

# OLTRE

THE VOICES OF "NEW EUROPEANS"

COUNTER-NARRATIVES  
FROM THE MARGINS  
TO THE CENTRE

Gianluca  
Grazzini



It'd be enough to get closer  
and talk. Talk about our feelings,  
fears and about the future.



...you wouldn't see any borders  
between states, or any  
boundaries between farms.

Too bad  
you cannot  
sit on  
a cloud.



Hi there,  
my name's  
Houdha...

...I'm  
16...

...I was  
born in  
Bologna  
and I'm  
a student.

To describe myself I've used  
the image of a condo combining  
multiple identities, it all depends  
which door you knock on...

In a condo you can find  
many facets, the same holds  
true for myself.

I'm like  
a condo brought  
to life by many  
living pieces  
that make  
up my  
identity.



My name is Caterina.  
I've studied Political Science  
and then got a specialization  
in social work in Padua.



I love to connect with cultures  
and people that are different from  
me. When I manage to do this,  
I feel like I'm making a journey  
inside myself, in my identity.  
For me, identity means relationship.



I'd like Europe to be more  
conscious about the issues  
of diversity and social equality.



Let's free ourselves from prejudices,  
from all prejudices and restore  
our humanity.

I'm Hasnaa,  
I'm 21 and  
I'm Italian  
"de-facto"  
but not "by  
act" - I mean,  
not officially  
for my  
beautiful  
country.



UNIONE EUROPEA  
~~REPUBBLICA ITALIANA~~

~~UNIC  
REPUBB.~~

I'm Italian de-facto because I've  
spent here all of my life, my  
studies, my friends are here, my  
job, the lasagna, what I wear,  
my mother tongue.

PASSAPORTO

LAPO

Everything  
that relates  
to me is Italian  
but still, I'm  
not considered  
as Italian because  
I do not have  
that piece  
of paper called  
"citizenship".



I am of Moroccan descent,  
I am Muslim but these two attributes do  
not affect my being and feeling Italian,  
on the contrary they make  
my life journey richer.

I hope that things will soon change.  
I hope that those who are entitled  
to vote will vote because they will not  
only decide for their  
own future but also  
for mine.



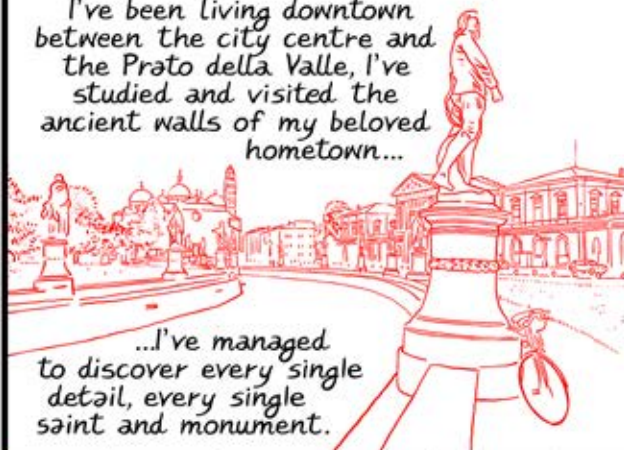


My name is Yousra,  
I'm 19 and I'm  
attending my last  
year at high school.  
I study economics  
and IT. I love  
to learn new  
languages, to get  
to know new  
cultures and  
to travel.



I'm Muslim, my origins are Moroccan  
and I'm from Padua! Many people  
find it hard to accept  
it when I say that I'm Paduan you  
know, I was born at Padua hospital...

I've been living downtown  
between the city centre and  
the Prato della Valle, I've  
studied and visited the  
ancient walls of my beloved  
hometown...



...I've managed  
to discover every single  
detail, every single  
saint and monument.

When I pray God for help,  
I talk to Him in my  
language... Italian,

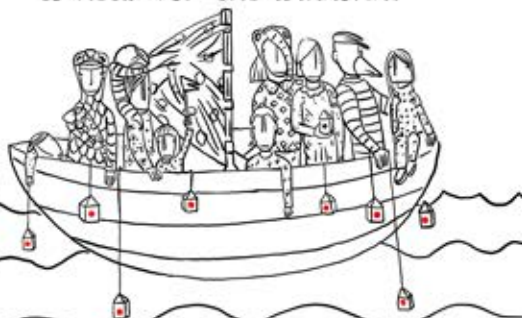
...in a mosque, outside a church  
or in the street, my religion does  
not make me less Paduan  
and Italian.



When people ask me where  
I'm from, I never think about  
my origins or about my religion.  
Simply I come to think joyfully  
and fiercely about  
my beloved Italy.



I experienced the same fears they felt, the same disappointments and efforts to become part of a society which has become more and more hostile, which is ignoring how hard it is for us to leave our families and the places we know, to head for the unknown.



I really identify with that mural...

In that mural I can see the hope that urges so many helpless human beings to endure awful experiences, lost between life and death, just like in the middle of a sea gale where stormy tides can swallow us and our desperate mates.



This mural is a tribute to the many silent lives which were lost forever, and to those who survived and now have to face so many more gales...



...more threats built on the hideous hatred against the most vulnerable.



Salvador Allende used to say:

To be young and not  
revolutionary is a biological  
contradiction.



Our future depends  
on what the young  
are doing and will do...



...what we are doing and will do  
depends on our thoughts,  
our dreams and our fears.



When we make  
a choice, we do change  
our future.





My name  
is Ilaria,  
I was born  
in Vaprio d'Adda,  
close to  
Milan.



Since 2018 I've been studying  
International relations. I hope  
that my studies will help me  
have a better insight into  
the world and its events,  
since I wish I can tell  
about them.



During my first trip  
to Palestine I discovered  
my origins and I started to study  
the Israeli-Palestinian  
conflict.



As a child, though,  
I felt I was different  
from the other kids  
at school, because  
of my origins.



I wish I could wipe those moments  
away. I wish I were proud  
of my origins back then.

"...We have made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another".

This is what my religion states in the Quran.



My name is Sumaya, I'm an ITALIAN citizen, Muslim, and my origins are from another country. Thanks to my beliefs grounded in faith and to my cultural background...



...I feel that my role in society is to connect eastern and western cultures through dialogue and mutual knowledge.



Through mutual knowledge we can value diversity and tear down the walls that fear builds when we are facing the unknown.





My name  
is Osakpolo.

I am from  
Benin City  
in Nigeria.



I'm 23 and live in Selargius  
in Sardinia. I got to  
Italy in 2015...



...I go to high school because  
I want to get a degree  
at the University  
of Cagliari.



In Sardinia I feel at home,  
the climate is similar to Nigeria  
and, on top of that, people  
are friendly.





My name is Rifat, I was born in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. I've been living in Rome for more than 20 years.



My greatest wish is to travel and see the world with my eyes.

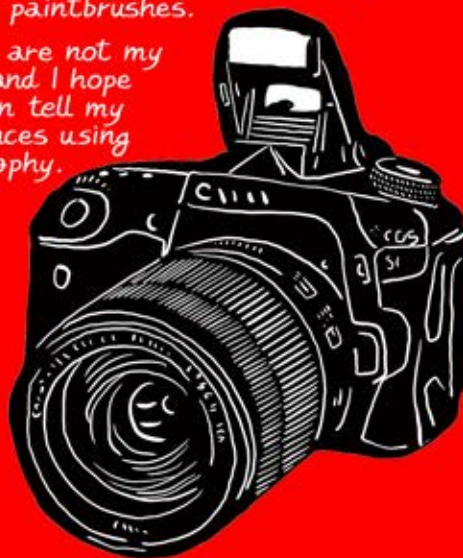


My best memory relates to the moment I got to Italy. In Rome my dad took us on a walk. In Piazza di Spagna, on top of the Spanish steps, there were a few street artists drawing and making portraits.



I was ravished by their colours and their paintbrushes.

Words are not my strong and I hope I can tell my experiences using photography.





My name is Sonia,  
I'm 29 and  
I was born in Rome.  
I was raised  
between two  
cultures, the Cape  
Verdean and  
the Italian. Often  
none of the  
two recognised  
and accepted  
me.

Despite the commonplace defining us  
"all equals", only through education and  
a process of self-development...



...did I manage to focus  
on my peculiarities so to protect  
and value my identity.

Almost two months ago I was appointed  
president of the association  
of Cape Verdean women in Italy (OMCVI),  
but I am still Sonia  
in everyday life.



OMCVI



I am a woman, I'm black, feminist,  
I study intersectional feminism,  
I am addicted to jazz, rock  
and electronic music.

