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### The Women Giorgia Meloni is Impacting and their Views on Her

“Giorgia Meloni will take Italy back in time instead of helping it make progress.”

“Giorgia Meloni is bigoted and traditionalist”

“Giorgia Meloni is a fascist, we are not in a good position”

“Her views are not very clear to me yet because were hidden from the pre-election propaganda. I do know that she's skeptical about important civil rights and she's willing to promote hate and prejudice against minorities like the LGBT community, and immigrants but also undermine women's rights like abortion rights and promote a more conservative patriarchal family”

“I think Giorgia Meloni is trying to show a "moderate" part of herself that is not really what she is.”

“I think she is an extremely smart woman. I don't necessarily think she is a very intelligent or educated woman. I actually think she is a deeply ignorant person. But she managed to win the popular vote through speeches that were studied beyond measure. She knows how to talk, and she knows what to say to cater to those who need to feel important, heard and seen the most. That takes a certain amount of smarts”

“She is a very determined person, very ambitious, and also very dangerous.”

Those are just a few things women have said about Giorgia Meloni and who she will be as a leader. I had the pleasure of interviewing eight women with different backgrounds, different ages, and different lifestyles. I asked them a question ranging from who they are to what their views of Giorgia Meloni to what they were most scared of under her rule.

A brief introduction of each of the women I interviewed. Starting with dual citizen Nancy Civetta, who currently resides in Massachusetts but lived in Florence, Italy for 14 years and worked as a translator and interpreter, among other jobs there. She takes her right to vote very seriously and believes to have only missed one election (in 2018 due to issues with the Consulate) since 1995. She has been following the Italian elections and voted as a citizen residing abroad in the North American sector. Next is a twenty-seven-year-old practicing

physician who currently resides in Rome named Veronica. She has been following the elections and unfortunately, I'm not very satisfied with the results. The third woman is Alessia who is twenty-four and was born, raised, and currently resides in Florence. She works as a nurse in a public hospital near Florence. Nefeli is a professor of writing at John Cabot University and Temple University. She resides in Rome. There is also Valentina who is a forty-three-year-old professor at John Cabot University. She specializes in classes in the humanist field. One woman I interviewed would like to remain anonymous in most aspects but did want to touch on what she is feeling for Giorgia Meloni. She is a Venice resident. The sixth woman was Louise who is a thirty-one-year-old who is from Ireland but has lived in Rome Italy for about ten years. She does not have the right to vote in Italy, but she does have a few opinions of her own on Meloni and her policies. Finally, there is Elena who is a twenty-two-year-old who works at John Cabot University and resides in Rome.

Moving forward, for those of you who have no idea who Giorgia Meloni is let me give you a snippet of who she is. Giorgia Meloni began her career in politics at 15 but until now she has remained out of the spotlight, her draw according to freelance journalist Phillip Willan "she seems new to power and full of change. She will bring Italy back to traditional values" Some of Giorgia Meloni's standing ground policies for her campaign as a far-right candidate include being Pro NATO and Pro Ukraine, Anti LGBTQ and Anti-Muslim immigrants. On Sunday, September 25, the Italian people voted for 600 individuals to become the Italian parliament, who will decide who the next Prime Minister of Italy will be. Giorgia Meloni collected forty-four percent of the votes across Italy while the left barely scraped together twenty-six percent of the votes. Regardless of what women's views are, it is clear Giorgia Meloni's name will go down in history. As she is set to be elected as the first female prime minister of Italy and the first far-right prime minister since World War two.

Now as she is set to step into office, women fear traveling back in time to traditional values, "that limit not only women's rights but LGBTQ rights, immigrant rights and for lack of better words human rights" states twenty-two-year-old, Rome resident.

I placed the loaded question, "What are you most afraid of under Giorgia Meloni's rule?"

Here are some of the chilling responses.

“If elected, I am most afraid that Giorgia Meloni will cut women’s rights and try and change Italy’s constitution to meet her far-right ideals.” States, dual citizen Nancy Civetta.

“I see in the face of Giorgia Meloni this nostalgia which is irrelevant to the present because our problems now are neither immigration nor social rights. Italy is deeply corrupted, taken over by the bureaucracy which makes it impossible to detect tax evasion and bombarding its own citizens with an unnecessarily high burden of taxes, it has one of the highest state debts in Europe, the lowest quality of life, poor infrastructure, a very old and sluggish health system, etc... These are the real problems, but as it happens in all the propagandist regimens, it's easier to point the finger to minorities than to address the actual issues.” States twenty-seven-year-old physician of Rome.

“I am not scared. I am just very sad because I do not agree with her ideas and with her political plans about basically all the possible issues: from social and civic rights to economic decisions to the relationship with other countries. I do not have anything in common with her or with anyone in her "coalition".”

“Giorgia Meloni is more or less blatantly opposed to abortion, the LGBT community, and all those rights that smart women and men have fought for in the past. Her policy shares principles that tend to be fascist and if you consider the history of Italy and the effort that women and men have made to get to this point it is absolutely absurd. Italy is unfortunately slow in change, also because of the basics and teachings with a Catholic background, religion is deep-rooted in every area of life of those who believe and unfortunately even of those who do not believe, Giorgia Meloni becomes the spokeswoman for this ingrained thinking by saying that the family can only be composed of men and women and considering everything that is outside this scheme deviance. Some of her statements were very serious, they drew a woman hiding behind false feminism just to gain support from ignorant people” shares a twenty-four-year-old Florence resident.

“I’m scared she doesn’t have an actual practical financial plan. As I said, she isn’t so intelligent, so qualified, knowledgeable, and experienced. I’m worried that her racist and backward ideas are going to be the least of the problems we’ll have under her leadership”

Twenty-two year-old Rome resident fears, “Minorities will need to leave the country because they no longer feel safe here”

Rome resident and professor fears, the erosion of liberties. Such as, “limitations to the already difficult lives of the LGBTQ+ community, less protection for migrants and the homeless, poor and disenfranchised parts of the population will be even more marginalized”

There was one woman whom I interviewed who requested to remain anonymous but who has a different outlook than the other women I spoke to. Although she did not know much about the election as politics are not her thing, she did know who Giorgia Meloni is and throughout the election has been trying to remain optimistic. She stated, “I try not to be judgmental in any way and am trying to keep an open mind in hopes Giorgia Meloni does the same. I hope Giorgia Meloni is not whom we think she is and does not take us back years or be a judgmental person to others.”

For me, it is fascinating to see the fear and opinions of women. It leaves me wondering about how Giorgia Meloni got enough support to get her into office. It is also interesting to see so many supporting someone who is extremely far right and against basic rights that have been fought to get for years. Giorgia Meloni has brought fear into the lives of several women and minority groups in Italy and we can only hope that these fears are proved wrong, and she does not bring Italy back in time but is the change Italy needs for the better. We can only hope when in office she helps Italy out of its trouble and does not put them into more trouble.

After interviewing these women, I am left with two questions. How does Italy get into this position? And with the rising social and economic crisis in Europe and the energy crisis of Italy will Giorgia Meloni end up being detrimental to or will she be the change needed that no one saw coming?