

From cashier to world's youngest PM. Finland's new leader breaks the mold

When leaders from the European Council gathered for a group photo in Brussels last week, it was hard to miss the class **newbie**. Standing front and center among the neat rows of middle-aged men was Finland's new prime minister — 34-year-old Sanna Marin.

newbie 新人

The young woman had a huge smile on her face. And why not, given her **trailblazing** new status as the world's youngest sitting prime minister.

trailblazer 开拓者

She now heads Finland's governing coalition of five parties — all of which have female leaders, and almost all under the age of 35. It's a remarkable line-up, given the country's leaders have traditionally been older men.

Marin and her fellow coalition leaders don't look like your average senior politicians. The new prime minister is a big Rage Against the Machine fan, and a photo of Marin and her all-female line-up was proudly shared on Instagram by the band's guitarist, Tom Morello.

Marin's modest background doesn't read like your average world leader's either. She grew up in a "rainbow family," her mother in a same-sex relationship. They lived in a rented apartment and despite not having much money, Marin wrote that they had an "abundance" of love.

After graduating from high school, she worked as a cashier — a role Estonia's interior minister this week mocked, calling her a "sales girl" and questioning her ability to run the country.

Marin used the comments to her political advantage, tweeting: "I'm extremely proud of Finland. Here a poor family's child can educate themselves and achieve their goals in life. A cashier can become even a Prime Minister."