This investigation underscores the utility of International Political Sociology (IPS) as a robust and critical framework for analyzing the intricate dimensions of refugee governance within the Indonesian context. Through an examination of the interactions among power, identity, discourse, and the interplay of global and local factors, the research elucidates that Indonesia's refugee policies are influenced not solely by legal stipulations but by a more profound amalgamation of sociopolitical influences. Initially, Indonesia's position as a non-signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention engenders a fragmented governance structure, wherein refugee protection is significantly contingent upon discretionary judgments, the involvement of international organizations, and prevailing local political sentiments. This scenario exemplifies a variant of strategic humanitarianism, wherein the state selectively undertakes humanitarian initiatives while simultaneously prioritizing national sovereignty. Furthermore, the examination reveals that refugee governance within Indonesia is significantly shaped by conflicting public and political discourses. National policies and local responses are consistently molded by narratives concerning national security, social stability, and humanitarian obligations. Identity politics, especially in areas characterized by strong religious or cultural affiliations, contribute to the inconsistent treatment of refugees nationwide. Finally, authority within Indonesia's refugee governance is distributed across various levels, encompassing national agencies, local governments, UNHCR, IOM, NGOs, and community stakeholders. This hybrid governance model presents both avenues for localized humanitarian efforts and difficulties in achieving uniform policy execution. Ultimately, Indonesia's involvement in regional and global refugee frameworks, including the Bali Process and ASEAN dialogues, demonstrates a commitment to preserving diplomatic standing without incurring binding international responsibilities. IPS provides insight into how these engagements enable Indonesia to fulfill humanitarian obligations while retaining political autonomy. In summation, the research findings emphasize that refugee governance in Indonesia is co-constructed through a dynamic interplay of structural influences, identity-driven practices, and discursive formations, thereby establishing IPS as an essential framework for the analysis of refugee matters within Southeast Asia.

## **b. Policy Recommendations**

Based on the analysis, several policy recommendations are proposed to enhance refugee governance in Indonesia in ways that align humanitarian needs with sociopolitical realities:

1. **Fortify National Regulatory Frameworks** Indonesia should formulate more explicit national guidelines concerning refugee management, irrespective of the 1951 Convention's ratification. A comprehensive national framework would mitigate ambiguity, facilitate improved coordination, and establish uniform protection standards throughout the nation.
2. **Augment Coordination Between National and Local Authorities** Considering Indonesia's decentralized governance structure, reinforcing vertical coordination is of paramount importance. Local governments necessitate more clearly defined mandates, budgetary allocations, and technical expertise to effectively manage refugee-related duties.
3. **Formalize Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration** To enhance the monitoring of refugee welfare and mitigate fragmentation, the collaboration between UNHCR, IOM, NGOs, local communities, and governmental bodies should be institutionalized via consistent coordination platforms.
4. **Counter Negative Public Discourses Through Community Engagement** Public perceptions, often influenced by misinformation and securitization narratives, can impede effective refugee protection. Consequently, awareness campaigns, community dialogue initiatives, and the involvement of religious or cultural leaders can cultivate more inclusive local attitudes.
5. **Strengthen Indonesia's Strategic Engagement in Regional Mechanisms** Indonesia should capitalize on platforms like the Bali Process and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre) to advocate for more defined regional standards concerning refugee protection, thus establishing itself as a regional leader in humanitarian governance.
6. **Enhancing refugees Protection and Livelihoods** Facilitating access to education, healthcare, and restricted livelihood prospects, facilitated by collaborations with local entities and non-governmental organizations, would bolster refugee resilience and mitigate social frictions.

7. Establishing Accountability and Monitoring Mechanisms To ensure that refugee governance practices adhere to humanitarian tenets, Indonesia should institute accountability mechanisms to scrutinize local governmental actions, shelter conditions, and adherence to human rights standards.
8. Integrating IPS-Informed Approaches into Policy Formulation Policymakers should acknowledge that refugee governance transcends mere technical or legal considerations, being intrinsically linked to wider power dynamics and identity politics. The application of IPS principles can yield more comprehensive and contextually appropriate policy responses.

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