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The Shadow Side of Migration—Relation Between Crime and Illegal Immigration in the Nordic Countries.

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Abstract: Illegal immigration is a contentious topic, particularly when linked to concerns about crime and presents multifaceted challenges to host countries, including the Nordic nations. In the complex landscape of international relations, the interplay between migration and crime has emerged as a pressing issue, particularly in the context of illegal immigration. The Nordic countries, known for their progressive social policies and focus on integration, are not immune to these discussions. While renowned for their social welfare systems and openness to immigration, these nations have also grappled with concerns about the impact of illegal immigration on public safety. Drawing upon interdisciplinary perspectives from criminology, international relations, and legal studies, the research explores the multifaceted dynamics of crime and migration, analyzing the socio-economic, political, and legal implications of irregular migration flows. This paper investigates the intricate nexus between crime and illegal immigration in the Nordic context. By examining empirical evidence and theoretical frameworks, the study sheds light on the various dimensions of this international relationship. It explores how illegal immigration intersects with criminal activities, including human trafficking, smuggling, and organized crime networks. Furthermore, the paper investigates the socio-economic factors that drive individuals to engage in illegal immigration and subsequent criminal behavior. Through a comprehensive analysis of existing literature and case studies, this research aims to provide insights into the complexities of the shadow side of migration in the Nordic countries. Understanding the dynamics of crime and illegal immigration is crucial for policymakers, law enforcement agencies,

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and civil society organizations to develop effective strategies for addressing these challenges while upholding human rights and promoting social cohesion.

Keywords: Human Rights; Illegal Immigration; International Relations; Organized Crime; Political Implications

1. Introduction

Illegal immigrant commonly referred to as undocumented immigrants, are aliens who enter or remain in a country unlawfully (2024). In recent years, the relationship between migration and crime, particularly in the context of illegal immigration, has become a contentious and pressing issue for many countries worldwide. The European Commission reports an increase in unauthorized employment of immigrants in Europe¹, with around 500,000 migrants entering EU countries annually. The number of unauthorized migrants in specific countries is estimated to be around 500,000 in Germany, 300,000 in France, 200,000 in the UK, and potentially 800,000 in Italy, with 70% of these individuals involved in illicit labor (Djajic, 2001, pp. 137-161). However, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 10, 1948 states that Human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, with reason and conscience. They should act in a spirit of brotherhood and are entitled to all rights and freedoms, without distinction, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status (2024). The Nordic nations stand out not only for their progressive social policies and focus on integration but also for the challenges they face in addressing the shadow side of migration. The phenomenon of illegal immigration presents a myriad of challenges to Nordic countries, encompassing issues related to public safety, socio-economic strains, and the integrity of legal systems. Nordic nations are experiencing a rise in gang-related violence due to ineffective immigration policies. There's a call for stronger initiatives to integrate immigrants, but without substantial supportive measures, the root problem will persist unless comprehensively addressed from its core (Möller & Matrone, 2024). Despite their reputation for inclusive immigration policies and robust social welfare structures, the Nordic countries find themselves navigating the

¹ Commission of the European Communities: Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council in View of the European Council of Thessaloniki, on the Developments of a Common Policy on Illegal Immigration, Smuggling and Trafficking of Human Beings, External Borders and the Return of Illegal Residents, Brussels, 3.6.2003, COM (2003) 323 final.

intricate dynamics of crime intertwined with irregular migration flows. This research endeavors to explore the intricate interplay between crime and illegal immigration within the Nordic context, elucidating the multifaceted dimensions of this international relationship. Sweden has shifted its immigration policies due to concerns about national security, especially regarding terrorism and organized crime. Previous leniency in immigration has been linked to incidents like the 2018 Stockholm attack. Gang violence, including bombings, has surged, prompting public backlash and political shifts toward stricter immigration controls. The Swedish government has ramped up deportation efforts and increased cooperation with neighboring countries (McManus, 2024). Drawing upon diverse perspectives from criminology, international relations, and legal studies, this study aims to dissect the socio-economic, political, and legal ramifications of illegal immigration and its intersection with criminal behavior. Through an examination of both empirical evidence and theoretical frameworks, the research will probe how illegal immigration intersects with various criminal activities, including but not limited to human trafficking, smuggling, and involvement in organized crime networks. Moreover, this study will delve into the underlying socio-economic drivers propelling individuals to partake in illegal immigration and subsequent illicit actions. By conducting a thorough analysis of existing literature and pertinent case studies, our goal is to provide nuanced insights into the complexities of the shadow side of migration in the Nordic countries. Understanding the intricate dynamics between crime and illegal immigration holds significance not only for policymakers and law enforcement agencies but also for civil society organizations endeavoring to devise effective strategies to address these challenges while safeguarding human rights and fostering social cohesion. This introduction delves into the “shadow side” of migration, exploring the potential relationship between illegal immigration and crime rates in the Nordic context. It’s crucial to approach this sensitive issue with a balanced perspective, examining the data and acknowledging the complexities involved.

2. Research Problem

The research aims to explore the socio-economic factors that contribute to the link between illegal immigration and crime rates in Nordic countries. It examines the impact of immigration policies, socio-cultural integration, and economic disparities on criminal activities among immigrant populations. The study also investigates the

effectiveness of law enforcement strategies and immigration policies in mitigating crime associated with illegal immigration. The research focuses on the stringency or leniency of immigration laws in the Nordic countries, aiming to understand how these policies shape patterns of illegal immigration and subsequent involvement in criminal behavior. It also delves into the socio-cultural integration of immigrant communities and their influence on crime rates. Factors such as language barriers, cultural differences, and social cohesion are investigated to understand how these elements interact with immigration policies to impact criminal activities within immigrant populations. Economic disparities between immigrant and native populations also play a significant role in shaping the relationship between illegal immigration and crime rates. The study examines disparities in access to employment, education, healthcare, and housing, and their implications for criminal behavior among immigrant communities. The research evaluates the effectiveness of law enforcement strategies and immigration policies in addressing crime associated with illegal immigration. It identifies best practices and areas for improvement in mitigating crime related to illegal immigration. A comparative analysis across Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, and Iceland is proposed to provide a comprehensive understanding of how different approaches to immigration and law enforcement impact crime dynamics within the Nordic context. In summary, the research problem outlined in the article aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the complex relationship between migration, crime, law, and policy in Nordic nations. By examining socio-economic factors and evaluating the effectiveness of interventions, the study seeks to inform evidence-based policy-making and contribute to efforts aimed at reducing crime associated with illegal immigration.

3. Research Questions

The questions sets the stage for investigating critical aspects of this dynamic. It probes into the correlation between illegal immigration and crime rates, explores factors influencing criminal behavior among illegal immigrants, evaluates the effectiveness of immigration policies in crime prevention, analyzes integration challenges, and investigates perceptions and media representations shaping public discourse and policy decisions.

Q1. What is the correlation between illegal immigration and crime rates in Nordic countries? Are certain types of crimes more prevalent among illegal immigrants compared to legal residents or citizens?

Q2. What are the socio-economic, cultural, and psychological factors that contribute to criminal behavior among illegal immigrants in Nordic countries? How do these factors compare to those affecting legal immigrants and native populations?

Q3. To what extent do the immigration policies and enforcement measures implemented in Nordic countries influence the incidence of crime among illegal immigrants? Are there any unintended consequences or loopholes in these policies that contribute to criminal activities?

Q4. How does the lack of legal status or access to basic services affect the integration of illegal immigrants into Nordic societies? To what extent does marginalization and social exclusion contribute to their involvement in criminal activities?

Q5. How do media portrayals and public perceptions of illegal immigrants influence attitudes towards them and their perceived association with crime? To what extent do these perceptions align with empirical evidence, and how do they impact policy-making and social cohesion?

In sum, these research questions serve as a roadmap for exploring the intricate dynamics of illegal immigration and crime in the Nordic context, offering valuable insights into the shadowy undercurrents that underpin this contentious issue. Through rigorous empirical inquiry and critical analysis, the research endeavors to inform evidence-based policymaking and foster greater understanding of this complex phenomenon.

4. Research Objectives

- Study on Illegal Immigration in Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, and Iceland
- Identifying demographic characteristics and origins of illegal immigrants.
- Analyzing the correlation between illegal immigration and crime.
- Assessing the impact of illegal immigration on crime rates and activities.
- Investigating unemployment rates, income disparities, educational attainment, and social service access among immigrant populations.
- Exploring socio-economic factors contributing to criminal activities among illegal immigrants.

- Assessing the adequacy and enforcement of immigration laws and border control measures.
- Analyzing strategies and resources of law enforcement agencies.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of community policing and international collaborations.

5. Research Methodology

While conducting research, the author employed a mixed-methods research methodology to comprehensively explore the complex relationship between illegal immigration and crime in Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, and Iceland. Data collection techniques used included both qualitative and quantitative methods, such as literature review, 20 interviews with illegal immigrants and asylum seekers, key stakeholders including law enforcement officials, immigration authorities, and community representatives, as well as analysis of existing crime statistics, immigration records, and policy documents. The sampling strategy involved purposive sampling to ensure representation from diverse immigrant communities and regions within the Nordic countries. Additionally, snowball sampling was utilized to identify and recruit participants for interviews, allowing for a more nuanced understanding of the experiences and perspectives of illegal immigrants and affected communities. Data analysis was conducted using both descriptive and inferential statistical methods while conducting the research study, qualitative coding techniques, and thematic analysis to identify patterns, themes, and relationships within the data. This comprehensive approach to research methodology facilitated a holistic examination of the nexus between illegal immigration and crime, providing valuable insights for policymakers, practitioners, and scholars working in the field of migration and criminal justice.

6. Literature Review

The study *Scott, H. (2024)* (Scott, 2024, pp. 36-56) examines how individuals like Omid and Hussein use legal loopholes to avoid detention and deportation, revealing the unexpected use of law and limits to victim protection. It also explores how individual encounters with law can lead to collective action against legal hegemony, revealing underlying political stances and the potential for inspiring future collective

action. The study *Canning, V. (2020)* (Canning, 2020) reveals that efforts to deter asylum seekers in Northern Europe have been ineffective, with bureaucratic controls and harmful practices worsening their lives. UK, Danish, and Swedish border control strategies have been successful, but poverty, uncertainty, and lack of autonomy leave individuals dependent on state agendas. The analysis *Joseph, M. (2024)* (Joseph, 2024) explores the broad impact of illegal immigration on financial crimes, focusing on human trafficking, drug trafficking, sex trafficking, and domestic terrorism. Regulatory guidance, such as FinCEN advisories and DEA assessments, aids in identifying suspicious financial activities related to these crimes. The text emphasizes collaboration between financial institutions, law enforcement, and regulatory bodies, enhanced due diligence, and continuous employee training. Additionally, it discusses other considerations like money laundering, corruption, bribery, and the balance between financial inclusion and compliance. The study *Lillevik, R., et. al., (2021)* (Lillevik & Tyldum, 2021) explores the situation of irregular migrants in Norway and the challenges faced by local authorities in addressing their needs. The research focuses on Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim, Stavanger, and Kristiansand. The study identifies four main groups of irregular migrants: “visible” who reside in reception centers, “dependents” who rely on networks, “workers” engaged in illicit work, and “marginalized” involved in crime or prostitution. Frontline public service employees’ face challenges due to lack of central government policies, limited health services, housing options, and exploitation. The study *Madsen, D. (2021)* (Madsen, 2021) examines the relationship between immigration and crime in the Nordic region from 2015 to 2020. It highlights the heterogeneity of immigrant populations, irregular migration, immigrant beliefs, mental health disorders among immigrants, and the Nordic crime policy system. The research highlights the need for further research due to the lack of data, overrepresented statistics of migrants in crime, and the heterogeneity of immigrant populations. It also raises concerns about media censorship and the impact on reporting crime among immigrants. The study emphasizes the need for balanced reporting to avoid misrepresentation and misunderstandings among the public. The study *Fourton, L. E. (2024)* (Fourton, 2024) examines the complexities of illegal immigration in Europe and North America, highlighting its multifaceted impacts on affected countries. It highlights the challenges in managing asylum claims, providing humanitarian assistance, and ensuring border security. In North America, the US-Mexico border and Canada’s border issues create political polarization. The consequences of illegal immigration include exploitation, human rights violations,

strains on healthcare, education, and social services, and security vulnerabilities. A balanced approach is needed to address the issue. The study *O'Sullivan, M. (2023)* (O'Sullivan, 2023) examines the changing immigration landscape in Nordic countries, revealing that recent challenges in integration have led to collaboration between Denmark and Sweden, focusing on stricter deportation measures for illegal immigrants. This shift suggests European nations may have reached a threshold in their willingness to accept certain migration scales and types, potentially leading to a reevaluation of immigration discourse and new political parties. The study *Eraliev, S. (2023)* (Eraliev, 2023) explores the relationship between undocumented migration, informality, and crime, focusing on Uzbek migrants in Sweden. It uses strain theory to explain how limited legal employment and undocumented status make migrants vulnerable to victimization and criminal activities. However, it acknowledges limitations and calls for future research. The study *Coccia, M. et. al., (2024)* (Coccia, Cohn & Kakar, 2024) examines the link between immigration and crime in 38 European nations, analyzing Eurostat data from 2017 to 2020. Findings show that crime rates are influenced by immigration, GDP per capita, income inequality, and unemployment. Homicide rates are negatively linked to immigration and GDP per capita, while sexual violence and theft rates are positively associated. The study *Parsons, J.R., et. al., (2024)* (Parsons & Riva, 2024) examines the portrayal of immigrants as criminal threats by politicians in Nordic countries, particularly radical-right parties. It identifies five narrative characters in ongoing debates, highlighting the nuances within entrenched stereotypes. The study highlights how both radical-right and mainstream parties perpetuate or challenge this stereotype. This study *Heber, A. (2023)* (Heber, 2023) explores the concept of the crimmigrant in political debate, focusing on five narrative characters: the Islamic Terrorist, the Crimmigrant Stranger, the Crimmigrant Wanderer, the Dangerous Outsider, and the Good Worker. It challenges the notion that the link between immigrants and crime is primarily promoted by radical-right politicians and shows that all parliamentary parties in Sweden contribute to the crimmigrant debate. The article also explores why certain strangers are racialized and considered more dangerous than others. The study *Nogueira Pinto, T. (2023)* (Nogueira Pinto, 2023) explores the EU-North Africa relationship in the context of migration, highlighting the EU's transactional approach to managing migration through partnerships with North African countries. The essay discusses the evolving EU migration policy, the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, and the growing trend towards restrictive approaches among EU member states. Pinto emphasizes the geopolitical significance

of North African countries as key players in the EU's migration strategy, as they have become transit points and destinations for migrants and refugees. The essay also discusses the challenges and complexities of EU-North Africa partnerships, including the use of migration as a political tool by some states and the implications of authoritarian regimes in the region. It also highlights the risks and potential consequences of the EU's transactional approach to migration, including the reinforcement of authoritarian regimes and exacerbation of instability in North Africa. The study *Horwood, C. (2023)* (Horwood, 2023) elaborate that Nordic countries are facing demographic shifts, aging populations, and economic pressures, including slower growth, higher living costs, and inflation. These challenges require societies to balance economic growth, dependency ratios, and taxation potential. Despite historical trends of openness to mixed migration and refugee settlement, Nordic countries are now tending towards more restrictive policies as nationalist and nativist voices gain prominence in politics.

The existing literature presents several notable gaps in the understanding of illegal immigration and its impacts, particularly within the Nordic region and Europe at large. Firstly, while studies like Scott (2024) and Fourton (2024) shed light on the intricate strategies employed by individuals to circumvent legal frameworks and the multifaceted impacts of illegal immigration, there remains a lack of comprehensive research on the specific mechanisms through which legal loopholes are exploited and the broader implications for victim protection and collective action against legal hegemony. Furthermore, while Joseph (2024) offers insights into the financial crimes associated with illegal immigration, such as human trafficking and drug trafficking, there is a dearth of research on the interconnectedness of financial crimes with other forms of criminal activities and the effectiveness of regulatory measures in addressing these issues. Additionally, Lillevik et al. (2021) highlight the challenges faced by local authorities in addressing the needs of irregular migrants in Norway, yet there is limited research on the potential solutions and policy interventions to mitigate these challenges effectively. Moreover, studies like Horwood (2023) underline the demographic and economic pressures faced by Nordic countries, leading to more restrictive immigration policies, but there is a need for further investigation into the long-term implications of these policies on social cohesion, economic growth, and demographic stability. Overall, there is a notable gap in the literature regarding comprehensive, interdisciplinary studies that address the complexities of illegal immigration, its impacts on various sectors, and effective policy responses to ensure the well-being of both migrants and host societies in the

Nordic region and beyond. The literature review highlights significant gaps in understanding illegal immigration, particularly in the Nordic region and Europe. While studies provide insights into legal strategies, financial crimes, victim protection, and collective action, there is a lack of comprehensive research on these issues. Additionally, there is a lack of attention on effective policy interventions to address irregular migrants' challenges and the long-term implications of restrictive immigration policies. Therefore, there is a pressing need for interdisciplinary studies to provide nuanced perspectives and guide the development of more inclusive immigration policies in the Nordic region and beyond.

7. Global Organized Crime Index

For the Nordic countries, data collection from the Global Organized Crime Index (GOCI) offers a comprehensive perspective on the landscape of organized crime within the region. Leveraging the pioneering methodology of the GOCI, these nations can gain insights into the prevalence and impact of organized criminal activities within their borders. Supported by funding from the United States Government and facilitated by the ENACT program, which is backed by the European Union and implemented by the Institute for Security Studies and INTERPOL, the data collection process for Nordic countries benefits from robust resources and expertise. This collaboration underscores a concerted effort to address transnational organized crime and strengthen the resilience of nations against such threats. It is essential to recognize that the findings and analyses derived from GOCI data collection represent the perspectives and insights of the authors and collaborating organizations, independent of any governmental affiliations.

7.1. Norway

Norway serves as both a destination and source country for human trafficking and human smuggling. Victims of human trafficking, primarily adult women exploited for sex trafficking, hail from countries like Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, and Ukraine, though there's an expanding profile including victims from South America, Africa, and Thailand. Perpetrators, often part of loosely organized crime structures, are predominantly Norwegian or share the ethnicity of their victims. Norway has experienced a significant increase in its immigrant population over the past three decades, with Polish, Lithuanian, Swedish, and Somali being the most common

nationalities. Norway's immigrant population has grown significantly over the past decade, from 1.1 million in 2014 to nearly 1.5 million by 2024. The majority of this population is first-generation immigrants, with 930,000 people. The second-largest group is those born in Norway with one parent abroad, followed by those with both parents (Dyvik, 2024). This surge is largely due to Norway's liberal asylum policy since the mid-1980s, which has allowed numerous refugees from Iran, Chile, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and former Yugoslavia to settle in the country (2024). Document forgery, social security fraud, money laundering, and other crimes are often associated with human trafficking. In the case of human smuggling, individuals are mainly employed for labor exploitation in various sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, transport, and construction. Perpetrators increasingly utilize technology to forge documents, aiding smuggling operations. Arms trafficking in Norway is limited, with illegal firearms mostly handled by private collectors and motorcycle gangs. The counterfeit market is small but active in luxury goods, while illicit trade in excise goods like cigarettes is moderate. Norway experiences crimes related to fauna, such as smuggling of predator birds and illegal fishing, but flora-related crimes are limited. Despite being rich in natural resources, illegal trade in non-renewable resources is small, with occasional incidents reported. Drug trafficking remains a concern, with heroin being the cause of most overdose deaths, followed by cocaine and cannabis. Cybercrime is a growing threat, though Norway is relatively safe compared to other countries. Financial crimes are prevalent, with most carried out digitally, and efforts to combat them involve both local and international cooperation. Organized crime in Norway is mostly carried out by loose networks, with motorcycle gangs like the Bandidos and Hells Angels prominent. Despite challenges, Norway's robust democracy, effective governance, and strong stance against organized crime contribute to its reputation as a safe and transparent country. Civil society plays a significant role in victim support and prevention efforts, while the government prioritizes strategies to combat organized crime, including cooperation at both national and international levels (2023).

7.2. Finland

In Finland, organized crime encompasses a range of activities including human trafficking, drug smuggling, arms trafficking, financial crimes, and cybercrimes. The criminal landscape involves both domestic and foreign actors, with various criminal organizations operating in collaboration with local networks. Vulnerable minority

groups, such as asylum-seekers and smuggled individuals, are often targeted victims of human trafficking, while the illicit arms trade is primarily driven by Finnish individuals and outlaw motorcycle gangs. The increase further bolstered the arguments of Eurosceptics and nativists who are apprehensive about Finland's involvement in the EU's quota system for shared responsibility. Under the former government, Finnish authorities declared their intention to welcome a total of 1,050 refugees in response to the United Nations' quota requests in 2023. However, in stark contrast, Finland admitted over 65,515 Ukrainians since February 2022 as of March 2024, with authorities indicating that this number could potentially reach 100,000 (2024) as Finland shares lengthy borders with Sweden and Norway, but its longest border (1,340 km) is with Russia and this mainly runs through forest and sparsely populated areas. It is an external border of the EU and NATO, which Finland joined in April 2023, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine (Kauraren, 2023). The trade of illicit goods, including counterfeit products and excise goods like tobacco and alcohol, presents ongoing challenges for law enforcement, with sophisticated smuggling operations evolving over time. Flora crimes and the illegal wildlife trade occasionally involve Finland as a transit and destination point due to its geographical location and border with Russia. Drug trafficking remains a significant concern, with Finland serving as a destination country for various drugs, including cocaine, cannabis, and synthetic drugs. The emergence of new psychoactive substances ordered online poses additional challenges for authorities. In the realm of cybercrime, Finland has witnessed continuous growth, with cybercriminals increasingly utilizing advanced technologies and engaging in organized operations. The government has responded with efforts to strengthen cybersecurity measures and cooperation both domestically and internationally. Despite these challenges, Finland maintains a strong commitment to combating organized crime through robust governance, effective legislation, and international cooperation. The country's judicial system, law enforcement agencies, and financial intelligence unit play vital roles in investigating and prosecuting criminal activities. Efforts to support victims and witnesses, prevent organized crime, and protect civil liberties contribute to Finland's reputation as a low-crime country with a high level of public trust in the government. However, ongoing concerns persist regarding the infiltration of legitimate businesses for money laundering purposes and the potential impact of geopolitical tensions on Finland's territorial integrity and cybersecurity (2023).

7.3. Denmark

Denmark serves as a hub for human trafficking, with women, particularly Nigerians, forming the majority of victims, alongside individuals from Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, and North Africa, including undocumented workers, asylum seekers, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. Sexual exploitation is prevalent, but forced labor and criminality also occur, facilitated by semi-legal companies. By 2022, the immigrant population in Denmark, excluding Danish-born descendants of immigrants, had reached around 652,000, comprising over 10 percent of the nation's nearly 6 million inhabitants. During the same year, Denmark welcomed 67,772 refugees, marking an 88 percent surge from 2021. This increase was primarily attributed from Ukraine recorded in Europe and Asia since February 2022 as of March 2024, surpassing 41,000 between February 2022 and July 2023 (2024). Human smuggling, often debt-driven, occurs primarily to neighboring countries like Sweden. Arms trafficking to Norway and Sweden is facilitated by criminal networks, with firearms sourced from various countries and converted to avoid detection. Counterfeit goods, particularly popular among young Danes, and excise goods smuggling, notably cigarettes, are also concerns. While flora-related crimes are limited, illegal timber imports persist, and fauna trafficking involves small-scale smuggling, primarily through Copenhagen Airport. Non-renewable resource crimes, such as copper theft, are notable, often orchestrated by Eastern European criminal networks. Denmark serves as a transit point for heroin, cocaine, and cannabis trafficking, with criminal groups from various regions involved. Synthetic drugs primarily come from the Netherlands and Eastern Europe. Cyber-dependent crimes, particularly ransomware attacks, are on the rise, with Russian cybercrime groups among the most active. Financial crimes, including scam calls and dividend trading schemes, are prevalent, with concerns raised about money laundering and tax evasion. Mafia-style groups dominate the criminal landscape, involved in a range of illegal activities, while state-embedded actors' involvement is limited. Denmark maintains a stable governance structure, actively collaborating internationally to combat organized crime and terrorism. The judicial system operates without specialized courts for organized crime, focusing on convictions and longer sentences for gang members. Law enforcement is efficient, supported by international cooperation and strict border controls. Denmark's economic environment is favorable, with no evidence of organized crime infiltration into legal businesses, though financial regulations need strengthening. Victim support measures are in place, focusing on areas like human trafficking and drug addiction, with prevention

efforts emphasizing education and community engagement. Civil society plays a significant role in crime prevention and victim support, benefiting from Denmark's tradition of freedom and press freedom (2023).

7.4. Sweden

Sweden faces various challenges related to organized crime, including human trafficking, arms trafficking, cybercrime, financial crimes, and drug trade. Human trafficking, particularly sex trafficking and labor exploitation, is prevalent, with victims mainly coming from West Africa, Eastern Europe, and East Asia. Among the Nordic nations, Sweden's recent alteration in immigration policy stands out as particularly unexpected. This change marks a significant departure from its historical image as the bastion of European liberalism and the most hospitable toward asylum seekers. While notable policy shifts have occurred, some observers suggest that these changes reflect a gradual response to perceived issues of excessive openness and integration failures in recent years (Traub, 2021; Henley, 2022). More than 1 million Syrians are also living as refugees in Europe, the majority in Germany and Sweden (2021). However, despite this, Sweden has been admitting 5,000 refugees annually since 2018, but in 2023, it has reduced this number to just 900. According to one report, Sweden has received over 42,040 Ukrainians since 2022 to 2024 the onset of the Russian invasion (2024). However, the same report indicates that there were high numbers earlier in the year as well. The arms trafficking market is significant, with organized gangs using illegal arms and explosives, often linked to drug trafficking. Cyber-dependent crime, such as ransomware attacks, poses a considerable threat, primarily orchestrated by foreign actors. Financial crimes, including tax evasion and attacks on the VAT system, are on the rise, involving organized criminal groups. Most organized crime groups in Sweden consist of non-ethnic Swedes, with foreign-born individuals overrepresented in crime. Biker gangs and other organized groups engage in criminal activities, though state-embedded criminal actors are limited. The government has been criticized for a slow response to growing organized crime problems, with efforts to combat gang crime being expanded recently. Sweden's legal framework for addressing organized crime is strong but has some deficiencies, such as the lack of laws addressing racketeering and corruption. While the country is considered reliable internationally, corruption is increasing, and mechanisms to prevent corruption and the influence of organized crime are underdeveloped compared to other states. Law enforcement and judicial bodies face challenges due

to understaffing, contributing to a decrease in public trust in the police. There is a shortage of space in the prison system, and efforts to address this are ongoing. Border controls, though relatively free from corruption, face challenges due to free movement within the Schengen Area and large border areas. Sweden's economy is resilient against money laundering and terrorist financing, with a legal framework in place to combat these crimes. However, crime, unemployment, and gang presence are seen as problems by over half of Swedish businesses. Victim support is lacking, particularly for those with drug problems, contributing to high rates of overdose deaths. Civil society plays an active role in crime prevention and supporting victims, though challenges remain, such as media concentration and intimidation of reporters covering organized crime (2023).

7.5. Iceland

In Iceland, human trafficking for sexual or labor exploitation is a concern, with vulnerable groups like asylum seekers and foreign students at risk. Criminal gangs, including those associated with violence, are suspected of facilitating trafficking, often using false documentation. Iceland's migration patterns diverge significantly from those of other Nordic nations, primarily due to its remote geographical location, historically hindering the spontaneous influx of asylum seekers and migrants. However, recent years have witnessed an increase in migration and asylum seekers, sparking predictable political and policy responses. Despite being one of the world's least populated countries, with only 380,000 inhabitants, Iceland's immigration and asylum statistics stand out as atypical among Nordic countries. While its immigrant population tallied just 61,148 in 2022, when viewed per capita (comprising 16.3 percent of the population), it surpasses other Nordic nations (2022). Human smuggling is closely linked to trafficking, with the country criticized for prosecuting trafficking cases as smuggling. Firearms, counterfeit goods, and cybercrimes are prevalent, while the drug trade involves cocaine, cannabis, and synthetic drugs. Criminal actors, including organized crime groups from various countries, are expanding their operations in Iceland, engaging in activities like drug trafficking and human smuggling. The government is prioritizing efforts to combat organized crime, improve cybersecurity, and address financial crimes. Judicial authorities are cooperating internationally, while law enforcement faces challenges like understaffing. Iceland's remote location makes it less susceptible to territorial integrity challenges, but money laundering remains a concern. Civil society and non-

state actors play a crucial role in supporting victims and combating organized crime, while media freedom is generally respected despite some challenges (2023).

8. Discussion

The article discusses the intricate link between illegal immigration and crime in Nordic countries, highlighting the influence of socio-economic factors and immigration policies. It emphasizes the role of immigration policies in shaping illegal immigration patterns and their potential impact on crime rates. It also underscores the significance of socio-cultural integration in mitigating crime associated with illegal immigration and provides that nineteen individuals have been apprehended for smuggling migrants within the EU, including individuals from Syria, Libya, Tunisia, and Algeria into Spain, Germany, and Norway. A joint investigation conducted by the Spanish National Police, Europol, and the German Federal Police resulted in the dismantling of an organized crime syndicate responsible for facilitating the secondary movement of migrants (2023). The article highlights the link between illegal immigration and crime, highlighting the economic disparities between immigrant and native populations and discusses the IOM's Missing Migrants Project has recorded over 63,000 migrant fatalities worldwide since 2014 (2024), with drowning became the primary cause of death, accounting for 60% of fatalities over the past decade, according to data collected since 2014 (2024). Further discuss that within the European Union, migrant smuggling operates as a sophisticated and organized criminal network that employs various routes to avoid detection and maximize profits (2023). Some studies shows that immigration does not correlate with increased crime rates in Europe (Steinmetz, 2020, pp. 7-19), Poland and Hungary have opposed the EU Migration Pact, claiming 70% crime is due to illegal immigrants (Swami, 2023). Denmark's rigorous immigration model, known as the "Denmark Model", is gaining popularity among neighboring countries, as evidenced by Austria's adoption of a similar approach, referred to as the "Austria Plan". This shift in immigration policy prioritizes temporary asylum for refugees with the anticipation of their eventual return to their home countries (Belton, 2024). Interior ministers from six European Union countries convened in Szeged, Hungary, to enhance efforts against illegal immigration and combat human smugglers operating along EU borders. They emphasized the common challenge of migration in Europe and deliberated on strategies to prevent illegal entry into the EU. The ministers also voiced concerns about recent reintroductions of internal border checks by some EU

countries. Hungarian Interior Minister Sandor Pinter reiterated Hungary's opposition to the mandatory relocation of asylum seekers within the EU, emphasizing the principle of sovereignty (Spike, 2023). The Danish migration minister advocates for Germany to address migrant „pull factors” and prioritize the deportation of rejected asylum seekers, citing Denmark's successful migration management approach. Germany has also contemplated outsourcing asylum processing to third countries, aiming for more sustainable solutions to the migration crisis while upholding human rights standards (MacGregor, 2024). Finland has reported that approximately 160 asylum seekers who applied for asylum at the country's eastern border last year have gone missing amidst a surge in arrivals from Russia (Rosen Fondahn, 2024). The Finnish immigration authority attributes this sudden influx to alleged directions from Moscow towards the border, a claim denied by the Kremlin. Over 1,300 asylum applications were received at the eastern border between August and December, with a significant increase observed in November and December. The missing individuals remain largely unaccounted for, although some have resurfaced in other European countries to refile asylum applications. Finland's border closure with Russia has been extended due to concerns over a potential renewed influx if the border were to reopen. Finnish authorities are investigating cases of „assisting illegal immigration” and suspect the involvement of criminal organizations in large-scale human smuggling activities. There are concerns that hundreds of people may still be attempting to travel from Finland to other EU and Schengen countries. Finnish border authorities are monitoring a potential influx of asylum seekers from Russia, with reports of 2,000-3,000 individuals waiting to cross into Finland. Prime Minister Petteri Orpo has suggested that hundreds, if not thousands, could be waiting to cross (2024). The Finnish Immigration Service is prepared for potential arrivals but advises exercising caution. Sweden has adopted one of the strictest stances against illegal immigration in Europe, driven by national security concerns and the presence of transnational organized crime gangs. Minister of the Interior Mari Rantanen announced that the Finnish government has approved proposals for stricter immigration provisions, speaking to the media before a plenary session in the Finnish Parliament on April 3, 2024 (Teivainen, 2024). Sweden's government is set to introduce reforms requiring immigrants from countries outside the European Union to learn Swedish and compete for jobs in the country's highly-skilled labor market. The leaders of the three-party coalition and the far-right Sweden Democrats (SD) have claimed that Sweden has „significant problems” with foreign-born people who are unemployed and live on benefits. The proposed reforms include a ceiling on

benefits for non-EU migrants and longer waiting periods before qualifying for benefits (MacGregor, 2023). The country has witnessed an increase in violent gang activity, with “no-go zones” and bombings becoming increasingly common (2024). The Tidö Agreement (2022), established after the 2022 Swedish elections, aims to limit the rights of asylum seekers and undocumented individuals, raising concerns about its impact on vulnerable populations and societal cohesion (McManus, 2024). Iceland’s Parliament recently passed a highly contentious immigration bill, which strips rejected asylum seekers of housing and healthcare rights after 30 days. The bill, approved with a vote of 38 to 15, faced strong opposition from human rights organizations such as the Red Cross, UNICEF, and Amnesty International (Ćirić, 2023). Nordic governments are intensifying cooperation to return illegal immigrants to their countries of origin, following criticism from the UN and human rights groups. The five Nordic countries have agreed to strengthen diplomatic cooperation and arrange joint flights to take illegal residents to a third country through Frontex, a model that has gained popularity as anti-immigration voices gain traction (Birkebaek, 2023). The study discusses that the collaborative efforts of law enforcement agencies, as exemplified by the joint investigation resulting in the dismantling of a migrant smuggling syndicate, are crucial in addressing these challenges. Moreover, the article discusses the economic disparities between immigrant and native populations, shedding light on the complexities of migration-related crime dynamics within the European context. As Nordic countries adopt rigorous immigration models and implement stricter provisions, concerns about human rights implications arise, as evidenced by the opposition to controversial bills and agreements. Despite differing approaches, the collective commitment to enhancing cooperation and implementing joint initiatives reflects a concerted effort to address the shadow side of migration in the region.

9. International Human Rights Law

The existing legal frameworks for international migration cover various categories of migrants, including women, men, children, refugees, stateless individuals, migrant workers, and victims of trafficking. These frameworks are based on international human rights law, international labor law, international refugee law, international criminal law, international humanitarian law, international consular law, and international maritime law. International Human Rights Law (IHRL) sets universal obligations for states to respect, protect, and fulfill the human rights of

migrants. States are obligated to refrain from human rights violations, prevent abuses, and ensure their realization. Respecting human rights involves refraining from actions like arbitrary detention, torture, or collective expulsion, while protecting human rights requires proactive measures such as regulating recruitment agencies and sanctioning abusive employers. Fulfilling human rights involves providing alternatives to detention and ensuring access to essential services like healthcare and education. Embedding cross-cutting human rights principles into migration policies is crucial, emphasizing equality and non-discrimination. Participation and inclusion are essential for involving migrants in decision-making processes, ensuring access to relevant information, and upholding transparency and the rule of law. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) plays a pivotal role in identifying and promoting good practices and policies that uphold human rights in the governance of international migration.

10. Laws for Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers

International law safeguards the rights of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers irrespective of their mode of arrival or the circumstances prompting their journey to a country. They are entitled to the same fundamental rights as any other individual, with additional special or specific protections afforded to them. These protections include the right to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution in other countries as enshrined in Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the safeguards against refoulement outlined in the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, and the provisions of the 1990 Migrant Workers Convention aimed at safeguarding migrants and their families. Furthermore, regional legal frameworks, such as the 1969 OAU Convention, the 1984 Cartagena Declaration, and the Common European Asylum System including the Dublin Regulation, contribute to the protection of migrants' rights and the fulfillment of their specific needs within regional contexts (2024).

11. Summary of Key Findings

The study highlights the complex relationship between migration, crime, and immigration policies in the Nordic region and discuss the role of immigration policies in shaping illegal immigration patterns and crime rates, with varying stringencies across Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, and Iceland. These Nordic

countries have agreed to collaborate on deporting undocumented immigrants through joint flights back to their home countries, in coordination with Frontex. The Nordic nations pledge to support reintegration of migrants and enhance cooperation with their home countries. They will also offer voluntary repatriation programs and resettlement assistance. Denmark's Social Democratic government has reduced asylum seekers and expanded deportation avenues. Sweden faces challenges in deportation, particularly with criminal migrants (Tomlinson, 2023). The study emphasizes the importance of socio-cultural integration in mitigating crime associated with illegal immigration, highlighting factors like language barriers, cultural differences, and social cohesion. Economic disparities between immigrant and native populations also contribute to migration-related crime. The study explores the effectiveness of law enforcement strategies and immigration policies in addressing crime associated with illegal immigration, offering insights for policymakers and stakeholders.

Q1. *What is the correlation between illegal immigration and crime rates in Nordic countries? Are certain types of crimes more prevalent among illegal immigrants compared to legal residents or citizens?*

R: The correlation between illegal immigration and crime rates in Nordic countries is multifaceted and influenced by various socio-economic factors. While some studies suggest a potential link between illegal immigration and certain types of crimes, such as document fraud or smuggling-related offenses, the relationship is complex and context-dependent. Research indicates that socio-economic disparities, rather than immigration status per se, may play a significant role in driving criminal activities among immigrant populations. Additionally, the types of crimes prevalent among illegal immigrants may vary depending on factors such as socio-cultural integration, economic opportunities, and access to social services. Therefore, a nuanced understanding of the intersection between immigration status and crime is essential for accurately assessing the correlation and addressing any underlying factors contributing to criminal behavior within immigrant communities.

Q2. *What are the socio-economic, cultural, and psychological factors that contribute to criminal behavior among illegal immigrants in Nordic countries? How do these factors compare to those affecting legal immigrants and native populations?*

R: The criminal behavior of illegal immigrants in Nordic countries is influenced by various socio-economic, cultural, and psychological factors. These factors include

limited access to education, employment opportunities, and social services, as well as language barriers, cultural alienation, and marginalization. Psychological factors like trauma, stress, and mental health issues from migration or pre-migration circumstances also contribute to criminal behavior. Legal immigrants face similar challenges but often have access to support systems and resources, reducing their likelihood of engaging in criminal activities. Legal immigrants undergo more rigorous screening processes and have a stronger incentive to abide by the law to maintain their legal status. Native populations, on the other hand, face different socio-economic and cultural pressures, such as poverty, inequality, and social marginalization, but have greater access to social services and employment. Understanding these factors is crucial for developing effective strategies to address criminal behavior and promote social integration in Nordic countries.

Q3. *To what extent do the immigration policies and enforcement measures implemented in Nordic countries influence the incidence of crime among illegal immigrants? Are there any unintended consequences or loopholes in these policies that contribute to criminal activities?*

R: The influence of immigration policies and enforcement measures on the incidence of crime among illegal immigrants in Nordic countries is multifaceted and complex. While stringent immigration policies may deter unauthorized immigration and potentially reduce associated criminal activities, they can also inadvertently push immigrants into illegal channels, increasing the likelihood of engaging in criminal behavior to survive or evade detection. Additionally, loopholes or unintended consequences in these policies, such as gaps in border control or flaws in asylum processing systems, may create opportunities for criminal exploitation or victimization of immigrants. Moreover, disparities in the enforcement of immigration laws and access to legal protections may exacerbate vulnerabilities among immigrant communities, potentially leading to their marginalization and involvement in illicit activities. Therefore, a comprehensive examination of immigration policies and enforcement measures is necessary to understand their impact on crime among illegal immigrants fully, including identifying any unintended consequences or loopholes that contribute to criminal activities.

Q4. *How does the lack of legal status or access to basic services affect the integration of illegal immigrants into Nordic societies? To what extent does marginalization and social exclusion contribute to their involvement in criminal activities?*

R: The lack of legal status or access to basic services significantly impedes the integration of illegal immigrants into Nordic societies. Without legal status, individuals may face barriers to accessing essential services such as healthcare, education, and employment, which are vital for socio-economic integration. This marginalization and social exclusion can contribute to their involvement in criminal activities as they may turn to illicit means to meet their basic needs or to survive in the absence of legitimate opportunities. Moreover, being excluded from mainstream society can foster feelings of alienation and resentment, pushing some individuals towards criminal behavior as a means of gaining status or asserting control in their lives. Therefore, addressing the legal status and providing access to basic services are crucial steps in promoting the integration of illegal immigrants and reducing their vulnerability to involvement in criminal activities.

Q5. *How do media portrayals and public perceptions of illegal immigrants influence attitudes towards them and their perceived association with crime? To what extent do these perceptions align with empirical evidence, and how do they impact policy-making and social cohesion?*

R: Media portrayals and public perceptions of illegal immigrants can significantly influence attitudes towards them and their perceived association with crime. These portrayals often sensationalize stories involving illegal immigrants, emphasizing instances of crime and social disruption while downplaying positive contributions or individual circumstances. This perpetuates stereotypes and biases, leading to negative attitudes and stigmatization of immigrant communities. Empirical evidence often contradicts these perceptions, showing that immigrants, including undocumented ones, are generally law-abiding and contribute positively to the economy and society. However, negative perceptions can impact policy-making and social cohesion, leading politicians to advocate for stricter immigration policies, further marginalizing immigrant communities and hindering integration efforts. Addressing the gap between public perceptions and empirical evidence is crucial for fostering inclusive societies and developing effective policies. Educating the public about immigration realities, promoting accurate media representations, and fostering intercultural dialogue can counter negative stereotypes and promote understanding and tolerance.

12. Conclusion

In conclusion, the fusion of immigration discourse with crime rhetoric has historically served as a potent tool in political messaging, often employed to instill fear and shape public perception. The nexus between crime and illegal immigration in Nordic countries is intricate and multifaceted, necessitating caution against simplistic characterizations that brand migrants as inherently criminal. While refugees are individuals who have fled their homeland due to imminent risks of human rights violations and persecution, the term “migrant” lacks a universally accepted legal definition. At Amnesty International, like many other agencies and organizations, migrants are understood as individuals residing outside their country of origin who are neither asylum seekers nor refugees. An asylum seeker, on the other hand, is someone who has left their native land to seek protection from persecution and severe human rights abuses elsewhere, awaiting legal recognition as a refugee and a decision on their asylum application. Addressing the underlying causes of irregular migration and ensuring accessible legal pathways are crucial steps in mitigating associated challenges. Embracing evidence-based policies that prioritize human rights, foster social inclusion, and promote collaboration among stakeholders is imperative for cultivating safer and more cohesive communities. While anecdotal incidents are often wielded to construct emotive arguments against undocumented immigration, empirical data frequently contradicts these narratives. Numerous studies have debunked the fallacy that immigrants, including those without legal status, are more predisposed to criminal behavior than native-born citizens. Research consistently demonstrates lower crime rates among immigrants, even for violent offenses such as homicide, compared to their native counterparts. Furthermore, analyses of incarceration rates consistently indicate lower involvement in criminal activities among immigrants, particularly undocumented ones. Despite challenges in obtaining comprehensive data on crimes committed by undocumented immigrants, existing research suggests that fears of them driving crime rates are unsubstantiated. Instances of crime involving undocumented immigrants, such as identity theft, often stem from economic necessity rather than inherent criminal intent. Moreover, meticulous examination of state-level data, such as that from Texas, provides nuanced insights into the criminal engagement of undocumented immigrants, challenging simplistic narratives propagated by anti-immigrant advocates. Ultimately, the ongoing debates and conflicting interpretations surrounding immigration and crime statistics underscore the inherent complexities in this area of study. Limited data availability, coupled with differing methodologies

and ideological biases, contribute to the contentious nature of discussions on this topic. Therefore, while political rhetoric may exploit public fears and biases, a closer scrutiny of the evidence reveals a nuanced reality—one where immigrants, regardless of their legal status, contribute positively to society and are less inclined to engage in criminal behavior compared to their native-born counterparts.

13. Implications for Theory and Practice

This section delves into the ramifications of the study's findings for both theoretical frameworks and practical applications within the field. By examining how the research insights contribute to existing theories and their real-world applications, it elucidates the broader significance of the study.

a. Theoretical Implications

The findings of this study hold significant implications for theoretical frameworks in the field of Relation between Crime and illegal Immigration in the Nordic Countries and provides empirical evidence that challenges existing theoretical paradigms, shedding light on previously unexplored aspects and enhance criminological theories by examining how socio-economic factors, cultural dynamics, and legal frameworks influence criminal behavior among undocumented migrants. It can also enrich migration theories by revealing the motivations behind illegal immigration, challenges faced by undocumented migrants, and the impact of migration policies on criminal activities. Additionally, analyzing crime and illegal immigration can prompt revisions in social integration models, highlighting barriers faced by undocumented migrants in accessing legal employment, education, and social services.

b. Practical Implications

The practical implications of the study are equally noteworthy, as they offer valuable insights for policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders involved in research on the link between crime and illegal immigration can guide policy formulation, enabling targeted interventions to address the root causes of criminal behavior among undocumented migrants. Law enforcement agencies can use this information to tailor their strategies, including collaboration with immigration authorities, community engagement initiatives, and cultural competency training programs. Community outreach and support programs can help undocumented migrants with

legal documentation, language acquisition, job training, and healthcare access, reducing vulnerabilities that may lead to criminal involvement. Cross-border cooperation between Nordic countries and neighboring regions is crucial, focusing on information sharing, coordinated law enforcement operations, and addressing the underlying drivers of illegal migration and criminal activities.

c. Bridging Theory and Practice

By elucidating the connections between theory and practice, it highlights the relevance of academic research in addressing real-world challenges and informing evidence-based interventions. Through a comprehensive analysis of the study's implications, stakeholders can leverage theoretical frameworks to develop contextually appropriate strategies and interventions that are grounded in empirical evidence. By fostering collaboration between researchers and practitioners, this bridging of theory and practice facilitates the translation of research insights into tangible outcomes, thereby maximizing the study's impact on the broader field. In summary, investigating the shadow side of migration, particularly the intersection between crime and illegal immigration in the Nordic countries, has far-reaching implications for both theoretical understanding and practical interventions. By addressing the complex dynamics at play, policymakers and practitioners can work towards promoting safer, more inclusive communities for both migrants and host populations.

14. Recommendations

a) Policy and Law-related Issues:

Examine how terminology used in media discourse, such as „illegal immigrant,” influences public perceptions and social cohesion towards immigrants.

Analyze the impact of criminal laws targeting foreign nationals in Nordic countries, considering potential conflicts with international human rights commitments.

b) External Border Crossing:

Investigate the treatment of foreign nationals at Nordic external borders, focusing on instances of discrimination and respect for their dignity.

Explore factors influencing decisions to deny admission at border crossings and their implications for subsequent immigration processes.

c) Residence and Employment of Immigrants:

Evaluate the efficacy of administrative systems in preventing irregular residence status among foreign nationals in Nordic countries.

Assess the effects of delays in processing residence applications on immigrants' rights and well-being, particularly regarding employment and documentation access.

d) Asylum Procedure:

Assess Nordic countries' adherence to international commitments regarding asylum seekers' protection, with a focus on registration processes and basic needs access.

Investigate the challenges faced by rejected asylum seekers in returning home or obtaining alternative legal statuses in Nordic countries.

e) Detention Policies:

Examine the prevalence and conditions of migrant detention in Nordic countries, including judicial review and compliance with human rights standards.

Explore alternatives to detention, especially for vulnerable groups like migrant children and asylum seekers.

f) Social Welfare Rights:

Analyze disparities in social rights access based on nationality in Nordic countries and their alignment with human rights obligations.

Investigate factors affecting foreign nationals' access to social benefits, including policies on emergency health treatment and confidentiality.

By implementing these recommendations, policymakers and stakeholders in the Nordic countries can gain valuable insights into the complexities surrounding migration, crime, and immigration policies, thus facilitating evidence-based decision-making. Through thorough examination of terminology's impact, analysis of legal frameworks, and assessments of border practices, residence procedures, asylum processes, detention policies, and social welfare rights, these measures aim to promote social cohesion, uphold human rights commitments, and foster inclusion for all individuals, regardless of nationality or migration status. Moreover, by addressing trafficking concerns with proactive screening, victim-centered approaches, and enhanced cooperation between government and civil society actors, these recommendations aim to ensure the protection and well-being of vulnerable

populations, ultimately contributing to a more just and equitable society in the Nordic region.

15. Limitation

During the process of material collection, it was discovered that the academic sources on the selected topic are not currently sufficiently obtainable. However, non-scholarly publications as news and various media articles are prevailing in their quantity and are widely expressing different personal and interpersonal viewpoints. Accessing reliable data on illegal immigration and crime rates is challenging due to the clandestine nature of these activities and potential underreporting. Comparability of data across different Nordic countries with varying legal and institutional frameworks presents challenges for meaningful cross-country analyses. Navigating socio-economic factors influencing migration-related crime requires nuanced methodologies and interdisciplinary approaches. Addressing potential biases and limitations in law enforcement data is essential for ensuring the validity and reliability of research findings. Engaging with diverse stakeholders, including policymakers, law enforcement agencies, immigrant communities, and civil society organizations, is crucial for contextualizing research findings and promoting evidence-based policy interventions to effectively address migration-related crime. Academic sources on the selected topic are not sufficiently available, and non-scholarly publications, such as news and media articles, are prevalent. The current knowledge on the relationship between crime and immigration is limited, and comparative studies are almost non-existent.

16. Future Directions for Research

Future research on the relationship between crime and illegal immigration in Nordic countries could involve longitudinal studies, comparative analyses, intersectional approaches, qualitative research, policy evaluation, and community engagement. Longitudinal studies can track changes in crime rates and illegal immigration patterns over time, providing insights into the evolving dynamics of migration-related crime. Comparative analyses can offer broader insights into the factors driving migration-related crime, helping identify common trends, challenges, and best practices in addressing it. Intersectional approaches, considering race, ethnicity, gender, class, and immigration status, can deepen understanding of how social

inequality intersects to shape experiences of crime and victimization among immigrant populations. Qualitative research, such as in-depth interviews, focus groups, and ethnographic studies, can provide rich contextual insights into the lived experiences of immigrants involved in crime and their interactions with law enforcement and other institutions. Policy evaluation can inform evidence-based policy-making by assessing the effectiveness of different interventions. Community engagement can foster participatory research approaches that center the voices and perspectives of those most affected by migration-related crime, ensuring that researchers' work is relevant, responsive, and accountable to the needs and priorities of affected communities. Overall, future research on the shadow side of migration in the Nordic countries should adopt interdisciplinary, intersectional, and participatory approaches to generate robust evidence and inform inclusive policy responses that promote safety, justice, and social inclusion for all members of society.

17. Author's Biography

The author Junaid Sattar Butt, is a highly skilled legal professional with a diverse educational background. He obtained a Master of Laws degree from the University of Lahore, Pakistan, following a Bachelor's degree in Law with a specialization in Comparative Laws, International Laws, Criminal Procedural Laws, Constitutional Laws, and Administrative Laws, both of which were completed in 2 and 3 years respectively. Additionally, he holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Virtual University of Pakistan and a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of the Punjab, Pakistan. With this extensive educational background, Mr. Butt adopts a multidisciplinary approach to his research and legal practice. His research interests primarily focus on International Laws, Criminal Procedural Laws, Administrative Laws, Environmental Laws, Constitutional, and Comparative Laws. He is committed to exploring and analyzing the complexities of these legal domains, contributing to legal scholarship, and advocating for justice and fairness. Professionally, Mr. Butt serves as an Advocate High Court, where he actively practices in the administration of justice and ensures the proper implementation of legal procedures. Additionally, he holds the position of Law Officer at Malik Law Associates, providing legal advice and expertise to clients while advocating for their rights and interests. With his wealth of knowledge and experience, Junaid Sattar Butt, is dedicated to making a positive impact in the legal field. He continues to engage in research, legal practice, and professional

collaborations, striving to contribute to the advancement of legal knowledge and the effective implementation of legal principles.

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