

## Change

“An act or process through which something becomes different”<sup>1</sup>

Something becoming different is nothing unusual in nowadays’ ever evolving and further developing world. The world around us is becoming faster, more progressive and more connected than ever; News are circling through several countries within minutes via the Internet and it has never been easier to keep in touch with people thousands of kilometres away. And still, sometimes we might have the feeling that we are drifting further apart than getting closer together.

At least that might have been what many of us, Germans and Britons alike, thought after Britain’s popular referendum that announced Great Britain’s withdrawal from the European Union. Almost until the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2020, the date on which Britain finally left the EU, many of us believed that the British government will somehow revoke or at least repeat the referendum but as everyone knows that did not happen. Most European citizens felt that something was changing and in times like this, change, the said progress of something becoming different, can be scary. To me, as a student that values international connections, it was scary. Honestly, sometimes it still is when headlines such as “Support for Eurosceptic parties doubles in two decades across EU”<sup>2</sup> or “Brexit means rightward shift for the European parliament”<sup>3</sup> pop up on my phone screen every now and then.

More often than not I then think back to my English exchange in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. For me, it was the first time flying to another country and it was overwhelmingly exiting to talk to people in a foreign language, get to know a tiny part of their every-day life in school and eat the best cake I have ever had in an English café. I do know that exchanges between Germany and the United Kingdom are much more difficult to organise now and this, among other things, pains me. I start to wonder when, how and why Germany

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<sup>1</sup> “Change Definition.” *Google Search*. Oxford Languages . Accessed September 21, 2021.  
<https://www.google.de/search?q=change%2Bdefinition&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&hl=en-de&client=safari>.

<sup>2</sup> “Support for Eurosceptic Parties Doubles in Two Decades across EU.” *The Guardian*. Guardian News and Media, March 2, 2020.  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/02/support-for-eurosceptic-parties-doubles-two-decades-across-eu>.

<sup>3</sup> Baume, Maïa de La, and Francesco Piccinelli. “Brexit Means Rightward Shift for the European Parliament.” *POLITICO*. POLITICO, February 1, 2020. <https://www.politico.eu/article/european-parliament-reshuffle-details-after-brexit/>.

and Great Britain and the EU in general started to drift apart again. I, as a student, cannot simply answer that but I can say that I realised that we should not take our amicably international relationships for granted. Such as any other relationship in other lives, we have to nurture the relationship between our countries. Nurturing this relationship and creating amity instead of egoism in form of blind nationalism has to start in school.

Thinking about this can be quite overwhelming but I believe that small ideas that are not too challenging to organise can make a difference. Whether we have the possibility of exchanging our ideas about the connection between Lower Saxony and England with English students our age in history class, discuss about the post-Brexit world with them in politics class or write English pen pals, as I was able to do in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, I believe that such small things would actually broaden our worldview and keep us connected in a world that tries to drive us further apart!

It is true that change can be and is scary most of the time but by taking responsibility every one of us can contribute to changing the world in a positive way. Together, change might actually seem a little less scary and instead of uncertainty we might feel a tiny bit of hope.

Hope, which can also describe a “feeling of trust”<sup>4</sup>; trust in each other.

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<sup>4</sup> “Hope Definition.” *Google Search*. Oxford Languages . Accessed September 21, 2021.  
<https://www.google.de/search?q=hope%2Bdefinition&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&hl=en-de&client=safari>.