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Dear Friends,

To give you some idea of myself, I am a child of the diaspora, my father's ancestors moving to the UK via Germany over a hundred years ago when there was a great deal of prejudice against Greeks and my family hid their origins. By my generation very little was remembered of my heritage but I learned all I could from my father. When I first visited Greece, with the few words that had been passed down I felt I had come home. Two years later I was living in Kerkyra in a region where hardly anybody spoke anything but Greek so had to learn quickly. Unfortunately I was forced to return to the UK for personal reasons, but with a desire that no other child of the diaspora would lose their heritage.

I obtained a degree at the Open University, spending some time at Reading and Nottingham. Since then I obtained a number of certificates and diplomas in Electronic Engineering, plus passed courses for teaching adults.

Officially I am now retired although I spend a great deal of time on voluntary work. During my working life I was an office administrator and manager, a teacher and lecturer in English, Maths and IT for university entrance, but most of my working life was as an electronics engineer and a systems administrator for the computer networks of the companies I worked for. I also ran my own company that combined computer upgrades, hardware and software troubleshooting and one to one computer tuition.

In 2001 I joined HEC as a volunteer, initially researching and designing a website about a historical figure, Jennings the American missionary who was responsible for rescuing a large number from the Asia Minor Genocide. I then took charge of the HEC HR department and was asked to become an expert in the Listserver. I did anything asked of me including finding suitable volunteer work for new members and, where needed, training them in that job.

I stood as the only candidate in the first election for the vacant Director position with the intension of increasing transparency for the EC and encouraging the education of the diaspora in their heritage as well as educating the rest of the world. Since then I have kept the Listserver running as well as doing any other work, particularly technical, which is required. I have taken a full part in all meetings, discussions and votes, always with the intention of improving HEC.

There is still much to do, particularly regarding bylaws and transparency. Amongst other things I would like to see an online AGM for all HEC members and better communication, particularly regarding aims and projects.