



## **Prayer Network**

The roots of our EEA Prayer network are found in the Hope for Europe Movement in the last decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. For example, when we met in Budapest as intercessors from Europe. When the transition for Hope for Europe movement to the European Evangelical Alliance was realized, Peter Artman (Sweden) and Robbert Jan Perk (Netherlands) were asked to build the Prayer Network on a new foundation bringing together intercessors and prayer movements in Europe.

"And of the children of Issachar, *which were men* that understood the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them *were* two hundred; and all their brethren *were* at their commandment." 1 Chronicles 12.32



"First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be offered for everyone—for kings and all those in authority—so that we may lead tranquil and quiet lives in all godliness and dignity. This is good and pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

1 Timothy 2.1

## **Praying and doing justice**

We are gathering monthly in digital context by zoom, where we pray in a Non-Partisan way, for the urgent topics that are happening in the nations of Europe. Julia Doxat-Purser, who is very well informed about the developments in political context of Europe, helps us with this call to stand in the gap as intercessors. For example, we have prayed the last years for the UK and the Brexit, for tensions in Catalonia and Spain, between Turkey and Greece, the refugees and the conflict in Ukraine.

We inform the intercessors and leaders of prayers movements by monthly e-mail convocation, social media facebook <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/prayernetworkHFE</u> and WhatsApp.

Since February 2022, when the conflict Ukraine-Russia started, we have gathered weekly in digital context and took part in the EEA Taskforce- Meeting.

We created written prayers for each new-year and for the conflict in Ukraine-Russia, that were published in the media by the EEA Staff. We served in the retreat meetings of EEA-staff Members and Round Table meeting of EEA Networks chairs. We served in the preparation of the HFE Tallin and in this HFE Sarajevo. We want to connect with prayer movements and intercessors across Europe so that we can encourage and learn from one another. We would love your help in being able to connect to people.





Two important themes/ topics for the Builder group meeting

1. How can we learn from each other and from the Holy Spirit to pray and serve (more) in a Non-Partisan way in a context where there is so much opposition and division?

Theologian and writer C.S. Lewis wrote the essay *Meditation on the Third Commandment* on the danger of being partisan. There, he argues that the third commandment ("You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God" – Deuteronomy 5:11) is breached when we declare a political movement to be the Christian option. Such a movement will always exclude Christians who disagree with it, so mistaking the part for the whole, misusing the name Christian. Thus weakened, it will inevitably lash itself to a bigger non-Christian project and become unable to speak for God when that project goes against God's will. In the last decade, we have seen both the rise of populism movements and the enormous impact of social media. These have impacted our ways of praying and understanding how we as Christians take responsibility for our social context, how we pray or do not pray for our governments and rulers. How do we avoid side-choosing and blame shifting and really listen to the voices that need to be heard, even when they confuse us in our own understanding and insight?

2. What is the essential role/function for our Prayer-network to serve you as Other Networks in fulfilling your Mission, cooperation in God's Kingdom is the decisive key factor

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said: "Our being in our time will consist only in two things: In Praying and doing justice among people". The interdependence of prayers and doing good deeds of justice is foundational for our future in serving Gods kingdom and proclaiming the good news of the Gospel in Europe. Where and why do you need "Prayer-Support" in your network? Is prayer-support your S.O.S Call? Or can we help you in finding the right direction of the Holy Spirit? The difference in prayer-culture is something that really keeps us alert. The good balance of being with God and listening to Him and calling out to Him for guidance and deliverance is something we all must learn.



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