



Women in Leadership Network

Women in Leadership was the first HOPE for EUROPE network. It was established 1992, convened by Elisabeth Mittelstädt, founder and editor of the Christian women's magazine »Lydia«. Ever since, the network has met every other year in a different European country. Our leadership team now consists of women from Finland, France, Germany, Latvia, Romania, Serbia, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Our goal is to inspire, encourage, and equip women to fulfil the purposes of God for their lives. We seek to model how God can use women in a variety of ways and to challenge European women leaders to bring the transforming power of the gospel to every nation in Europe.



How far can you walk on one leg?

How far can you walk on one leg? This is a helpful metaphor for what the body of Christ looks like when women are not valued as full, participating members. The church will limp along, ineffective and falling, unless men and women work together as partners in God's plan.

Men and women are called to minister side by side. Created in the image of God as male and female, we are blessed with the same blessing and given the same task: to multiply and to rule over this world. Both Adam and Eve sinned and needed the redemption that came through Jesus Christ. By His grace, both men and women are sent out by Jesus to tell the world this Good News. Both men and women receive the Holy Spirit. And both men and women are given spiritual gifts to build the church, to live as the bride of Christ until He returns.

Churches often limit women to ministry with children or among other women. While these are valuable contributions, they are not the only ministries for which women are equipped. What about women who have the gifts of leadership, teaching or evangelism? These women are suffering in the Church because their gifts and contributions are either unwanted or marginalized. The Church must repent and confess that we have failed to value men and women alike. We must release the full power of the whole body of Christ if we are to reach the world with the Gospel. Beside the fact, that half the society we want to reach with the Gospel, is female and over half the church is female, when men and women work together in love and respect for one another, we more accurately reflect who God is to a world that desperately needs to know Him.



When Paul wrote: „*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus*“, he was not aiming to erase the God-intended differences between ethnicities or sexes; rather, he was insisting that our identity, capacity, and legitimacy are no longer rooted in human hierarchies, but in Christ’s redemption.

The Women in Leadership network is comprised of brave and capable Kingdom-builders who are tackling the challenges that confront the Church today – challenges that concern everyone, not just women. Through careful theological reflection, thorough academic research, faithful prayer, Christ-like compassion and a fierce commitment to justice, we are working to respond with grace and truth to issues such as abortion, human trafficking, child and partner abuse, gender identity and LGBT questions, refugees’ crises, political agendas that compromise human thriving, and the de-construction of the family. Both individually and collectively, we seek to live lives according to God’s will as we find it in the Bible, so that whatever we do, in word and in deed, we are doing it to the glory of God.

In our Women in Leadership meetings, we come together to understand who we as women are in Christ. We share our sorrows, we pray for our countries and we address the pressing issues of our day such as those already mentioned. We learn from each other’s expertise and experiences and we go home better equipped to bring change, wherever we can. Our gatherings stimulate networking, collaboration, cross-discipline synergies, and sharing of best-practices.

We celebrate the new leadership teams of Lausanne Europe and the European Evangelical Alliance: a man and a woman leading together as a team. We encourage both men and women to look for opportunities to partner in ministry, not according to gender, but according to giftedness. With Christ as the head we are learning to become a counter culture that attracts both men and women to be His Body – walking on two legs.



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