

The Migrant Crisis

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By Jade Joddle

Hey guys! This is a comfort zone video. I'm filming outside, I'm gonna be moving around a bit. And my topic today is controversial, which is the migrant crisis. And I decided to talk about these two things because I've definitely got strong opinions about it, and also I stopped being opinionated on my channel, probably, after the first six months. And I think it was because there were so many, you know, the comments, basically. So I stopped being opinionated. And so I'm challenging myself and pushing my comfort zone to talk about something that's definitely controversial. And I feel now that whatever the comments and things, I'm just not going to react to that in the same way. I don't care as much.

So um, and I'm going to wander around a bit as well, because I've never done that before. So if it's a bit shaky and stuff it's because I've got a little odd tripod set-up here and—did I mention it's gonna be just one take? So if I get put off and that kind of thing, or people show up, or a wasp flies in my face, it's all gonna be a single take.

So yeah, and this is probably just gonna be a one-off video, about something unrelated to speaking skills—we'll see how it goes.

So my perspective when I talk about the migrant crisis is that there are two things that are really important to me as an individual. Which is...one which is freedom of movement, being able to go in the world where I like. Which isn't actually possible: I can't go *wherever* I like. But I do have....that value is really, really important to me. And the second value is: work ethic, discipline, and a certain personal sacrifice or struggle. I mean, they're strong words, but, um, or a certain kind of hardship in your life to get what it is that you desire. So my standpoint is coming from that perspective. So and also the perspective of having travelled a lot, seeing lots of the world, seeing lots of poor countries, and seeing how people actually live.

So the situation now is that, because of the crisis in Syria, people are leaving Syria, they're crossing Turkey, and their aim is to get to Europe. So, whether that be in a boat, or they walk across...walk across the land until they get to Europe. I've been in England a couple of months at the moment, and every day, on the news, there are these like scary swarm pictures of the migrants coming and things like that. And these people are desperate, they've got nowhere to go and they're trying to get into Europe. I have also spent quite a lot of time in Turkey. And I know that, for many Syrians, they don't want to be in Turkey, they want to get through Turkey and come to Europe. And I would say: that's because, when you have the European passport, that is like catching the golden egg, when you get the European passport. And you get into the land of milk and honey, where so much of everything is free in Europe. Whereas in Turkey you have to work for

it, and you have to look after yourself. So many Syrians are (oh, there's a kitty cat here!) Many Syrians are...(that's a good sign, isn't it, for this video?) Many Syrians are deciding to pass on through Turkey and come to Europe. And that's basically making a (hello, pussy cat!), that's making an economic decision that life in Europe will be better. And I definitely agree. If I were in their situation, I would be trying to do the same thing.

While I've been here in London, I haven't really seen much on the news about African migrants coming. When I was in Italy this year, I definitely saw that a lot of African migrants are coming that way on boats to Italy. And I was speaking to a couple of African migrants once on the train and another one in the park. And I know it's a huge struggle that they go through to get to Europe. And speaking to them, these are like survivor people, they're the strongest people of where they're from, because most people are not gonna take that kind of risk. At the moment, most people are not gonna take that kind of risk. So these guys arrive in Italy; and it looks to me like they're sleeping in the park and that kind of thing. And it looks to me that they're trying, they get casual work and that kind of thing. I don't really know the full situation, but it looks like they are finding their way, by whatever means they can, by supporting themselves. But I mention it here because I haven't seen much on the news about African migrants or (excuse me a sec, it's a little bit damp), it all seems to be about the Syrian migrants. So that concerns me, 'cause I'm like, Why are you just talking about Syrians? Is it because there's some kind of plan for war intervention and things like that? And

are you trying to get people scared and worked up? Because obviously if you see pictures of swarms of people coming to Europe, it is unsettling. Because it's like, wow, what is it, like so many people coming—Where are they gonna go? And it's unsettling to people who are increasingly feeling (at least in the UK, but I think in other European countries as well) that their slice of the pie is getting smaller and smaller. And they are having less in their lives. So they feel like: "Don't come and take some of my pie as well. I need it, I need all the pie for myself!" So these pictures of swarms could for many people get them around to thinking, "Yeah, we need to do something about what's going on in Syria, 'cause we need to stop the swarms coming. And if we sort out that country, they're not gonna come any more."

OK so that sort of rambling first setting the scene for my point. Which is: I believe in freedom of movement for people. So I believe that people should be able to go from one country to the next. But my second point to that is that you've got to be able to look after yourself where (I'm gonna sit down for a minute), where you're going. Because as I said before: Europe is the land of milk and honey, and when you come to Europe you get given a lot, basically. If you come to Europe and you are allowed to stay here, you're entitled to a subsidised house, you get free money, basically. And this kind of cushion, indulgent cushion, doesn't exist in these other countries. And I know that because, as I said, I've been to many places, I've seen how people live. And, so if you do get to Europe, you do get this indulgent cushion. And about the indulgent cushion: I don't think it's a good thing

anyway. Because it becomes a lifestyle, the benefits lifestyle, people stay on it their whole lives, don't want to work. And when I say 'indulgent', it's not like, oh we'll give you shelter and somewhere to live. You can get quite a lot. I mean, I have myself benefitted from this indulgent cushion, in this country, my whole life, pretty much. And up until when I finished university, for the first two years I was still supping from the indulgent cushion. Just to give you an example: when I was at school my family were on the, were sucking on the indulgent cushion. So I was inside to all kinds of benefits when I was at school: I got a free bus pass, I got free travel to go to school, I got free lunches at school, I got paid to go to school every week. I think I got paid to buy clothes to wear to school as well! But at the same time I had a job. So I've never been, I've never had so much spare cash in my life, as when I was 17 and 18, because the government was just giving it away to me, basically. So I had my own job, and I had all this extra money. So that's what I mean by the indulgent cushion. It just sort of...people always come up with reasons why people need more and why they should be given this, and how it's not fair, and blah blah blah.

And my perspective now has, um, speaking as someone who has supped from the indulgent cushion, my perspective now has changed. Because I think what's more important than sort of giving handouts to people is giving them a work ethic and a sense of discipline and making them work. Maybe what saved me from just living off the indulgent cushion my whole life is because I did somehow have a work ethic, I always studied at school. And I was the only person in my school to

get a job when I was 15. I got this special permit from the government so that I could work when I was 15. And um, 'cause usually you're not allowed to work when you're 15. So I've always had this sense that I want to support myself, I suppose, it came from somewhere, I don't know. And I think that that more than anything is the best thing I've got now. I've got this sort of, like, sense that I'm gonna look after myself. Now obviously we all get help sometimes, but in general I'm gonna look after myself and I'm not gonna sup from the indulgent cushion anymore. And the reason I say that's not a good trap to get yourself into is that I've seen that most people don't...it weakens people. If you start supping that for too long, then you get in a situation where you're never gonna work again in your life. And it's not good for people just to be lazy.

So now I'm gonna talk about the countries where I've been, and lived in the world. For me, if it's outside of Europe, I can't stay in any of them unless I'm supporting myself; and generally I have to leave after a condition of 30 days or 90 days. They don't want me staying there unless I'm supporting myself. Now, it would be a great thing for me if it's like, Oh, now I just wanna live in Thailand all the time, so I just wanna stay here all the time. It is possible for me, because I could be in Thailand and then every time my visa runs out, I go to the border, and then I come back to Thailand, and every time my visa runs out, I go to the border and come back in Thailand. Thailand are OK with that, and that's just their indirect way of saying: if you look after yourself, and you spend money here, you can stay.

Now, comparing that to UAE Dubai, nobody can stay there unless you're supporting yourself. You could be a Filipino person who's worked there for 30 years, the day—I'm exaggerating here—the day or the month your job finishes, your visa expires and you have to go. When you go to the UAE, you know that you're never gonna become a citizen, and they're never gonna look after you. You go there to work, and you go there to look after yourself. You'll make money, and it's up to you if you wanna save that money or send it home to your family. But it's a clear-cut deal: You can stay if you've got work, and you can stay if you've got money. Because you can also do the coming in, going out thing, for most countries, but you can't stay if you wanna sup on the cushion, 'cause there's no cushion for anyone who's not from that country. Only for people who are actually from the UAE get a different, a whole different set of entitlements there. But other people are never gonna be able to take a slice of the UAE Dubai pie, if you know what I mean.

And another mention here of spending a lot of time in Turkey, I know how hard it is for a Turkish person to come even on holiday into Europe. It takes 3 weeks or longer to get a tourist visa, and when you get a tourist visa you probably won't be able to stay that long: maybe 2 weeks or 3 weeks. And to get this tourist visa, you've gotta prove that you've got a job, prove how much money that you're earning. They ask for a lot of information: Where are you gonna stay, what are you going to do? You have to have an interview, because they don't want someone from Turkey coming to Europe for a holiday and then staying here. So

this could be a Turkish person with skills, an education, has got no intention of staying in Europe, but still they make it hard, OK? And it's not just Turkey, for many people in the world, travelling is hard because of the country you come from. Your visa doesn't get you in anywhere, you can't move. It's like, you've got this passport, and it's pretty rubbish, basically. There's not a lot you can do with it, it keeps you a prisoner to your country.

So I get angry about the migrant crisis in the sense that, so many people across the world, friends I have, people I know, from all loads of different countries, they've got a rubbish passport and they can't actually do anything with it. And they can't go anywhere. So, it's not possible for them to come to Europe for a holiday a lot of the time, it's not possible for them to come and work, it's not possible for people who've been at university in this country for 4 years, or a master's, it's not possible for them to stay a lot of the time. They're told they have to get out and go back to their own country. So we say, :Oh you can't come, you can't come, even though you're a person who can support yourself, look after yourself, someone who's trained and educated." We say: "Oh no, you can't come." But then we say there's all these desperate people walking across the border. I agree, let's let them come. But I don't agree, let's get them all on the cushion, let's indulge them. 'Cause I think in the perspective of the world, this is just a crazy way of doing things. 'Cause why are we saying the most desperate people can come so that we can look after them? What I, in terms of my ideal world, in terms of borders, people are free to go where they want, but it's up to

the person to look after themselves when they're there. So, for a lot of people this will mean: you don't have the energy and ability to make a life for yourself in some countries. 'Cause you have to be useful when you go there. So, just to give an example: if you wanted to come to England—which is probably not your first choice of anywhere in Europe—but let's say you wanted to come to England. You need a certain kind of energy to make it here. First of all, you're gonna need to speak English in most situations, and you're gonna have to learn it pretty quickly if you don't speak English. You are probably gonna have to have contacts, people to help you out, people to rely on here. It's unlikely that you could be just like a completely random person with no connection to the UK to be able to survive. 'Cause it is hard to move to a different country. Then the next step will be: you're gonna have to get a job. And I think there probably is a job for anyone who comes to the UK if they can speak English...and they've got a work ethic. And if you can do that, if you can hold on, then in my perfect world we'd say: "Yeah, sure, come." But if you're not able to survive here, 'cause you're not able to look after yourself—and remember, this is an expensive country—then you have to find somewhere that you can survive, somewhere your level of energy and ability. Maybe that means you have to go to a country where the conditions are harder, and where you have to work harder for less money. But this is the world, and people from the Philippines do it, people from Nepal are all doing that. And if you're from the Philippines or Nepal, you can't just walk into Europe and say I want to stay here now, I wanna sup on the cushion. So, and I

think it goes both ways as well, if we've got open borders, then people from the rich countries can more easily move and spend time in other places: to work, or just because it's cheaper or they prefer the lifestyle there.

And I can't really connect it to what I've said previously, 'cause it's sort of like an extra point, but it would be a good thing if in general people became more flexible about where they live, and...where they live in a specific area, and whether their mind is open to trying life in a different country. And for me that's because I've benefitted a lot from living in other countries. It unlocks a different part of myself every time I experience living in a new place. I become more open-minded to the ways that different people live. And to be honest I find it quite funny when someone from a small town or wherever, or even a particular part of a city, says: "I can't find a job, there's no jobs around 'ere." Because for me, I'm just saying: There's no jobs there, get off, get off your bum, and go find a job where there is a job. So that might mean you have to move. For some people, that means moving to a different part of the country, for some people that means moving to a different country all together. And that is a good thing. Rather than try and hold on all the time, like: "No, I don't wanna go anywhere; I shouldn't have to go anywhere." Just be more flexible and go. And one last point is: Why does a move always have to be forever? The Syrian refugees, or the refugees at the moment, when you come to Europe, when you get the golden ticket, the conditions of that mean you're a European citizen forever. And that's really—I keep saying it—but it's getting the golden egg. But why does it have to be forever? Why can't people

come just for a few years, and then, you know, it's time for them to move on again? As in myself, I don't stay that long when I go to different places. It doesn't have to be forever. And the same way, people coming...if the borders were open, perhaps people would come for a few years, and then it would be enough for them, and maybe they would go back.

So there you go, this is...this has been rather controversial for me; I've walked around; I've seen some cats; and I think I'm gonna finish there. So thank you for watching and see you later. Bye!

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