

PAN EUROPEAN ACTION 17TH - 19TH MARCH 2014

DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESSURE



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WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN BELARUS BUT THIS YEAR IT'S DIFFERENT

For eight consecutive years the Young European Federalists (JEF Europe) have organised the pan-European "Free Belarus Action" in numerous cities across Europe on the 18th of March. This is still important, but this year it is different, and unfortunately we can not focus solely on Belarus.



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DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESSURE?

Democracy is under pressure all over Europe. The threat to democracy is not only coming from dictators in post-Soviet states, but from various groups and situations all over the continent. In Belarus the status-quo has been grave for years, in Ukraine violence erupted at the end of November last year, and all over Europe democracy is threatened by the rise of nationalism and extremist parties.

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WHO CAN JOIN?

JEF Europe asks:

Members

Partners

and supporters

to symbolically silence statues all over Europe to remind us that we cannot sit back and let democracy be defeated.



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STREET ACTION

In the spirit of the Belarus Action, and in support of the victims in Ukraine - we now see the need to address the democratic urgencies all over Europe.

- Public events
- Gagging statues
- Spread the flyers
- Speak up for democracy



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STREET ACTION 1 - 2 - 3

- Translate and personalise the press release drafted by JEF Europe
- Invite other organisations to join, eg. youth parties, youth NGOs
- Organise a street action (you don't need a lot of people or preparation to pull it off)
- Contact local media

- Make sure to take photos and send them to info@jef.eu

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NEXT THREE PAGES

- PRESS RELEASE

- FLYER

These are also downloadable from the www.jef.eu



JEF Europe | Young European Federalists

Brussels, 25th February 2014

Press release: Democracy under pressure

No Free Belarus Action this year, but.

For eight consecutive years the Young European Federalists (JEF Europe) have organised the pan-European "Free Belarus Action" in numerous cities across Europe on the 18th of March. The purpose of the action has been to condemn the last dictatorship in Europe and to show our support for the people of Belarus. In 2013, 100 cities all over the world and a variety of organisations joined our call for more freedom in Belarus. This is still important, but this year it is different, and we simply can not focus solely on Belarus.

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Democracy under pressure

The Young European Federalists highlight three key issues on the verge of the European Parliament elections this year. First, as recent events in Ukraine have reminded us, democracy can never be taken for granted. The rise of nationalism and extremist parties is best countered by openly challenging the ideas of fundamentalists on the European stage.

Second, democratic development inside and outside of the European Union concerns us all. When faced with the consequences of a dissolving democracy we as Europeans must act. The dangers of unchecked governments should teach us the lesson that we need to safeguard democracy.

Third, we therefore need to fight the trend of falling election turn-out, and treat it as a threat to democracy and the democratic legitimacy of the European institutions. The European Parliament needs to be more accountable for the policies and actions of the Union.

"We are painfully reminded of the importance of democracy when we look to the riots in the streets of Kiev or the lack of fundamental rights of the people of Belarus, when we see nationalist and extremist parties popping up like mushrooms all over Europe, or even when we are faced with the lack of accountability of the European institutions", says Espen Berg-Larsen, Board Member of JEF Europe.

The need to speak up - and vote

On the 17th - 19th of March, all over Europe, the Young European Federalists will symbolically silence statues to draw attention to the fact that still so many Europeans are denied their right to speak.

"It is absolutely unacceptable for us as Europeans to stand by and quietly accept the status-quo. We need to speak up as Europeans to safeguard the democratic rights we all seem to take for granted", says Pauline Gessant, President of JEF Europe.

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"JEF is a supranational, politically pluralist non-governmental youth organisation with about 30,000 members in over 35 European countries. The goal of JEF is the creation of a democratic European federation as a crucial ingredient for peace and a guarantee for a more free, just and democratic society. JEF fosters and promotes European citizenship, works for the widening and deepening of the EU and aims at bringing Europe closer to the citizens. Our ideas are spread through international activities and youth exchanges, publications, public actions and co-operation with other youth organisations."



YOUNG
EUROPEAN
FEDERALISTS



DEMOCRACY IS UNDER PRESSURE MARCH 17 - 19TH



SPEAK UP FOR DEMOCRACY #UNITEDEUROPE



DEMOCRACY IS UNDER PRESSURE
MARCH 17 - 19TH

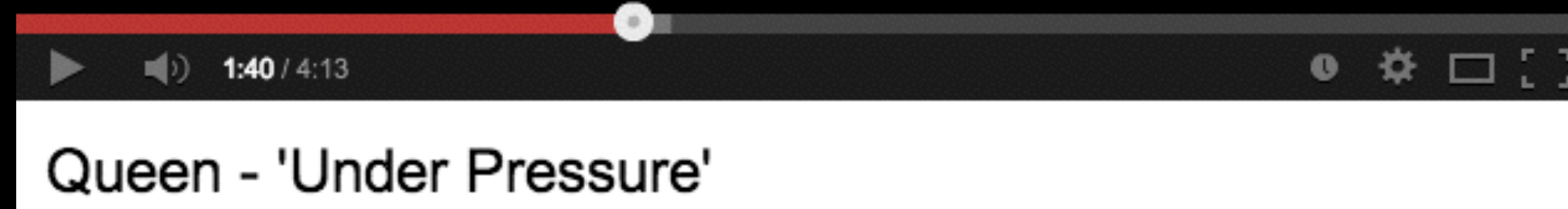
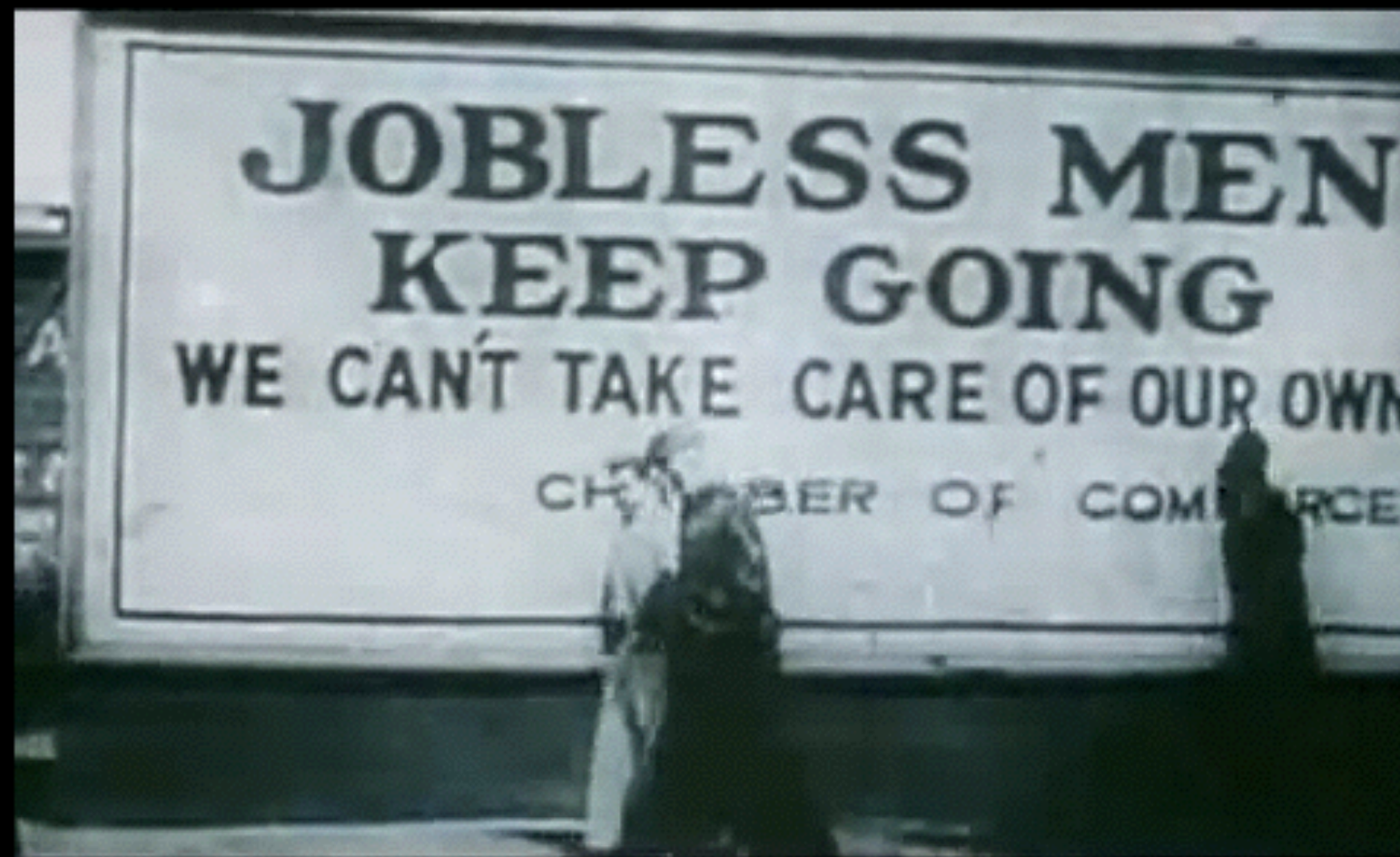
SPEAK UP FOR DEMOCRACY #UNITEDEUROPE



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THEME SONG: QUEEN- "UNDER PRESSURE"



The whole video can be seen on:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a01QQZyl-_I&feature=kp

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COMPETITION

The JEF-section that organises the best action will win prizes at the federal committee meeting in Cambridge at the end of March 2014

We will award:

- best action
- best coverage
- best picture



ANY QUESTIONS?

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