

Despo

My name's Despo, I'm 20 years old. I was born in London and what I brought with me was my Walkman and a poster of my parents village, showing the church and the mountains.

I brought my Walkman with me because it's like an escape from reality, kind of thing listening to music, mainly Greek music. And the picture I brought with me is because it's where I'm from and I've never visited it and it's who we are at the end of the day and you can't forget it. That's all we've got left really, it's just pictures. Don't even have memories because we've never been to the place.

My parents village was invaded and so I've never actually visited the place at all and all I've got is photos and what my Mum and Dad and relatives have to say. So we just go by what the pictures say. You can't even call it a memory because it's just a picture at the end of the day. You can't even comment on it because you've never been there. It's just a piece of paper that you just show someone to say you know this is where I'm from. I've known about my parents village all my life and I don't think I could tell you that I didn't ever know about it. Here we are even if we've never been there, you can't forget it.

I don't know, a lot of people say what do you see yourself as but it's difficult to say. I mean I've never lived in Cyprus or anything. I've been brought up in Britain, so I guess sometimes I class myself as British and then other times I say no I'm not, I'm actually Cypriot. I mean because over here I'm called a foreigner because I'm Cypriot and when I go to Cyprus I'm a foreigner because I'm British. So what am I suppose to class myself as?

Because I go to Uni it's a very mixed environment we all have different backgrounds so we're pretty easy going with where everyone comes from. They're so different from us in Cyprus, they've got different habits kind of thing. We queue up over here but there they don't know what order is. I know that sounds harsh but it's true, we've got some kind of sense of order here which they don't. I don't know, maybe I'm being a bit hard on them. They tend to make fun of you because you were born in England. We get called 'B.B.C.' and 'Charlies' which is really horrible as it's not our fault we were born in England at the end of the day.

I don't actually look like a Cypriot girl so it's quite fun to surprise people with because I don't act like a Cypriot girl. We were on the bus once and me and my sister were sitting at the front and my Mum was sitting behind us and two guys from Greece got on. I had a brown coat on and my sister had a white coat on and they were talking in Greek. They were saying "I like the one in the brown coat" and the other one was saying "I like the one in the white coat". They didn't realise that we were Greek and that my Mum was sitting behind us so my Mum turned around and said "well you're not having either of them!". And they went "Oh my God they've got their keeper with them"! It was so funny and their faces; it was like some comic, something on the TV, it was just so funny.