

Maria

I am 19 and I was born over here. What object did I have, oh yeah I had a cross and my eighteenth key. The reason why I had this was because my cross represents my religion and that I'm a Christian. Eighteenth key because I was eighteen at the time and it was something I got for my eighteenth birthday so I thought I may as well make the most of it and wear it because you're only eighteen once and also because it was from my parents.

I see myself as both Greek and English it really depends where I am. If I with my Greek friends then I feel Greek and if I'm with my non Greek friends then I feel English but sometimes Greek, it really depends on the circumstance.

I don't like anything about the English culture actually. There's nothing special about it. The Greek culture, everything. The way we celebrate Easter, Weddings, festivals. I don't think other cultures, well I don't know, have so many festivals and even though here we don't celebrate them as much as people in Cyprus and so I think I probably prefer the Greek culture. There isn't anything I dislike about it, I think it's different in its own way. I don't have any typical English friends they're like all mixed. They'd probably all like me to go out clubbing, I can if I want to but I prefer not to, so no I don't really envy them for having much more freedom than me, freedom is not everything in life. I don't mind I'm happy that I am Greek. It's not as though I am trying to hide it. No I am not religious. I'm a Christian Greek Orthodox and I go to church. I'm not forced into going I go when I want which is better because I suppose you enjoy it more when you're not forced into doing something. Wherever I go English will be my first language, even my parents accept that. Greek okay I talk with my parents and that though I've found that with the English I can express myself better.

Definitely my parents want me to marry a Greek person and also I want to as well because I think if you marry someone from another culture you have to learn another culture and also I think you either move with the other person's culture and I think you lose your identity.

Over here women have got more freedom but I think in Cyprus looking at the way they treat women in villages – she's at home, she's not allowed to go to the local cafes, but when we were on holiday we were staying in the village and we went to the local cafes and people were shocked by it. It's not nice, a woman should be treated as an equal, she's not a slave. I think over here she's not treated like that because over here most women work.