



We come from different backgrounds and different neighbourhoods.
We lead different lives.
Some of us were born here. Some are immigrants and refugees.
Some of us have no roots. Others are responsible for our own families.
Some of us work. Others don't. Some of us are students.
Others have not had access to decent education or training.

What unites us is our refusal to stand by and allow the poverty and exclusion we see all around us to continue.

WE ARE THE NEXT GENERATION AND WE DEMAND A FAIRER FUTURE.

We live in a world where money is more important than people.
This world excludes some of us and breaks others.
It leaves us feeling disgusted and angry.

"The hardest thing is knowing that you count for nothing, that your life has no value for anyone. That's the hardest thing."

IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO UNDERSTAND THIS WORLD, BUT WE WANT TO FIND OUR PLACE IN IT.

In order to find our place in society, we need structures, people and places that help us grow. **SCHOOL** should be one of those places. Schools that accentuate the differences between us are unacceptable. A school system that fails those pupil most in need of help is unacceptable.

*"In school, those of us who are not able to adapt to their surroundings are all too often excluded. The schools should try to understand disruptive pupils instead of just viewing them with contempt."
"If you have some kind of trouble going on in your life, you don't learn well. You can't concentrate properly"*

We want a school system that takes into account the reality of our day to day lives.
We want schools that open up our potential to the world.
We all have to work together to make this a reality.

IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO UNDERSTAND THIS WORLD, BUT WE WANT TO FIND OUR PLACE IN IT.

"They always ask for experience, so when you have no qualifications, or if you have never worked, you have no chance."

We are often signed up to **TRAINING COURSES** that don't suit us and hold us back.
Sometimes, our lives throw up obstacles that stop us from completing the training courses that would help us enter into employment.

"There were no more spaces on the training course I wanted to do, so they just stuck me on a course in retail. I hadn't asked to be sent on it, so I loafed around."

"When you don't have a fixed address, you can't find work and without a job, you can't find accommodation."



How can young people hope to find **DECENT JOBS** after leaving school if there isn't a proper system in place to help them?

How can young people hope to find decent jobs if there is no specialised training available?

We want to be recognised and integrated into in the world of work.

IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO UNDERSTAND THIS WORLD, BUT WE WANT TO FIND OUR PLACE IN IT.

Some of us have almost unbearable lives. Others have it easier.

Despite these differences, we will not accept any form of **DISCRIMINATION**.

If being part of a certain community or living in a particular area means that we are isolated by society, then society needs to change.

"A lot of my mates don't want to vote anymore. Even though I still vote – because it's my duty as a citizen – I don't really believe in it."

"You end up with a real hatred of the people who are constantly on your back. It could be different."

IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO UNDERSTAND THIS WORLD, BUT WE WANT TO FIND OUR PLACE IN IT.

We cannot allow **INJUSTICE** and **POVERTY** to shape our lives.

We are not feckless, work-shy, delinquent or antisocial.

Day to day, we struggle against inequality through many small acts of resistance and solidarity. Our lives bear witness to this fight.

"When my friends needed to eat and they couldn't afford food, I helped them out."

"I want to be a social worker. I want to work with kids who went through the same things as me, with those who had a tough life. I'll know what they are going through, I've been there."

"One young person in my neighbourhood started picking up litter from the green spaces around the estate. Others saw him and joined in. Now they do it on a regular basis."

WE ARE LOOKING FOR OUR PLACE IN THIS WORLD.

We know that, if we want things to be different, we must reach out to others.

We may come from different backgrounds,

but we want to be able to live amicably alongside one another in our towns and neighbourhoods.

We can only achieve real change by letting go of our own prejudices and fears.

This message was produced by a series of meetings where each person was listened to and each point of view was respected. We seized the opportunity to talk and work together.

Now we want to share our ideas with everyone else.

**We are of all ages and from all across Europe. We dream of a fairer world.
We must come together to make it possible.**

17TH OCTOBER 2010



I support this Message from European Young People and supply my contact details. I want to be part of the growing social movement who support the Appeal to Strive Together to End Poverty and who believe that, "Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty, human rights are violated. To come together to ensure that these rights be respected is our solemn duty." (Joseph Wresinski)

I would like to be kept up to date on this Message from European young people.

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