

# Humans of Europe Europe for Humans



**DAAD**

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## Foreword

Humans of Europe – Europe for Humans was a UK-wide campaign launched by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in 2017 and 2018. When this project was conceived, the aim was to highlight some of the thoughts and feelings of everyday citizens on Europe. But how could these thoughts be conveyed in an intuitive and powerful way?

We decided to take to the streets and have an open discourse with people from all over the UK - mostly from Brighton, Bristol, Glasgow and London - from all walks of life and share the results through social media. By combining portrait photography and conversation extracts, the public were invited to share in the personal narratives of those people on any aspect of Europe. Combining these media allowed us to establish a connection with people we might usually never have crossed paths with and gain impressions of our commonalities, as well as disparities of thought with regards to Europe. At the same time, collecting the views of so many people - spanning two years during a time of political turmoil in the face of Brexit - has allowed us to explore the very essence of what Europe represents for most of the people we asked: Togetherness, multiculturalism, freedom to travel, shared values and personal memories. While the EU as an institution also gained some criticism, 'Europeanness' for most appeared to transcend the notion of politics, legislation and bureaucracy. It was in fact a sense of belonging to something bigger than ourselves and what we can find within the confines of our own geography. Over the course of the campaign, we engaged thousands of online users, who liked and commented on photos and offered often thoughtful commentary – we even received several contributions by people from other parts of the UK who wanted to feature in the campaign themselves. The photos featured in this booklet represent a large proportion of the contributions collected. We believe that reading these will leave you with a good impression of the plethora of voices we were able to capture and in the future they will represent an intriguing snapshot of an undoubtedly important time for Britain and Europe.

Dr Georg Krawietz, Director DAAD London

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*Facebook posts 2017*



'I was born and raised in Greece so all I ever knew was the European Union. I think the difference between Greece and Britain is that we were taught a lot about the European Union at school. Its history...You know the benefits and why it was set up in the first place. So you know, I only see the benefits so in that respect yes I consider myself a citizen of Europe. I don't have a memory of what European countries were before so I'm not nostalgic of a different world which I think is the case with many of the older voters that voted for Brexit.

My organisation is very diverse and half of my colleagues are from somewhere else and I think that's absolutely beautiful. They can bring the lives, stories and experiences. It makes it richer and that's nothing to be afraid of. At the end of the day it's about exposure isn't it. If you're exposed to different cultures, the beliefs, then you stop being afraid of them. And I think that Europe brought this.

It's the understanding and trying to bring the consensus to the greater good, peace and freedom.'



'The referendum was last year and it was very frustrating for all of us because we felt so strongly about this thing, but we couldn't vote.

I would have voted remain if I could. It was very frustrating, because we had so much to say and because we were just a few months younger that what we had to be - but that meant we didn't have a voice.'

'For me the most frightening prospect of Brexit is the breaking down of the peace and the stability we've seen in Europe over the last 60 years.

My parents have spent a lot of time talking to me about their memories of the war and the horrors of the First and Second World War. A lot of my family were killed in the war and I think that it's incredibly important that as we face up to the unknowns of Brexit.

We really need to try and do everything we can to embrace peace, understanding, solidarity with different cultures and different people across Europe and ensure that we never ever get to the point that where unnecessary bloodshed is flaring up again.'





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'I moved to London close to 20 years ago now and as an Aussie one of the things that I have loved is that we are on the doorstep to some of the most wonderful countries in Europe.

Along the way I have made some great life-long friends who have introduced me to their culture and way of life.

They have shown me that no matter what country you are from we all have a common ground and are connected.'



'The sport of Kayaking and other outdoor sports has opened up Europe in a whole new way to me and let's me view it in a different light.

Europe to many people is so many different things ranging from the beautiful architecture to the amazing cuisine, but for me it's the ability to paddle the rivers, surf on the coast of Portugal or snowboard in the Alps.

Through these amazing sports Europe has been unlocked to me in an extraordinary way and one which still enables me to enjoy the beauties of Europe.'





'Living in Europe means the freedom to travel, privilege, safety and more opportunities.'

I know this is not the case for everyone, but it is for a big proportion of people.'

'I love Europe but right now I feel like I don't know about the fate of our country with Brexit.'

There are pro's and cons but It could go either way. It is just imponderable.'



'I have so many memories that I can hold close to for myself from when I was a kid, especially when I was with my family.

I'm half French and half Moroccan so I have double nationalities so I feel Moroccan and feel French as well.

For us as being Europeans we need to do more things, more good things and cooperate with each other.

One hand doesn't clap so we need to be all together to make good things and look after each other.'





'I think being able to travel through Europe has been the most important thing about being European. I think that being a tourist is something I try to avoid if I go to another country. I like to have someone there who can point me in the right direction and not be a tourist because I think there is a certain annoyance about tourism and when it hits big countries or even smaller cities and overcrowds them it can become a problem. It's the balance.'

'I lived in Istanbul for two years and I moved there partly because I wanted to find out why people came here.

I couldn't understand why so many people were coming to London and why it was a big draw. I moved to Turkey and I lived there, I had all Turkish friends, I can speak Turkish and I left because I lost my freedom. It was about three years ago and having a lot of trouble with riots and stuff and they upped the police and army presence in public. There was a complete sense of oppression from that kind of environment and my friends can suppress it which is something they've had to build up in them. Whereas I thought I don't need to be here and I don't need to suppress and be oppressed. So I came back and really recognised the freedoms we get here and I think that its changed my idea on why people come here and why it's such a great place to be. That's why it should stay a part of Europe - because everyone should be allowed freedom.'



'I came to the UK from India when I was little but it's the memory of its food that has made me the chef I am today.

The lines have blurred between the cuisine of different countries; Britain is so multicultural and our food takes its inspiration from all over the globe... and mine is the same, using great British ingredients and flavours combined with Indian spices and cooking techniques to make something new.'



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'I guess I always took the EU and its role in Europe for granted. Originally from Germany and having lived in France before moving to the UK, I never realised my privilege of being able to move freely within these European countries. When the referendum happened, I was initially shocked and all of a sudden felt less welcome in the country I have been calling home for the last 4 years, where I have made amazing friends and lived with my boyfriend, who is British.

I love living here but I've never seen myself settle down forever, there are so many other countries I'd like to explore with him. Then I started thinking about what it meant for him and my other British friends – with borders potentially closing, I may be losing easy access to one country, but they are losing almost an entire continent where they can move around as they like. To me, Europe means bringing people across borders closer together, making them feel connected and being able to exchange cultures while not having to be defined by only one country. It means being a community. I think Brexit was a wakeup call for many and will hopefully lead to politicians and people refocusing on what really matters.'

'As a person living in France, who has chosen to live in France, I do feel extremely European and I am very proud of it. I don't feel Ukrainian or any affinity to my mother country. A country where my grandparents actually came from I feel no affinity towards at all. But France I just love and I love being there. I love the people. I love the culture. I love certainly where we live, in a small village, the attitude to life.'



'I am dismayed at Brexit and the narrow mindedness of people. How it is going to affect us on a daily basis... The exchange rate between the pound and the euro has really affected us so far. We rely on Keith's pension, which is a fixed income, so we are now going on about €400 each month less than we were getting because of the exchange rate. How will Brexit affect us in the long run? To be honest I don't think it really will affect us in our day to day life. I think it will affect people living in Britain a lot more than it is going to affect me living in France.'



'I grew up in Pakistan and I only moved to the UK, (London first and now Glasgow), about twelve years ago. So being 'European' never really crossed my mind when I accepted citizenship here.

I am a dual citizen - but as of recently, I have really started to think about being a European citizen too. In the wake of such divide in the world, I think of myself a world citizen now, but I feel one needs to be proud of the region they call home, even if an adopted one - so, living in this part of the world, but with different heritage, I am proud to consider myself Pakistani, British and European.

Being proud of a region that you live and work in, is a fulfilling experience, especially when it's been welcoming to you.'

Photo credit: Jo Woodhouse





'I travel round every major city in Europe painting graffiti and I have built up a network since the 80's, pre internet friends and associates who are artists and we now have one of the biggest art movements in the world now.  
So to me Europe is just a collection of good artists and friends.'



'I am half Polish and I have been there every summer all my life. It is an amazing place, having two homes and getting to see so many different places on my way to Poland and speaking two languages all things that make it amazing to be from two countries.'

'My best friend got married this summer in Italy, him and his partner have been together for 15 years and I remember as soon as I saw him walk out I just cried and the ceremony. The ceremony was in Italian and even though I couldn't understand it you could really feel the emotion.'



'At the moment I am a little bit angry because the government doesn't give me any benefits.

I am living on my friends sofa who also has a little girl, so I just really want some support to get my own place.

I have paid taxes all my life and this is the second time I have asked for them but I still don't get them. On the other hand, I think the NHS is brilliant, they really take care of people.

In terms of Europe, I just love the freedom of movement and the way the universities trade information.  
By the way, I source and sell gemstones and minerals.'





'I went on holiday on my own last year and I am going again next week. I like it because I get to develop a relationship with myself. I like food and weird exhibits so I don't want to sacrifice that because some guy doesn't want to eat a certain food or someone doesn't want to go to a coffin museum, for example.

If I go on my own I don't have to do any of that, I can just do things like sketching people or meeting strangers at place like board game cafes in Belgium. It's just really nice to have some quiet time sometimes.'





'Three years ago, I had just moved to France to work as an au pair and whilst I was volunteering at a church, a couple invited me over for dinner. I really hate cheese and when they brought out the cheese plate I knew I couldn't say no. So, they gave me a massive slice and what I did was put cheese on the bread and as I was it putting close to my mouth I watched them and just tipped the cheese into the napkin I had on my lap. Then when dinner finished, I wrapped it up and put it in my bag and went home. I guess that just shows how far I would go to be really British and avoid the chance of being rude.'



'I do feel European in the sense that I'm coming from Eastern Europe and now I'm in the Western side.

I don't feel that I'm Polish, Ukrainian or German which proves the point about being European. I love the fact that we live in a continent that can travel freely and experience different, yet similar cultures.

For me being European is that very thing, being able to travel and have an open mind. It's really about being a human being and connecting on that level.

What's European?

We are all in the same pod.

The biggest value for me is having the respect, regardless if they're European or not, and appreciating each other.'

'It's a communal sense of 'being', rather than a little island out in the middle of nowhere. It's a case of Europe being a conglomerate of countries in which we trade and all other things we benefit from.

Different cultures feed into our own on a regular basis. So, it's a bit selfish to say 'We're the best. We're English', because obviously this country has been influenced by every single country in the world forever so there is no such thing to be British and not be European.

We are who we are because of Europe and the neighbouring countries.'





'I lived in the Alps and in Portugal. The most amazing thing is when the sun sets and all of the colours fall on the glacier. Looking out of my front door you could see all of the colours and then the night stars against the mountain.

It's insane when the snowflakes fall as they're huge – they look like tennis balls. Being a human of Europe I can do that. I can go to the mountains and the beaches and create these memories of nature and I love having that in my soul.'





'We're surrounded by Europeans, the town is filled with tourists, so we meet all types of cultures. I like to travel to meet them and they come here so it's good.

I think you either feel European or you don't, whether you're in the European market or not.

I don't think that makes a lot of difference.'



'Europe is where I have found my lifetime friendships and passions in life.

It's a place where dreams can become a reality.

As Stella Stuart said, 'before me is endless possibility, around me is boundless opportunity' and that's what Europe means to me.'

'A bureaucratic organisation which no one has any control over. When we joined the EU we thought it would be great because of the common market. People now say that the old people voted Brexit and that is because the things have changed. The European court has jurisdiction over our court which I think is wrong. Our judges should make their decision. My main concern was the budget has never been signed off, every year they never sign off and there must be an awful lot of corruption in there.'



'Europe means just a wide, wide wealth of people. I remember one day I was drinking coffee in Faliro in Athens in the late 60s.

A woman sitting near us had a big glass of orange juice. All of a sudden this chap ran up, grabbed the juice, drank it down, then ran off!

We were gobsmacked! It was very funny.'





'I do feel very English in terms of our 'old fashioned' values of manners, community and looking after our neighbours...and queuing! But I've been brought up as a European and am so horrified that our country has chosen to leave. We are all human beings, we should be able to enjoy the richness and cultures of each other's countries. My daughter, who loved her Erasmus year abroad with her French degree is devastated that those following her on the course might be denied that chance. I love the fact that we are already a melting pot of ancestry and I have both Viking and Romany blood...plus more. I just want people to be decent and behave well towards each other, whoever they are or wherever they're from.



'I am proud to be English but I like Europeans. I think it's a lot better for the countries to remain as they are. I like Italy. I wouldn't want Italy to be a bit like France or Belgium. I go to Italy because I want to see Italy.

I love England because of its history and identity the same way I love Italy. In politics, it seems like it wants everyone to be the same I just can't see the reason in it. I have always had lovely relationships with European people. I consider them to be different in the same way as I consider British politicians to be different.

When people work and trade together it's a lot better. Politics leads to wars and I can't see the gain in that.'



'Europe to me, means community, multiculturalism and getting together to embrace different cultures.'



'Europe to me is a place that holds many special holiday memories of good food and memories of immersing myself in different cultures.'

'Europe means diversity to me. However, I don't feel anything for the European Union. I feel like it's a bureaucratic system that takes too long to get anything done. I think the agendas they discuss are mainly focused on business relations and don't concentrate enough on real social issues like job scarcity and health care.'





'My husband and I have a little shack in Spain so we travel down through France and Spain in our camper van with our little dogs and I just love it.

I love the culture and I love the people of Europe and I would definitely consider myself European.'



'As a farmer I consider myself a farmer of Europe, and I have a lot in common with the French and Dutch farmers.

I farm goats and there tends to be more goat farms in the continent but they have much more political clout than we have.

In the UK we are a very small part of the population, so governments of any colour don't really listen to us.

I'm slightly sad that we're leaving the EU because I feel that the continental farmers are much more important politically in Europe than they are in the UK.'



'To me Europe means unity.

It means we are stronger if we are in Europe, if we have a community of all the countries together.

It is all about learning languages and different things from each other and sharing it all.'





'Europe feels really comforting. You can kind of go anywhere within the EU and you will always find people to get on with.'

Everybody is very welcoming and it is just filled with a lot like minded people and that's why Europe is a comfort for me.'

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*Facebook posts 2018*



'Buying materials for making my shoes, I get a good majority from Europe because the English manufacturers don't exist. The whole concept of the Brexit argument at the moment seems to be nothing more than restrict possibilities. The more barriers, the more problems. The more connections in life gives you the more opportunities.'

'I think it's better to belong to something than not. We used to bring antiques in years ago and there were borders and it was awfully difficult. In this antiques community, we talk as if we're one. We're a global community and I hate the barrier this is causing.'





'We're a part of a bigger whole and I think that half of the problem is that people have put up these divides between countries. Europe has always been a cultural melting point where people have migrated historically across Europe in and out of England and it's nice to feel we're a part of something.'



'I am European.  
My grandparents came here as refugees  
after the war and we're settled and happy.'

'I am a European in every fibre in my being. It's interesting to have a European community within my trade, mainly because one of our biggest wholesalers is in Germany and we have customers all around the world. I love being European and it feels like something good has been stolen.'



'I've never felt an allegiance to a country – I just feel that we're all humans of the planet.'







'To me Europe means unity. It means we are stronger if we are in Europe, if we have a community of all the countries together. It is all about learning languages and different things from each other and sharing it all.'



'I've travelled a lot and love the regionality of food and the identity it gives each country. I've grown up as British food has grown up; we fill each other's gaps, borrow each other's ideas.

We're inspired by our neighbours' traditions and they're inspired by our innovations. It breaks my heart to think that now our food is as good as theirs, we're leaving.

No-one knows what British food culture will look like after Brexit. And that worries me.'



'Europe to me fundamentally is a growing, living 'family'. Coming from a Spanish background, where my grandparents moved to England in the early 60's for the chance of a better life. The chance that they were given by living in Europe greatly improved their lifestyle and ultimately created a family here.

In the future I would like to see the same carry on for other families as it did mine. I hope that the Brexit negotiations do not affect this 'dream' as much as is being reported.

I do believe that this dual-nationality has shaped who I am today. And being from two European countries has given me a rich cultural background which I have used to my advantage in vocational and social aspects of my life. This is the Europe I know and I hope this 'family' can continue to grow in the future.'

'I feel that being connected to Europe is really important. It might be because of my age, I feel that the reason Europe is so connected is because of the war and how terrible that was.

This allows us to feel protected for the future and we can now support one another.

No one is that different because we're all connected through being European.'



'I'm proud to be European.

I think you can gain a lot by being in numbers. Not knowing what's going to happen on the other side we might benefit us in other ways.

Closing the door on the collaboration of trade deals will hopefully open the door for others.'







'Europe for me means freedom, traveling between Portugal, the country where I grew up, have very good memories and my family and then the UK, the country that has seen me grow and where I have the family that I choose, my friends.

If this didn't exist i wouldn't be able to fly.'

'I lived in New York for 20 years  
but I still feel European in myself.

I travel a lot around Europe  
and the fact that I was born her  
makes me feel a part of it all.'





'I was born in Cyprus and that makes me half Cypriot and half English so being European is a nice meeting of the two. When we left the EU it made me feel a bit less similar to both parts of my identity.'

'My mother was Dutch so I consider myself to be European. I'm an independent trader where I make my own decisions and I love helping people. I think in every community there are good and bad aspects to it and it's about finding out what the good ones are.'



'To me Europe means culture, family and most of all food. Trying different types of cuisine and wine is a real attraction.'



'Europe to me means unity, freedom to go and do as you please, to explore amazingness close to home and to make memories in with all the people I love.'



'There is a lot of kitchen talk, no one will say it outright to your face but I have had various situations where racism has come up, even with my little sister. But if you have enough knowledge about history and your kind of background then you are alright, it's just a handful of people that are close minded into traditional and old ways that they won't ever stray from that. I think now it's a matter of people talking, shedding light onto the different cultures of our world.'





'I think it means freedom of thought, it means being able to express yourself without being limited to culture, race, ethnicity or gender and I think it gives you many opportunities that you wouldn't get elsewhere.'



'As a student studying French, exchanging ideas from different cultures is extremely important to me. It is the ability really to communicate between countries and not be closed off to others and other ideas.'

'I see Europe as a cluster of fascinating countries that we are free to explore, right on our door step.

Europe allows people from different cultures to work, travel and socialise together, being a key enabler for diversity across the continent.

Throughout my working career I have been fortunate enough to work alongside people from several countries giving me an insight into their language, upbringing and way of life.'



'I don't think of myself as European but at the same time

I don't think that I'm not.

I imagine that there are a lot of people who feel like that.

Working with other creatives, that's not a consideration.

It's lead by a creative process as opposed to financial.'





'I love being a part of an incredible mishmash of cultures which I'm scared of losing if Brexit happens. It's an inspiring community full of great people.'

'My entire family are Italian so in a sense I am European. In myself I feel very British and am incredibly proud of the institutions that are a part of the state here, such as the NHS being a free health service.'





“For me, being European means being part of something. My mother is Greek and I used to live in South Africa, so us coming here has been an exploration of the culture.

I’ve found more similarities in myself since being here. It’s a weird sense of identity where I feel like I don’t belong to only one culture.

England is quite good for that because there is such a lovely mixture where everyone shares each other’s cultures and you don’t have to be one or the other.”



'For me, being European means culture, excitement, vibrancy, food, fashion and broadening your horizons all of which make a wonderful place to be in.

We are an island, let's be an island, but let's be fantastically European. I love us being the multicultural melting pot.

If it wasn't for the Europeans, we wouldn't have the culture we have today.'





'I often look at pieces of jewellery and wonder about the stories behind them. I have a lot of pieces that have been passed down in my family and I feel a sense of identity from them.

I don't think anyone is purely from one country and I feel that's the way with these pieces.

You feel more connected by being part of something and it's nice to feel that I'm part of a bigger group.'

'The European art culture is amazing. I love how our shared passion of art can bring a sense of togetherness and community to people.'



'To me being European is about multiculturalism and embracing people from orbs of life and definitely not leaving them.'



'I'm Hungarian and have lived here for 14 years - it's my home. Brexit makes me feel like I'm not welcomed here but I empower myself by living my life and I keep enjoying it.'



'In my identity, I feel that being labelled as 'English' is a bit more neutral for me. I find inspiration in my art from Europe and love sharing it with people.'

'Here in Brighton it's a very welcoming community feel and that we're all on an even playfield.'



'I think that all the countries in Europe belong to each other, I think we are all quite separate from each other in our national identities but we should for that very reason come together because we are better off doing that with our differences. I think the EU is a very important institution, a very well evolved institution and we can always change it. There is no question about losing our sovereignty because we are obliged to play our part and we are not going to be swamped. I think we should stay in Europe and I think Europe is a splendid place,

I have very nice associations with it.'







'I think Europe is a place to travel and meet people from different cultures.

I am from Australia and I am staying in hostels here in the UK because it is close to Europe and makes it easy to travel there but is also a place of some familiarity for me.'

'I have always enjoyed being in Europe. Although I am English, frankly I have always preferred Europe than staying in England and have felt more at home there.

For the past few years, I spend most my time abroad, 4 months in France and 6 months in India. I find life much more comfortable abroad and generally people are very friendly and I really love my village life in France.

I particularly love being by the sea and that's why I have chosen to buy a small apartment in the south of France, just to be near the sea.'





'All my memories are from Europe. I was born and raised in Europe – Europe, in a way, gave me everything, and everything I know.'





'Our family goes back a long way. My great grandfather was from Holland, where he dug canals, so I feel that there are lots of parts of Europe which belong to me.'





'I consider myself as a European, having Mediterranean roots with Cypriot parents and living in the UK, also being born here in London. When I think of Europe, I think of all the different European people - and there are so many different people living here in London - who are so friendly. It may be the European bureaucracy that people dislike however, the Brits especially. All the "red tape" from the European parliament.'

'I consider myself as a European. But sadly I think Britain's position in Europe is argumentative and deeply divided.

When I think of Europe I think of the personal experiences, like culture, food, people and landscapes, rather than trade or politics.'





'I do not see Europe as anything political at all. I didn't even vote in the referendum, because I automatically thought that we would all be together.

I love Europe, I see so many different people here, so many different nationalities, I hear different languages all day long and this is special for me.'

'I don't know what being European really means.

My family aren't European but I still identify with it because it's home.

There are so many cultures and people from all walks of life here and it's nice to be part of a community which is so multicultural.'







'If someone asked me five years ago 'what do you like about being British?'

I would say it's our tolerance and our willingness to have people come over and adapt to us the way that we adapt to them.

I feel that will be lost as we step further away from Europe.'





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'Europe is very important to me. I think we should all be in it together and I mean, I cried the morning after Brexit as did my three sons.

Now, every time I have been abroad I find myself apologising for it. You just feel like you want to say it's not me and I am sorry. It's incredibly tragic.'

'Yes I feel European, just because I think part of being European is having wider values and it's about being part of something bigger. Britain's position within Europe is pretty sad. It's going towards difficult directions. Obviously, Britain is quite fragmented at the moment, which is a rather depressing situation and there are groups with different views all across the country.

Personally, the best moments in my life I have experienced when living abroad. I kind of associate these happy memories more with Europe actually, time spent in various parts of Europe.'





'Brexit is such a shame.

We should be able to travel where we want and it is so sad to think of all the youngsters missing out on that freedom and all the amazing festivals that happen in Europe. It is sad that we don't belong anymore.'

'I actually don't like labels - I am from the Italian part of Switzerland and live in the UK right now. So then, I ask, what is the meaning of being European? You know where you are from when you leave your home country. That's when you realise where you are from, in a way.

Like, I discovered Switzerland when I left Switzerland. For some things, I feel Italian, for some, I feel Swiss. It can be quite tricky. And now, I feel British! But then on the other hand, having an American boyfriend, I realise how European I actually am. For example,

I never considered how different people can be based on the food they eat.

So yes, I am European - I realised that when I kind of "left" it or had contact from people outside Europe. The culture, the food you eat, all those things, they in the end decide who you are and where you are from.'







'I find that your passions and hobbies are a way to be identified and express yourself to the rest of the world. Wherever I go I find a community.

I'll always be passionate about being connected to the EU but I feel independent in myself as opposed to being identified as something other than that.'



'I live in Bristol, was born in Newcastle but grew up in Newbury. My Mum is from London and Dad from Dublin, I have an Irish passport and lived in Spain between the age of 1 and 6.

I have never felt particularly linked or at home in just one country or place. In a recent survey I took part in following the Brexit announcement I was asked what I identified myself most strongly as, British, English or European. I chose European and to me Europe feels like home. So many places feel familiar to me, and they just happen to be spread out. I also have family and friends spread across multiple European countries; to me Europe is about those people, places & culture. The way that they all come together in a very personal way to form the person I am, my memories & lifestyle.'





'Working here in the record shop, we get a lot people from Germany and the Netherlands who appear to have a huge community but not necessarily the supply, so it's really nice to be able to share that interest.'

'For me, my identity is a combination of cultures as my dad is English and my mum is Indonesian. I love creating art as form of expressing my identity and try to use both elements of cultures that isn't known worldwide.'



'We sell and distribute circus equipment all across the world.

I feel that being European is about togetherness and meeting people from a variety of backgrounds and this interest enables that very thing.

I love going to the European juggling convention which is always held in a different country. With every visit you always pick up something new from a different culture and it's incredible to see such a mixture of talent all in one place.'





'Europe means an awful lot to me. It means another very important part of the world. It is where so many inventions came from and where the most famous people used their gifts to rebuild what man had destroyed during the World War.'



'I lived in America for 10 years and when I came back over here everything was just such a culture shock. I mean in all the cities I have lived in, like in Bristol, everyone is really accepting.

Whereas where I lived in Georgia people were quite homophobic, close minded and very religious. Whereas here people are able to express who they are.

In Bristol there are so many different cultures, people from different backgrounds and different classes and everyone comes together and goes to parties and hangs out in the sun and if you walk around the city you can make friends with people instantly.'







'Europe for me means safety, security, progress – but also kind and friendly people.

My Erasmus stay in France, vacations across Europe, my voluntary social year in Scotland – I have loads of happy memories of Europe. Britain is a part of Europe, even if some people don't see that.'

'I consider myself as European. I believe in the whole EU system, so I don't think we should have done Brexit.

When I think of Europe I think of lots of beautiful countries. Britain's position with Europe is obviously a bit difficult now as we are leaving the EU.

This is especially going to be difficult for the younger generation, for me as an 18 year old. I had a special card which I often used when I was travelling, securing health insurance all over Europe. Say, if I'd break by leg, I'd get free health care there. But see, I can't do that anymore soon. And travel insurance is expensive...

The best experience I have had in Europe is meeting various cultures from other countries, and I don't think Britain, especially with Brexit now, embraces this possibility enough.'





'I was elected as the youngest ever councillor in Aberdeenshire last year and my involvement in front line politics was accelerated by the Brexit vote. I'm an SNP politician but my nationality is layered.

My family have emigrated, and lived, in an array of countries and so in terms of my own nationality, European is at the forefront. Increasingly the world is becoming smaller and we need more common associations, more cultural exchange, and a greater plurality of ideas.'



'I live in Europe but I still consider myself as Afro-Caribbean. When I think of Europe I think of being overall wealthy countries, but I'd say that Britain's position in Europe is still unsure.'





'I think Europe is basically just about connecting. All the countries joined together, unity, it's basically just a bit of land.

These borders that we have don't really mean anything. You know - let's get rid of them, we are all ordinary people - why can't we all just get along and have a lovely time? I think the political situation is f\*\*\*ed up.

Why do we think we are that powerful that we can just leave this union? Why would we leave ourselves from everyone else, who do we think we are! I think

I might have to go to Europe, there is now more of a calling for me there.'





'Europe is about  
togetherness, working  
together for the benefit of  
the world.

I am not a Brexiteer, we  
do not want to be an  
island in Europe.

I believe we need our  
neighbours and our  
neighbours need us.'



'For me being European means community, inclusion and free travel of movement.'

'Being European for me is about diversity, forward thinking and inclusivity.'





'I love living in the UK and having so many cultures on your doorstep. Bristol is home to so many people from all over Europe each of whom bring different ideas, thoughts and experiences to the community.'



'Being European to me is about freedom and inclusion. At the moment you don't have to think about where you want to go in the continent. I suppose that this is going to change considerably in the next two years which is a shame because outlooks will change and people will become a lot more insular.'

