

Best for our future



Vote to Remain in the EU



The European Union protects us


- 
- PAID MATERNITY LEAVE
 - EQUAL PAY FOR THE SAME JOB
 - ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION
 - MAXIMUM 48-HOUR WORKING WEEK
 - FOUR WEEKS PAID HOLIDAY

Photo from flickr by [steph](#)

These rights will all be under threat if we leave the EU

LEAVING IS JUST NOT WORTH THE RISK



Introduction

Dear reader

On Thursday 23 June we will vote on whether the UK should remain part of the European Union (EU) or not. It will be the most important vote I've ever had to make and the consequences of which will be felt for years to come.

I'll be voting to remain in the EU because I believe our membership brings safety and security. We benefit from food labelling laws, women's and worker's rights, environmental protection right through to simply being a part of something that's bigger.

As a mum with three kids all of these things matter, not just for me, but also for the future of the little ones.

I believe it is beneficial for us to continue to have a voice around the table, especially in the increasingly uncertain and unstable world we live in. We are stronger and safer together than we would be on our own.

I am the first to say that not everything in the EU is perfect and I would love to make it more accountable and less wasteful.

But still, on balance, being in the EU is the best option for all of us and in particular our families.

Leaving would be just too much of a risk – a risk that my kids cannot afford.

So, I hope you will read this brochure and join me in voting to stay in the European Union.

Sinead Engal (Bradford mother of three)



**People's In is
an independent
grassroots
campaign in
support of Britain
remaining in the
EU. It is run by
ordinary people
who believe that
leaving the EU is
too much of a risk
for Britain to take.**

**To find out
more, visit
peoplesin.org.uk**

In the pursuit of fairness

What as women do we want from the world we live in?

Probably pretty much the same as men. But with perhaps more Poldark and less piss puddles around the toilet.

But essentially don't we all just want to live in a society which seems fair and with fair access to opportunities? For our kids. And actually, although we don't like to make a fuss, for ourselves.

And although I'd be first up there celebrating those great British values of decency and politeness and strong, sweet tea, I have to admit fairness is no longer one of our national traits.

If we did live in a fair country would the Europe In campaign really be fronted by a middle age, straight, white bloke educated at Eton and Oxford? And would the Out campaign really be fronted by a, hmm lets think, middle aged, straight, white bloke educated at Eton and Oxford?

But the stranglehold David Cameron, Boris Johnson and their types have on British politics illustrates pretty clearly that the paths of power in this country are about as fair as a FIFA voting panel.

The truth is over the past forty odd years fairness – particularly for women – has been imposed on Britain by the regulations of Europe.



By Alison Phillips,
Daily Mirror
editor and
columnist

Things which at the time had the right wing papers in this country in a right two-and-eight over meddling Brussels. Things which now we all believe are part of what makes this a decent country in which to live and bring up our families.

'How dare these Eurocrats make it legal for women to get paid for sitting around at home for a couple of months after having a baby?' the British establishment fumed at the time.

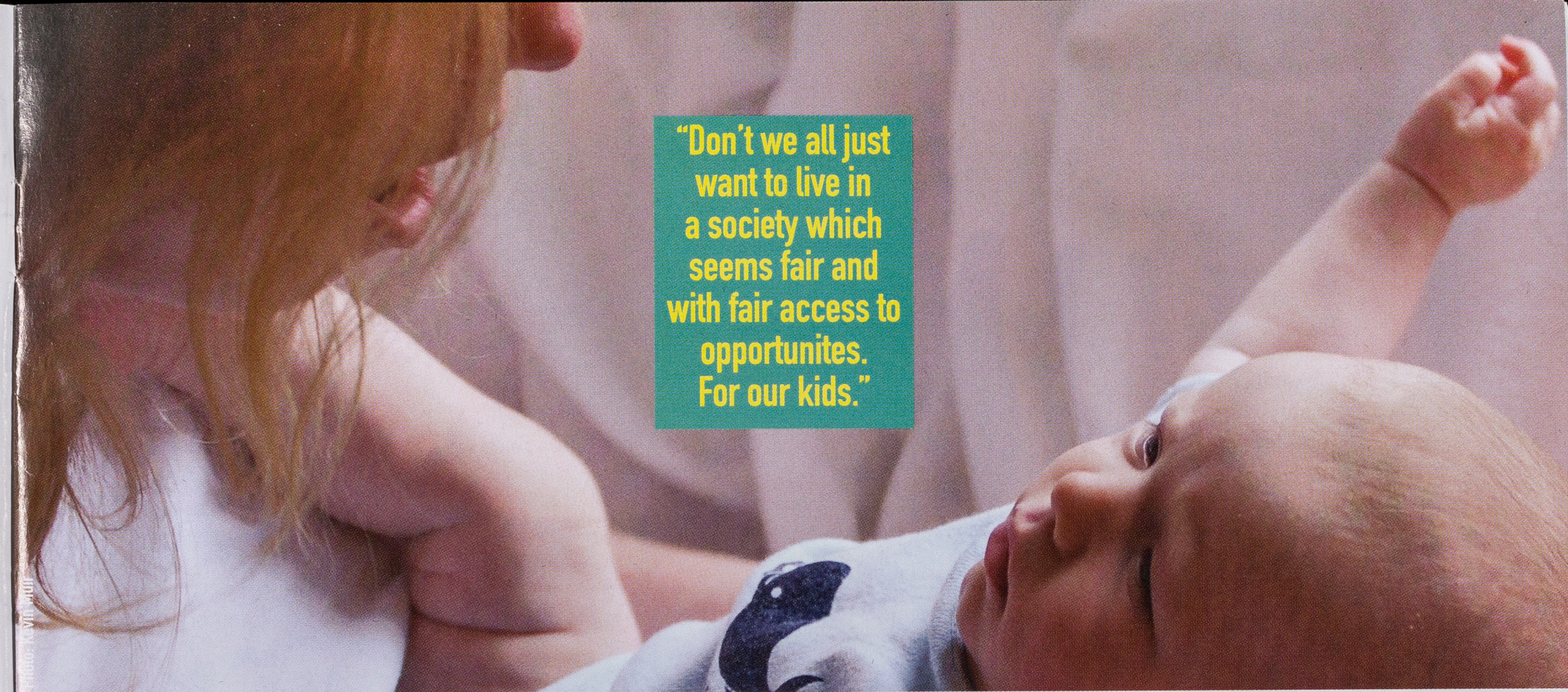
'How dare wimmin be paid the same amount for similar jobs as men?' they frothed.

'What nonsense that these new men should get a fortnight paid leave from work after their partner has a baby?' they spluttered.

'The sheer cheek of a pregnant woman on a zero hours contract having the right to be paid while she attends her baby's scan?' they mithered.

And don't think for one moment that these were all things that our government here in Britain rolled over and accepted from Europe.

Even now there are plenty of women still fighting court cases to ensure that as cleaners and cooks they are paid equally to men doing similar manual labour. But now, thanks to Europe, the law is on their side.



“Don’t we all just want to live in a society which seems fair and with fair access to opportunities. For our kids.”

I’m not imagining that if we wake up out of Europe on June 24th that Britain will instantly overturn the EU rulings which have made life in Britain today a little more fair.

But I certainly don’t trust the likes of BoJo and Nigel Farage to put women’s interests at the top of their agenda.

And we’d be entirely foolish to imagine that the battle for equality is already won and so doesn’t really matter any more. There will be plenty more challenges my nine-year-old daughter and her friends have to face in their lifetimes in pursuit of fairness. Outside of the EU I’m pretty certain that will be much harder to win.

I can’t write about Brexit though without discussing migration – which for so many voters lies at the very heart of this issue. The likelihood is if Britain is to continue free trade agreements with Europe then we will still be subject to a free movement arrangement similar to that we have now. And don’t forget less than half of immigrants to the UK actually come from within the EU.

The reality is that despite the bluster, Brexit will have little impact on the migration situation.

It will almost certainly however have a very large impact on the fairness situation.

HUMAN RIGHTS

“The biggest thing for me is the legislation laid out in the European Convention of Human Rights”

Europe makes us a better place



By Julie Hesmondalgh
— actress,
formerly
Hayley Cropper in
Coronation
Street

The EU isn't something that's easy to get a handle on. For years the benefits of our membership have rolled along pretty unnoticed by us, for the most part. We've felt pretty cut off from the people in our own political parties, let alone this mysterious organisation of faceless bureaucrats straightening our bananas, etc (sigh).

The paid maternity leave we now take for granted was a directive from Europe, as was the legislation on discriminating against women returning to work after having children.

The limit on working hours, the slow but gradual reduction of the gender pay gap, and the protection of women in law against domestic violence and FGM are battles being fought more effectively shoulder to shoulder with our neighbouring countries.

As a socialist, I have my own doubts about the distribution of member states' wealth, which I would like to see go further, benefitting poorer members, but as one of the richer countries in the union we are no doubt benefitting from our status. We are certainly stronger as a global force as part of Europe.

On top of this I believe being part of Europe encourages us to be more outward looking, free to travel and experience the rich diversity of our neighbouring cultures, as well as enjoying the massive investment in our own Arts and Culture here.

There are few artistic institutions that haven't been part funded in some way by EU money.

But the biggest thing for me is the legislation laid out in the European Convention of Human Rights which allows us many of the rights we take for granted – from the right to freedom of movement to the right to a fair trial, from the right to be educated to the right to fair pay, from the right not to be imprisoned without trial or to be tortured in custody to the right to freedom of expression and the

right to peacefully demonstrate and be in a trade union.

There are, as we know, many countries in the world that do not afford their citizens these rights – and the fact that these things are enshrined by law means that no individual government can mess around with them to meet their own ends.

I would prefer the “faceless bureaucrats” protecting these freedoms than leaving them to the mercy of certain governments I could name.

Six ways that the European Union

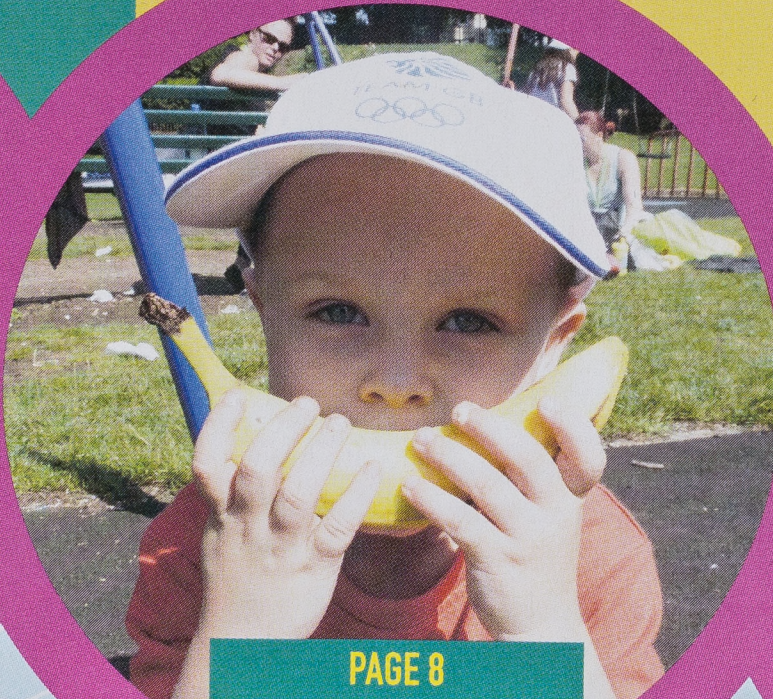
1.

Strong EU legislation has given us less polluted air and cleaner beaches



2.

By banning oxidizing agents like Potassium bromate, the EU has made our food safer



3.

The British science industry receives over £1bn a year in EU funding to help us fight breast cancer, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease



has improved our lives

4.

EU rules mean employers can no longer pay women less than men for the same job

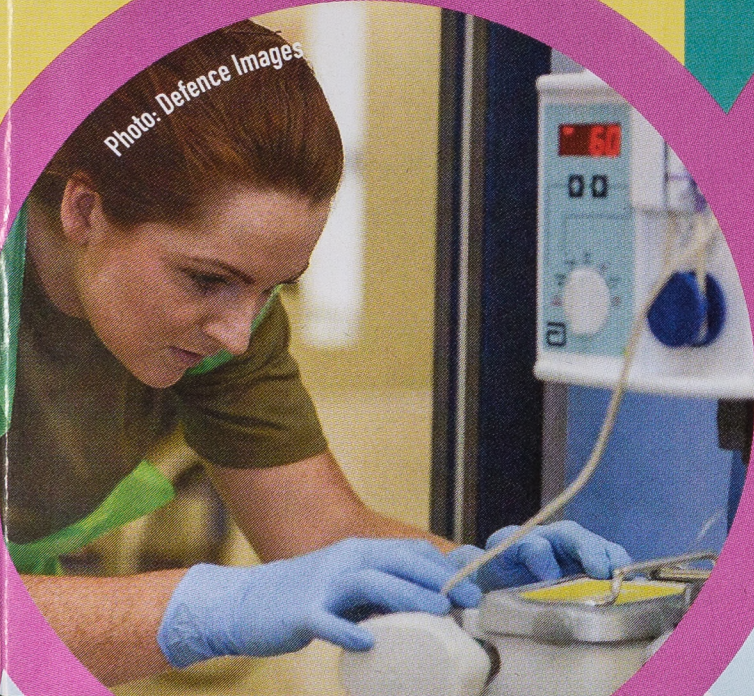


Photo: Defence Images

5.

Over two million Britons currently live in other EU countries

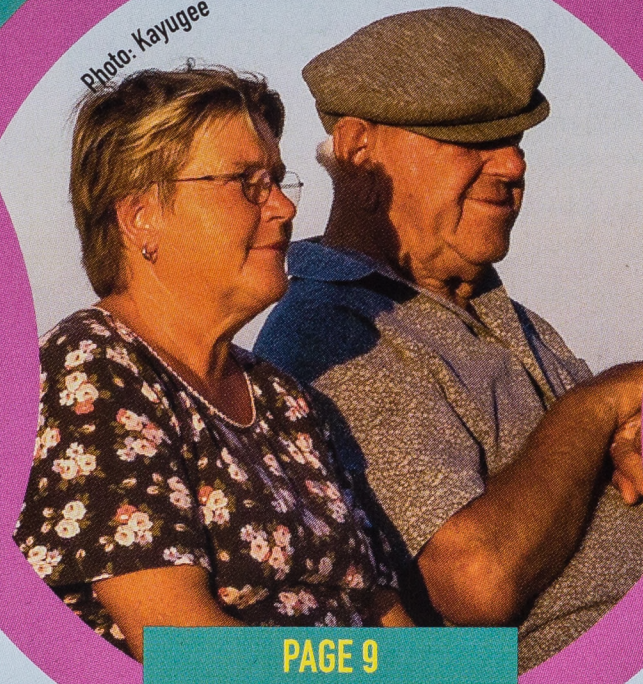


Photo: Kayugee

6.

Six million people in Britain were given extra holiday when the EU passed rules for a minimum four weeks of holiday every year



Photo: Sarah Groves

Staying in Europe is about our kids

So far, this referendum debate has been about men in suits yelling at each other. It makes me want to switch off.

I think it's time to talk about what really matters: how we build a better life for us and our kids.

I'm a proud Brit, born in Oxford, of Irish descent and the daughter of a car worker. And I'm going to be voting to remain in Europe.

It wasn't an easy decision. I'm not always a fan of everything the EU does. But on balance I think it's right for working people.

I have three big reasons. They are about being treated fairly at work, about jobs, and about the future we all want for our kids.

Every day, I stand up for working people – and that's why I'm worried that leaving the EU could mean crucial protections at work are at risk.

Take equal pay for women. Unions fought for it for decades. Remember the film *Made in Dagenham*? In the end those women won equality in 1983 – thanks to EU rules. And since then more than 300,000 other women have used that EU law to get equal pay with men.

And there's more. European rules mean that we now have the right to emergency time-off if a child is sick. Part-time workers used to get nowhere near the pensions, pay or holidays of full-time workers – but



**Frances O'Grady,
General
Secretary, TUC**



**Equal pay was
only achieved
through the EU**

's future

Photo: Made in Dagenham

EU law stopped that. When EU rules changed, millions of part-time women got paid holiday for the first time ever.

But if we leave the EU, all those protections and many more could go. It'll be up to the government to pick and choose which they keep – and which they bin. And of course, part-time workers, temps, and those who work in small businesses are always first in line to lose out.

"It wasn't an easy decision. I'm not always a fan of everything the EU does. But on balance I think it's right for working people."

Then there's jobs. Other EU countries buy huge amounts of British goods and services. But if it's harder to sell what the UK makes in Europe, big global firms might scale down their operations here. And that means jobs will go. And even if they are replaced, it will be with worse jobs, with lower wages.

Finally, when it comes down to it, this huge decision is about our kids. We want them to have a decent chance – to grow up, get the job they want, settle down in their own home and have a family of their own.

Staying part of Europe is about their future. And voting to Leave just isn't worth the risk. That's why, in the end, I decided to vote Remain on 23 June.

- Paid maternity leave
- Equal pay for the same job
- Anti-discrimination legislation
- Maximum 48-hour working week
- Four weeks paid holiday

From Essex to Europe

I have always felt like a European. Born in an English seaside town, with a Greek-Cypriot dad and an Irish mum, I grew up feeling very British but never doubted I was a citizen of Europe.

As the grandchild of a swearsy, passionate immigrant, growing up smoking roll-ups while listening to the tales of plucking olives from branches and rescuing goats and piglets for local farmers, I hate to see the way the real debate over the European Union is being masked by bluster about immigration.

It's almost as if the people in favour of us leaving the EU fear that ordinary people might vote to stay in – if we were able to hear the actual arguments through the bluster, fear-mongering and casual racism.

Looking at the debate we are facing right now and what it means for people on the breadline, I have no doubt that staying in the EU is the best thing for all of us. We need every one of those 3.5 million jobs directly linked to our membership of the EU and jeopardising them seems ludicrous.

Until you look at the loudest voices campaigning for 'Brexit' and realise very few of them know what it's like to be unemployed and scratching around for work, and mostly minimum wage work – like manufacturing, care work, jobs that the privately-educated Farage and



co can't even begin to imagine working day to day, let alone competing against their peers for.

The EU protects people at the bottom of the pile in so many ways – protecting our maternity leave, setting the maximum numbers of hours we can work to prevent our grasping overlords exploiting the desperation of casual workers, and other workers' rights.

So you can see why the billionaire backers of Brexit aren't too keen on it.

As someone who believes passionately in good, affordable food, it also worries me deeply when the National Farmers Union warns that leaving the European Union would result in higher food prices. And it bothers me that it's the EU that has managed to ban so many harmful additives from our food, additives that cause hyperactivity in children, or have been proven to accelerate cancerous tumours.

It seems the anti-EU campaigners are happy to leave the health of our children and grandchildren in the hands of mercenary profiteers.

Potassium bromate, used in bread-making, is considered by some cancer researchers to be a poison. As a frequent baker myself, I know that bread really only needs flour, yeast and water at its most basic level, with a splash of oil and a little salt or sugar as you like it.

“As someone who believes passionately in good, affordable food, it also worries me deeply when the National Farmers Union warns that leaving the European Union would result in higher food prices.”

The EU has banned potassium bromate, along with certain food colourings, but without their guidance, food manufacturers could bring them back.

Brominated vegetable oil is added to soft drinks, but is also used as a chemical coating for materials like wood and duvets to make them flame resistant. It has been proven to cause cancerous tumours in laboratory testing, and is currently banned by the EU. Bovine growth hormones given to cows to increase their milk production has been linked to an increased risk of breast and prostate cancer. Also banned in the EU.

And the foods that these are all added to? Not the expensive gourmet options favoured by the elite, but rather the staples of an ordinary cupboard. Orange juice drinks, fizzy pop, white bread and pizza bases, pints of milk, innocuous everyday items that we might not think to check the back of during our weekly shop.

My advice is to vote Remain on June 23, and then sit back, enjoy your Italian pizza with your French lager and know you've done the right thing for you and your kids' futures.

Don't let the politics of fear and division dictate your future.



**Leaving the
EU would cost
the average
family £220 a
year in extra
food prices**

Consumer expert
Richard Lloyd says:

“The best forecasts
I’ve seen suggest that
leaving the world’s largest
free trade single market
could make consumers
worse off when doing the
weekly shop.

“There is widely expected
to be a fall in the value of
the pound if we leave.
A weaker pound would
make imports more
expensive, and when
businesses pass that
cost on to consumers it
would mean forking out
more money at the till
every week.”

ADVERT

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**“As your friend,
let me say that the
EU makes Britain
even greater.”**

**BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Promoted by Laurence Durnan on behalf of Best For Our Future Ltd, both at 71-75 Shelton Street, London, WC2H 9JQ

Photo: Jason Means