



Mipham Samten – EurVoice Coordinator

Why are you applying for the Alumni Association Executive? (150 words)

Having been a member of EYPUK since 2018, I have learnt from and enjoyed the company of a plethora of interesting, interested and intelligent people from across the UK and Europe. The EYP community is a unique one. I have benefited from it and the efforts of those who have come before me. Having taken so much, I believe this year, with the unique challenges it poses, is an excellent opportunity to play a small role in continuing the work of previous members and executives in building this forum, supporting EYP's message of inspired inclusivity for all future members of our family.

EurVoice's role within EYP is unique in its focus on amplifying the voices of those who are silenced in wider society: the disadvantaged, the minorities and the marginalised. As a second-generation refugee, its aims are closely aligned with my own.

What would your aims and priorities be in this role? How would you pursue them? (250 words)

I promise to focus on **integration and expansion**.

Integration

a) My priority will be to continue the great work of the outgoing coordinator, Andy Morris. He has made tremendous progress in **building awareness and excitement** around EurVoice within the alumni community. Taking advantage of EYP's unique ability to make everyone feel welcome, I will focus on **building a diverse mix of committed alumni, students, and guests** to sustain an **engaging, well rounded EurVoice platform**.

b) From this, I will focus on **further integration of EurVoice into the wider EYP project**. Working with the Alumni Development and Regional Co-ordinators, EurVoice will be promoted as part of an **integrated EYP experience with great opportunities for involvement** at all levels of EYP. Working with partner schools, EurVoice participation could be **expanded to all those who lack opportunity**.

Expansion

a) I will focus on exploring moving some sessions to a digital format as a contingency. This would be primarily to **navigate the difficult landscape post-pandemic for in-person events**. Learning from the recent Digital Forum innovation, I will make sure EurVoice has **a reliable digital template for the future**.

b) Should the opportunity present itself, EYP could move into **remote discussions and interviews** with **interesting thinkers and prominent individuals (EYPx?)**, building on the model of EurVoice. **Student and alumni questions** would provide an opportunity for **socially distanced, democratic interaction**. With the help of EYP alumni, seizing the opportunity to **expand the positive influence** of our organisation would be my goal.



What skills and experience (within or without EYP) do you have that will help you in this role?
How will you use these skills for the benefit of EYPUK? (250 words)

I believe I have the required experience, empathy and competence to do well in this role.

Coming from a minority background myself, and having both benefited from and worked for excellent initiatives aimed at boosting the life chances of those involved, I have some understanding of what it means to lack opportunity, what it takes to make a difference and how to inspire people to unleash their potential. I have hosted speakers, run events and given talks to hundreds of students from minorities and mentored pupils throughout their education journey. I have a plethora of pertinent experience for this role.

These experiences have deepened my ability to empathise, furthering my abilities as a speaker and, more importantly, a listener. (It's about EU, not me :) Engaging with diverse teams and guiding students to find their voice and project it through reasoned debate, has taught me how to amplify and involve disadvantaged voices and work to make a team greater than the sum of its parts.

Finally, I am competent. I am an experienced public speaker and debater having spoken in front of classes, general assemblies and a federal court judge. I have the required suite of communication, leadership and time management skills needed to be trusted with running a crucial part of EYP UK.

(One more thing) I must express my continued commitment to the 'Jellyfish' ritual dance of EYP. My skill (principally enthusiasm) at imitating a 'protoplasmic invertebrate jelly' is something no voter can overlook.

Anything else you'd like to add?

In sum, as EurVoice Co-ordinator, my focus would be on continuing to build awareness and excitement within the alumni community, working closely with the Alumni Development and Regional Co-ordinators to integrate opportunities for EurVoice earlier on, and to expand EurVoice into more digital events, potentially to deal with lingering virus concerns surrounding in-person events.

If anyone wishes to get in touch regarding points raised in the manifesto or just to talk about what a crazy year it has been so far, please drop me a message on Facebook.

Best of luck to all those taking part in the elections this year!

I hope everyone and their families are safe and well.