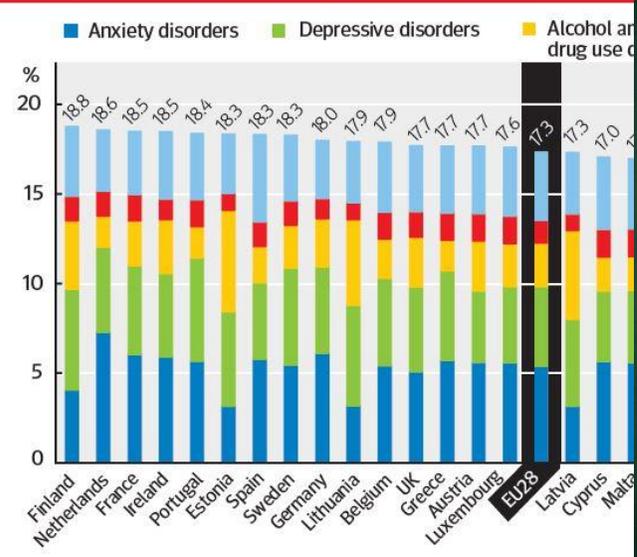
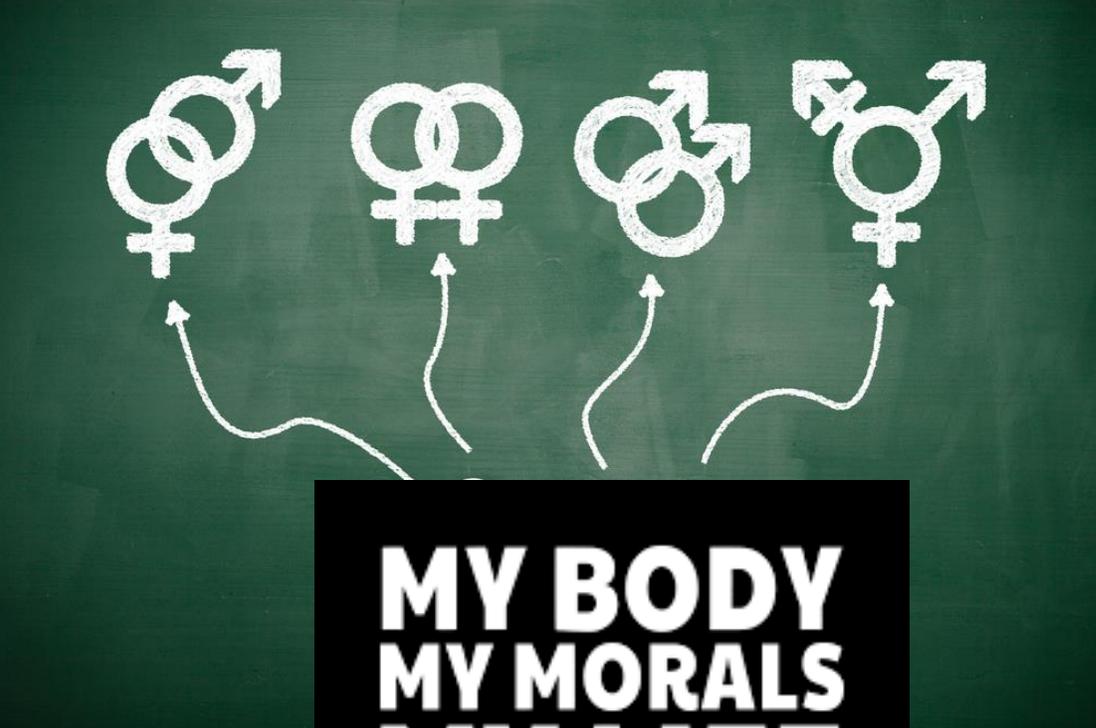


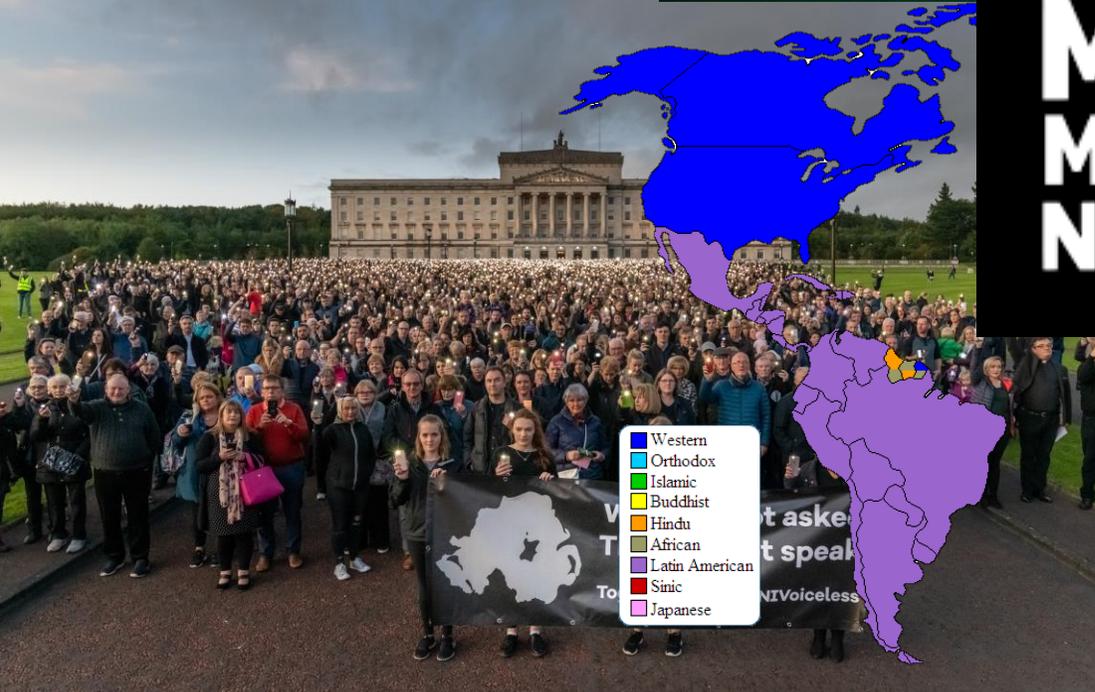
More than one in six people in EU countries



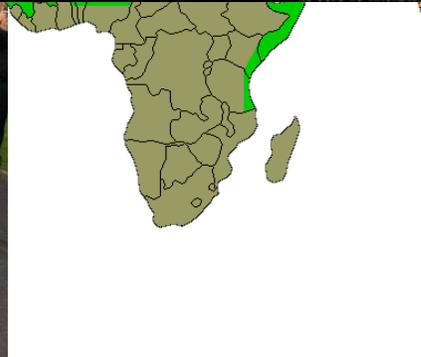
Source: OECD/EU (2018): Health at a Glance: Europe 2018



**MY BODY
MY MORALS
MY LIFE
MY CHOICE
NOT YOURS**



- Western
- Orthodox
- Islamic
- Buddhist
- Hindu
- African
- Latin American
- Sinic
- Japanese



Post-Christian?

- ▶ Familiar to foreign
- ▶ Dominant to diverse
- ▶ Central to peripheral

Hope in a hostile world

1 PETER 2 v11-25

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honourable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

¹³ Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷ Honour everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the emperor.

¹⁸ Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. ¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

What we are

- ▶ Sojourners
- ▶ Exiles
- ▶ among the Gentiles

Whither hostility?

- ▶ **World** – falsely accused (v12,15) and maybe wrongly punished (v14,19) as ‘evildoers’
- ▶ **Flesh** – led by passions to do evil (v11,16)
- ▶ **Devil** – “Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)

A four-fold duty

Beside

Honour everyone.

Outside

Love the brotherhood.

Inside

Beneath

Fear God.

Honour the emperor.

Outside

(1 Peter 2 v17)

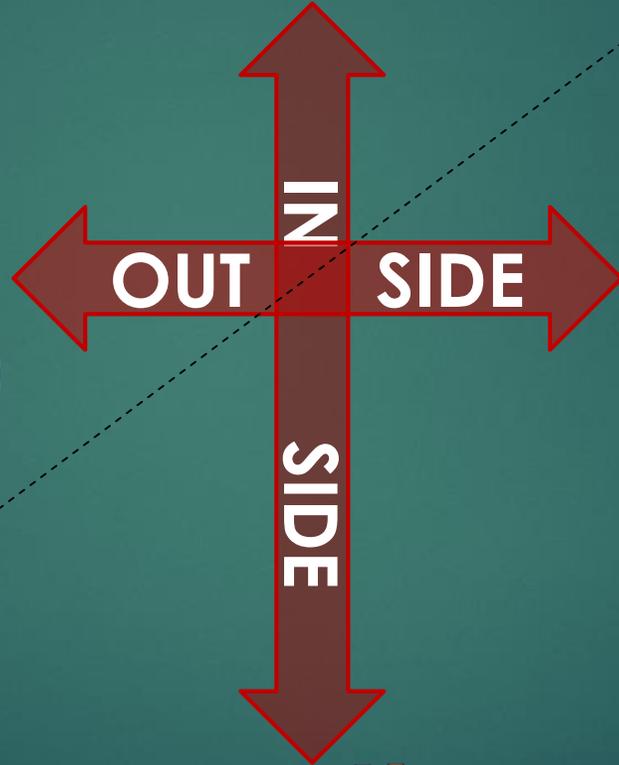
BENEATH

Suffer

Fear
God

Speak

Honour the
Emperor
(authorities)



Honour
everyone

Submit

Serve

Love the
brotherhood

BESIDE

Worked examples

Authorities (v13-15)	Masters (v18-20)	Christ (v21-24)
Subject to every human institution	Subject to every human master – good and gentle or unjust	He entrusted Himself to the One who judges justly
God's will – do good, not evil	Gracious in God's sight – endure and don't do evil	He endured and did not do evil

More than an example

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.” (verse 24)

The key principle

“For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.” (verse 25)

I have a Lord!