

UNBREXABLE: SCOTTISH AND EU CITIZENS UNITE FOR BREXIT RESPONSE BY AND FOR THE PEOPLE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Glasgow's Centre for Human Ecology host unique event on 2nd September: an active response to Brexit examining social, environmental and cultural impacts

On the 2nd of September, a happening takes place at the Pearce Institute, Glasgow:

Unbrexable – Connections and Caring in European Scotland. 'We' are citizens, activists, academics, community workers, artists and migrants who wish to collectively consolidate what kinds of initiatives and movements Scotland needs to become the kind of welcoming, inclusive and socially and environmentally just country we want to live in. This event is taking place because political and media elites have failed to adequately represent the 62% of Scottish citizens that voted to remain in the EU.

The end to Freedom of Movement between the UK and EU countries has been announced for March 2019, and the future rights of EU citizens currently living and working in the UK are still uncertain. They don't only concern migrants however - cultural workers and visitors are also affected.

CHE director Svenja Meyerricks, a German citizen who has lived in Scotland for 14 years, said: "European Scots are not 'bargaining chips': we have chosen to make Scotland our home. 'Unbrexable' is in a spirit of caring, connection and solidarity: Scots, Europeans and other migrants coming together to explore where we go from here".

The day includes talks, workshops, and sessions to gather contributions from attendees, with a view to a longer-term citizen's movement against a hard Brexit and increasing xenophobia and protectionism.

The Centre for Human Ecology, in partnership with Govan Folk University, has conceived

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of Unbrexable as series of events and interventions revolving around the idea of citizen diplomacy, bypassing official channels in order to salvage, protect and strengthen the connections with European counterparts. The Unbrexable conference will bring together people working within migrant solidarity networks, connections between grassroots European activist movements such as the degrowth movement which outlines alternative narratives to economic growth, European youth exchanges, tools for collaboration, academia, community arts or services across borders. The event will be led by (mainly European) migrants – true to the ethos 'nothing about us without us is for us'. The day will combine talks with participatory workshops, and a panel discussion and plenary on how we can actively move forward through 'emotional citizenry' at home and abroad – building bridges across newly enforced borders.

ENDS

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NOTE FOR EDITOR: full programme details at www.che.ac.uk/unbrexable

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