

HOPE 2022 WHITE PAPERS



"Builders connecting -
Celebrating the Kingdom of God"
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Table of contents

- 3... Arts+ Network - Discovering a network of cousins
- 5... Cities Network - Seeking God's Shalom for the Cities of Europe
- 7... European Disability Network - Extend an invitation
- 9... European Freedom Network - The Church as an anti-slavery catalyst
- 11... EurECA - European Educators' Christian Association - A vision to influence a generation
- 13... Financial Discipleship and Generosity Network - Equipping the Church for financial freedom
- 15... Moms in Prayer International - Every school covered in prayer
- 17... Network of Ministries to Muslims in Europe - A new significant chapter
- 19... Prayer Network - Praying and doing justice
- 21... Peace & Reconciliation Network - God's shalom vision
- 23... Reaching Europe's Children - Advocate, inspire, equip
- 25... Roma Networks - Real change at grassroots level
- 27... Singles, Couples and Family Network - Families share the gospel with power
- 29... Women in Leadership Network - How far can you walk on one leg?



Arts+ Network

Arts Plus is a relational network which comprises a group of visionary arts advocates and leaders who collaborate together to catalyse progress in the arts landscape across Europe and beyond. Inspired by previous 'Hope for Europe' conferences, it began in 2009 with leaders of Christian arts initiatives coming together to create a European-wide relational network.

The Arts Plus network and vision continues to expand across Europe and beyond and focuses on four spheres of influence: The Church, Artists, Academy/Education, and Society/Marketplace. It is a catalyst for the formation of local, national and international Arts Round Tables, a core activity in recognition of the importance of bringing together arts leaders for mutual awareness, encouragement, prayer, and potential creative collaboration.

The network is intentionally trans-denominational and open for trans-cultural connections. We currently have 11 Round Tables developing and growing across Europe and seek to expand our reach to an international level. We embrace common core values, and our Round Tables are informed by a Christian Biblical worldview and unified in the desire to see God glorified in Church life, educational endeavors, the public square, and mission initiatives.



Our aim is to see the formation and nurturing of more local, national and international Round Tables which allow for creative collaboration, exchange, mutual encouragement and cooperation.

Discovering a network of cousins

For many organizations and networks, the last two years of dealing with a global pandemic has been challenging. Due to the fact that our main focus is fostering connection and collaboration, we were faced with a major issue as to how this would continue. As a result, we experimented with online zoom meetings to see how this could enable us to gather, listen to each other, share experiences and ideas, and continue to build regional and national alliances to embrace creatives from a range language groups across Europe and beyond. We offered 4 main Zoom-Meetings from October 2020 through to November 2021 with our executive and extended leadership teams and existing members. This proved very successful and as a result we were able to broaden our network to encompass arts ministry leaders from Europe and beyond to Canada, USA and Australia. The fourth meeting was a hybrid meeting with arts leaders meeting both physically and online in Budapest, Hungary. For each meeting we tried to identify how Arts Plus could help and support arts leaders in these difficult and challenging times. The October Zoom gathering had a focus on the arts ministries within Arts Plus to enable all to see and understand the range of ministries represented and to connect people on the call. This established the sense of togetherness which was needed at the time.

The February zoom gathering was focused on 'Kingdom Connections' and how to foster connections with artists and creatives in other creative spheres, and encourage best practices for working together. The May zoom gathering had a focus on 'Creative Collaboration.' We invited a panel of arts leaders representing our four key areas of interest: The Church, Academy/Education, Artists and the Marketplace/Society, to share their current experiences and stories of collaboration with a view to encouraging and inspiring those on the call. The November zoom gathering had a focus on training opportunities and was delivered in hybrid mode. The network was introduced to a training program called: 'Community Arts for God's Purposes,' with aim to encourage ongoing learning and help artists connect with the arts in their local and church communities. This hybrid conference also provided an opportunity for re-connection.



Some of the areas and questions we were addressing in the four zoom gatherings were:

- How are you managing to partner with others such as institutions, arts and faith ministries, networks, community, and individual artists?
- Why are Kingdom connections important and what are the advantages?
- How can we build and express community especially in these challenging times of national restrictions?
- How have you been collaborating creatively with others over the last year and what have you learned?
- What kind of leadership is required in this season?
- How can we build bridges into society?
- What are new ways of delivering content online?
- What new opportunities are opening up for you and your organization?

One of our panelists said: *"It's like discovering a network of cousins you did not know, who welcomed you and invited you into their house to eat with them."*

Through the online zoom meetings, it was possible for us to connect in a meaningful and purposeful way. The meetings opened up new possibilities on several levels which facilitated further cooperation within countries, genres and ministries. For example, participants met in language groups for the first time; a Hungarian organization was able to promote its European festival and get to know leaders of countries they wanted to extend to, and we were able to initiate 2 National Round Tables in Austria and Hungary.

Through the pandemic we were also able to create a new website which now acts as 'hub' in the intersection of Arts and Faith. We provide resources for a broader audience, such as articles on "Art from the Christian point of view", "Empowering Missional Marketplace Artists", "The Power of Healing", "Art as Authentic Witness," as well as book recommendations, podcasts and videos of our partners. <https://www.artsplus.info/resources>

Arts Plus continues to invite leaders, artists and representatives of Christian Art initiatives working in the sphere of the arts, faith and society to join the Arts Plus network. Our ongoing challenge is to grow and nurture more local, national and international Round Tables which allow for creative collaboration, exchange, mutual encouragement for the purposes of building God's kingdom.



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EEA Cities Network

God loves people, and most people live in cities. Urbanization is a mega trend. Cities are cultural, political and spiritual focal points. We believe that God has a special passion for our urban world. Out of this conviction, many Christian organizations, churches, networks and individuals are already active in Europe's cities in the name of Jesus. Each of them makes a unique contribution to the common mission. And as in the story of Nehemiah, when God's people work together in service to his kingdom, a city will reap great benefits.

**EEA CITIES
NETWORK
PLACE.**

Seeking God's Shalom for the Cities of Europe

The EEA CITIES NETWORK is a working group that promotes the relationship and collaboration of Christian churches, organizations, networks and individuals in European cities.

We explore the special needs of city dwellers and search for models of hope addressing such needs. We believe that hearts and living conditions of urban dwellers can be transformed when God's people unite, pray and collaborate. We want to see the Gospel flourish in Europe's urban world.

The EEA CITIES NETWORK aims to motivate through story-telling and reflection, promote collective learning, share relevant resources, encourage joint missional commitment and pray for our cities.

- From 2001 to 2019 pastors, youth leaders, artists, community workers and other gifted people have gathered together to celebrate how they discover 'Jesus in the City'.
- P.L.A.C.E. consultations („People Learning and Acting in Cities of Europe“) have been held in Paris, Marseille, Barcelona, Manchester, Birmingham, Rotterdam, Brussels, Budapest, Bucharest, Cluj, Iasi, Athens and Berlin.
- The network has organized trails to explore the effects on cities by the ministry of Celtic spirituality, Martin Luther, Focolare and the Orthodox Church.
- In 2021, we developed the format of a quarterly European Urban Conversation. This online round table is specifically focused on leaders of Christian organizations, networks, and movements to provide a peer-level dialog. The purpose of this conversation is to listen to one another, learn from one another and empower each other. And as the Lord leads: discover potential synergies for action.
- A new project in planning is a podcast about urban mission and transformation in Europe.



We would like to invite and encourage the national Evangelical Alliances to take a conscious and strategic look at cities. How can the missionary commitment and cooperation of Christians in cities be strengthened in their respective countries?

Cities are powerhouses and catalysts for innovations, trends and social developments in society. But they are also places of many social problems, increasing segregation and polarization, places of loneliness and spiritual lostness. Cities in Ukraine are being targeted and destroyed by the Russian aggressors. Refugees from different countries around the world are seeking refuge and prospects in European cities. The Covid pandemic has posed enormous challenges to urban communities. The number of confessing Christians in Europe's cities is still small compared to the increasing total urban population. And besides innovative church plants, inspiring missional models and stories of hope, a number of urban churches are struggling. This makes it all the more important for Christians to emerge as the body of Christ, to seek unity in Jesus and seek the best for their cities.

A pressing question is: How can we promote more and sustainable collaboration for God's shalom among Christians in our cities of Europe? How can we promote unity with a purpose among urban churches, organizations and networks?

God is working in cities all over the world and a number of urban Christian networks and unity movements have emerged in the past decades. There are also encouraging examples in Europe.

Leaders of different churches and denominations are beginning to notice and listen to each other. They pray together and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to reach their cities with the Gospel. They network and discover the beauty and effectiveness of working together for the kingdom of God. They discover their urban contexts, develop a theological vision and formulate strategic goals. So that God's kingdom may come, in heaven as on earth, also in our cities. They pray and work for transformations in the spiritual realm, the social realm and the cultural realm.

However, in our increasingly urban world in Europe there is still much to do. We invite you to pray and work with us for this urban task. We invite you to join our network meetings in Sarajevo at the Hope for Europe 2022 experience and to enter the European urban conversation.

The whole church, the whole gospel, the whole city – it can be done!



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European Disability Network

The disability network is unique in a sense that there is no group of people on this earth which is not affected by disability. In truth, there is no area of life that is free from disability. There are children with disabilities, women with disabilities, refugees with disabilities, servicemen and women leave deployment with disabilities. Through illness or accident, it can affect anyone at any time."

Our vision is that in all areas, in church congregations and at events, the proportion of disabled people present reflects that of the population as a whole. EDN, the European Disability Network, is a resource available to advise and assist churches, Christian organizations and events in being accessible to all.



Extend an invitation

People with disabilities are the largest people group in Europe* and worldwide and yet they are the least reached by the Gospel. When we read the Gospels, we realize that Jesus paid special attention to people with disabilities. God created humans for community. He wants everyone to be part of his body, the church.

God extends a special invitation to disabled people. Why? Because he looks past their weaknesses and limitations and sees their strengths, abilities and gifts. Society sees only their disabilities, blinded to their gifting and potential. Many churches have that same blind-spot.

The church is missing something if disabled people are not represented in our congregations; they are an indispensable part of the church of the resurrected Jesus. A church without



disabled members is incomplete; in fact, it is itself disabled and impoverished. It is not about helping the "poor" disabled, but rather about giving support to empower and include people, breaking down barriers in buildings and attitudes.

We want to see churches and congregations with space for all people, with the willingness to include people with disabilities in the leadership and ministries, and to involve them in the congregational life as full members. What are our priorities? Shouldn't they be to follow Christ's example and make a way first for those who are unable to overcome obstacles on their own?



Not recognising the needs of people with disability leads to exclusion, because only when every person makes a way for their fellow humans with disabilities will they be enabled to participate. Removing barriers will make churches and communities better places for everyone.

Wherever a congregation, a conference or any kind of event has consciously taken the step of actively including people with disability we hear that everybody has been enriched and blessed by learning from the different life experiences and different viewpoints of people living with disability. There is a need for awareness in this regard in churches and congregations.

Leaders need to stir up, encourage and teach their members to actively remove barriers and reach out to include those missing people, because nothing starts in communities and churches if responsible people do not speak openly and lead by example.

If we live into old age, we will all experience disability. Does this thought ever appear in our teaching? It's good to know that weakness is normal and no one has to stay strong when in reality they are not.

Sound theological and practical teaching on this subject is desperately needed. Let us pray and work towards our churches becoming places where everyone is noticed, taken seriously, accepted and valued regardless of any limitations. Together, let us fulfil Jesus' command to share our lives with one another in brotherly love. We all need each other.



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European Freedom Network

EFN is a Christian community that exists to fight human trafficking and commercial exploitation in Europe and to seek the restoration of victims in collaboration with strategic stakeholders. We see a world free of Human Trafficking and Commercial Exploitation where every person has the opportunity to live in freedom and dignity and to flourish. Our members and partners represent organizations of all shapes and sizes and they work in all areas of combating human trafficking and commercial exploitation.



The Church as an anti-slavery catalyst

Human trafficking is a wicked problem, and its solution will require the participation of government, civil society and individual actors. Each sphere of society must play a role in combatting human trafficking and exploitation. The Church has foundational beliefs about human dignity, flourishing and freedom as well as the core message of the gospel, and it is our contention that the church is perfectly suited and positioned to be a powerful anti-slavery catalyst.

The Church has a platform to speak out against slavery and exploitation. This starts with discipling members in healthy sexuality, becoming a safe space for hurting people, and being a prophetic voice against injustice. The Church also has the opportunity to speak to the public and with the oppressed. The pressing issue for the church is how to move beyond beliefs and words to actions that fight trafficking and provide support to victims and survivors.

Churches can become welcoming, transformative and healing communities. Many churches are not well prepared to welcome survivors who have experienced severe trauma. This requires intentional discipleship of members, changing expectations of how people may come to and act in a church service, learning not to re-exploiting survivors (for instance, by asking them to tell their stories), modeling healthy relationships, and building a welcome that is durable and committed, not program-driven.

Churches have tremendous potential in preventing exploitation. A church's knowledge of and reach into their community is often unsurpassed. Churches need to understand who in their community is vulnerable to exploitation and how their own resources (a youth program, after-school tutoring, or marriage counseling) can become part of their mission to protect vulnerable people.

Further, the church must not consciously or unconsciously participate in exploitative acts. While this may seem ridiculous, churches can participate in exploitation through a lack of due diligence and by offering "help" that is not helpful.

Due diligence simply means understanding what is happening in a church's supply chain and who is being affected by the choices a church makes. Purchasing decisions can be complex. Churches must do their best to understand who is making the products they buy. Are children involved in production? Are the workers being paid a fair wage? Are workers exposed to harmful practices? Some of these things can be checked online or through trusted organizations. One example is the Chocolate Score Card produced by Be Slavery Free in partnership with EFN.



Churches can also exploit people by providing “help that isn’t helpful.” This includes cash for work schemes whereby a church “hires” a person in need to do tasks around the church such as cleaning or other odd jobs. While this may seem like a win/win for both parties, this does not break the cycle of exploitation but keeps it subtly in place. This can be especially damaging as the person hired may not receive social or employment benefits, or feel they have the power to speak up for their rights or against unfair practices. This also applies to broader decisions regarding hiring, for example in cleaning or catering. Churches must do proper checks (due diligence) before contracting services to ensure that people are paid and treated fairly.

So, how can the church be an Anti-Slavery Catalyst in society?

- Churches should adopt or create their own modern-day slavery policies which includes due diligence, purchasing sex, and viewing of pornography. All staff, volunteers and lay leaders must agree to adhere to this policy.
- Churches must direct their purchasing power to ethical sources, and disciple members in ethical financial decisions, including purchasing power and investments. Christians should avoid not only “vice” investments (like alcohol, tobacco and firearms) but also slavery-prone industries.
- Churches should become welcoming communities: learning how to relate to traumatized people, inviting them into the community and providing appropriate opportunities for participation and service.
- Churches must identify needs and vulnerabilities in its community that allow exploitation to happen, and understand how to use their resources to protect vulnerable people.
- Churches should not sensationalize the issue but commit to understanding the nuanced nature of vulnerability and exploitation, and ethically tell stories of survivors and organizations working in the area.



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EurECA - European Educators' Christian Association

EurECA was formed in the early 1990s to provide a 'meeting place' for Christians serving in education across Europe. We hold annual conferences, publish papers and books, and bring together hundreds of Christian educators throughout Europe. We are coordinated by a board of volunteers and network informally with national groups in Europe, the US, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Our desire is to see every child in Europe have a Christian teacher for at least a year of their lives.



A vision to influence a generation

Who was your favorite teacher? What do you remember about them? How did they influence your life? Why is it you remember them so well after so many years?

Hold those thoughts, we'll return to them later.

Education is a fundamental factor in every life, every community and every nation. When education is good, rounded, wholesome, well-resourced and readily available, children prosper, nations prosper. When education lacks some or all of these things, children suffer, nations suffer.

The question before the church is this, how do we release more Christians to be effective ambassadors for Jesus in the education system? It's not just a matter of developing more Christian teachers, assistants, leaders etc., though that is vital. It's also helping them to be more fruitful in all they do.

Education is filled with challenges, the nature of the job itself is demanding, ask any teacher. Added to that there are the additional pressures of working with increased numbers of children with educational, emotional and mental challenges, all in a constantly changing social, political, economic and moral environment.

Most teachers are idealists and visionaries, they aim to stimulate aspirations in their pupils, and then help them to reach for them. However, the level of stress and disillusionment among teachers is worrying, and the percentage drop-out of young, aspiring, idealistic teachers and future leaders is alarming.

How do Christian educators operate well in such environments, especially when many settings are very sensitized, and can harbor a lot of antipathy towards a Christian perspective? How do we help Christian teachers, filled with the Holy Spirit of God to represent Jesus well and bring His love and wisdom into their educational settings?

The answer has two main components, firstly, how do we encourage more Christians to be involved in education, and secondly, how do we equip them to bring real change?

Let's start with the first of these and go back to our opening questions. We



all had teachers who showed interest in us, gave us value, inspired us and provided positive role models. I know such teachers influenced my life and the choices I have made. So, what if we had a bigger vision across the church to influence a whole generation with the Hope that is Jesus? What if we worked to inspire Christian believers to enter teaching knowing that they were carriers of that hope, as well as faith and love to all they taught and worked with?

That's the easier bit, now to the real challenge.

How do we train and equip each precious individual to not just be a survivor, but to be an overcomer in the environment God sends them into? Here are some things I have seen working consistently over the years I have served as a Christian in education.

- Helping educators to keep their focus on Jesus. If what we are doing isn't centered on Him, it is centered on something else, something which cannot bring truth and life.
- Encouraging networking among Christian teachers to combat isolation. When teachers share together, pray together and encourage together it builds strength and fosters creative strategies.
- Training teachers to walk with the Holy Spirit as their guide in their classrooms, staffrooms and schools. He provides the wisdom to handle whatever comes their way, along with the loving authority to bring peace and order into the lives around them.
- Telling and retelling stories of what God has done in individuals and groups. It glorifies Him and encourages others. If God does it once, He can do it again.
- Developing the skills and confidence of Christian educators and leaders to navigate their way through challenging and hostile situations. This is the area where I have seen too many overwhelmed by fear and uncertainty, but God has already established the final victory. We do not fight for victory; we fight from it.

Jesus instructed us to pray 'Your will be done, Your Kingdom come on Earth as it is in Heaven'. Christian educators are uniquely placed to pray this over every child under their care. God's promises, written in His word and brought alive in each believer by His Spirit, mean the authority of God's Kingdom can be alive and active in every school in Europe. If this is not a demonstration of Hope for Europe, I don't know what is.



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Financial Discipleship and Generosity Network

The aim of Financial Discipleship and Generosity Network is to serve Europe and one and another in equipping people to faithfully apply Gods' financial principles in earning and managing money, so they can know Christ more intimately, be free to serve Him and live generously. We are serving in 20 countries and love to serve all churches and ministries in Europe.



Equipping the Church for financial freedom

We will focus specifically on serving local churches in teaching people to 1) become good stewards, 2) coming out of debts and 3) living generously.

The network has already started three pilots: pioneering an (outreach) Debt Free programme with the EA Portugal, pioneering stewardship teaching in churches with the EA Albania and with the EA Italy.

Our vision is that all Christians in Europe

- grow from financial bondage to financial freedom (and as a fruit became generous),
- are growing from dualistic to wholistic Christians,
- are confessing Jesus as Saviour AND Lord

So, Christians will become financial disciples and disciple makers (Math 28).

We dream that in over 60 years at least 25% of the churches in Europe will have a stewardship ministry.





We have programs that help to find the Biblical answer to hundreds of questions about money, business, work, savings, investments, crisis, debts, teaching kids, etc., including:

- Should a Christian be rich or poor?
- What is stewardship and how to become a good steward of money, time and talents?
- How to make godly financial decisions and set my eternal financial goals?

We provide training and transformational tools – in national languages - to learn how to navigate finances God's way – personally and in the church or ministry. Please, contact us to help you to choose the best way to follow Jesus in your personal, corporate or ministry finances.



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Moms in Prayer International

Moms in Prayer International is a worldwide interdenominational Christian prayer ministry of mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and women with a heart to pray for children and schools, who meet for one hour a week to pray scripturally for children and schools. Our vision is that every school in the world would be covered in prayer.



Every school covered in prayer

Moms in Prayer International impacts children and schools worldwide for Christ by gathering mothers to pray. Our purpose is:

- to pray that our children will receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, then stand boldly in their faith
- to pray for teachers and staff
- to pray that our schools will be directed by biblical values and high moral standards
- to pray that teachers, staff, and pupils/students would come to faith in Jesus Christ
- to provide support and encouragement to moms who carry heavy burdens for their children
- be an encouragement and positive support to our schools

Today's children and teachers face many challenges as they grow up in a society and school system without God at the center.

We believe that God can change people and situations through our prayers.

Unity is found in Moms in Prayer as we bring our children and school to Jesus in the prayer hour even though we may be from different cultures, denominations, or generations.

Mothers are discovering that being a part of the Moms in Prayer community is turning their fears to faith. As they commit to meet each week, they are learning to never underestimate the power of their prayers. As answered prayers are shared, they rejoice together and as they wait with hurting hearts for prayers to be answered, they know we do not wait alone, there are other women who are carrying the burden with them in prayer.

Being part of a Moms in Prayer group does not have to end when your child leaves school or university. As young adults they also face challenges in a society without Godly values, that seeks to take them away from Christ. How good it is to know we can support our children and grandchildren, of all ages, through prayer, knowing God can be with them in ways we cannot.



Moms in Prayer's European base is in Switzerland lead by Kathrin Larsen, Regional Director for Europe and Israel. She is supported by the Team to the Director as she leads faith filled women in over 35 countries.

In 2020, Kathrin led Europe to pray Jesus, Cornerstone, into our schools and more recently to examining and rebuilding the spiritual walls of schools through prayer, encouraged by the book of Nehemiah.

Kathrin says "I see hope rising in these dark times, as Jesus, the Rock and Cornerstone reigns in all schools throughout Europe, Israel & worldwide. With overflowing Hope, we go on in prayer, that our schools will be directed by biblical values and high moral standards".

Moms in Prayer International (formerly Moms in Touch) was birthed by Fern Nichols in 1984 while living in British Colombia. Fern was fearful about sending her two eldest children off to junior high School and cried out to God who answered the cry of her heart for another mum who would be willing to pray with her for their children and school. As mums began sharing the work of God in their lives and in the lives of their children, more groups began to spring up in the area to pray for children. Fern and her family moved to California in 1985 and just as before, groups began to form for schools in the region, then spreading across the country until Mums across the world are sharing one mum to another about Moms in Prayer.

In 2015 Fern passed the baton of president onto Sally Burke who is supported by many faith-filled women, across the world.

Today more than 150 countries have Moms in Prayer groups praying for children and schools. The ministry booklet has been translated into 67 languages.

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Network of Ministries to Muslims in Europe

NMME aims to help the Church in Europe relate to Muslim and believers of a Muslim background with a compassionate heart, an informed mind, and involved hand and a witnessing tongue. HOPE dominates the work of the NMME today. This is a new, exciting and transforming situation. Twenty years ago, the situation was very different. Across Europe, Muslims were seen as a threat, Christians were filled with fear, interaction between Christians and Muslims was often confrontational and few Muslims were responding to the gospel.

**Network of
Ministries to
Muslims
in Europe**

A new significant chapter

Today, many things have changed and we are seeing the beginnings of a significant new chapter. More churches are beginning to reach out with Christ's love, church leaders are building friendship with Imams, amicable meetings to build understanding and share faith have developed and there has been a significant increase in the number of Muslims following Jesus, particularly from among the refugee community. For an increasing number of Christians in Europe, Muslims who were often seen as the enemy in the past are now firm friends.

NMME is a network serving the constituencies of the European Evangelical Alliance and the European Evangelical Missionary Association.

If NMME did not exist, it would have to be started. The Pew Research Centre calculated that in 2016 there were 26 million Muslims in Europe (the EU plus Norway and Switzerland), that is nearly 5% of the population and it is growing.

But it is not just numbers, Muslims are contributing to every strata of European society and holding positions of influence in most of the European nations. Many Muslims of sincere faith share





similar values and concerns to those of evangelical Christians. Others are seeking personal success or are politically orientated or just financially driven.

There are a huge number of issues that could each take all our time. Such as diverse approaches to evangelism, discipleship methods, resources of all kinds, academic issues, politics, history, research projects, empowering Christians, training in Islamics, persecution, islamophobia, training churches to be Muslim friendly etc.

At the present time, NMME has decided to prioritize the care, welfare and training of believers from a Muslim Background (BMBs). There are now more BMBs than ever before. Sadly, in the past, many BMBs went back into Islam because they were not followed up appropriately, welcomed and incorporated in Christian churches.

We want to work, particularly, with the BMBs who are themselves leading and discipling groups and young churches of BMBs. We believe that we have a lot to learn from individual BMBs and these young churches of BMBs have a lot to teach the established national churches in all our European countries.

The small core group tries to keep abreast of what God is doing across Europe in Muslim Ministry. We are always interested to hear about what is happening and what is being produced. We piggy-back on the events and conferences of the EEA and EEMA to bring BMB leaders together face-to-face. In between these events, we organize Zoom conferences for BMB leaders. We try to tackle a relevant subject and make every effort to get a BMB to speak to it and share his/her experiences and concerns.

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Prayer Network

The roots of our EEA Prayer network are found in the Hope for Europe Movement in the last decade of the 20th 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 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/prayernetworkHFE> 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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Peace & Reconciliation Network

The Peace and Reconciliation Network (PRN), a commission of the World Evangelical Alliance, has been working since 2016/2017 to inspire and equip the Church and people of peace to enable communities to live life in all its fullness. Now with regional expressions in Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and North America, PRN is growing and partnering with national evangelical alliances and their churches, training institutions, ministries, and other networks. We are convinced that the mission of God is reconciliation centered in Jesus Christ, and that this moment of time requires churches, beginning with their leaders, to awaken to and embrace a *Shalom*-centered theology, way of life, and mission.



God's shalom vision

"Our world is facing the biggest global peace and security crisis in recent years...we must pass this test."
UN General Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, February 22, 2022

"We believe that sharing of good ideas will result in good practices for the benefit of all."
Hope for Europe 2022

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'"
Isaiah 52:7

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."
Jesus, Matthew 5:9

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us."

Paul the Apostle, 2 Corinthians 5:17-20a

Prioritizing peace building does not mean including some small add-on program to your church work, but a concentrated shift in priorities to realign ourselves with the very mission of God."

Bryan Carey, Peace Catalyst International

"The missional movement of the church in society is first and foremost an action of peace."

Johannes Reimer, World Evangelical Alliance



The current global reality – even beyond Ukraine - is a profound test at every societal level and in every local community. This moment, shaped by war, waves of people migrations, a lingering global pandemic, climate concerns, economic instability, sexual identity debates, and polarized tensions in communities, families, and even churches, demands a Christian response.

If the earth is the LORD's and everything in it (Psalm 24:1) for which he has a vision of wholeness, well-being and shalom (Isaiah 2:1-5; Micah 4:1-5), and if God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Jesus Christ through whom he is reconciling to himself all things (Colossians 1:19-20), and if Jesus taught his disciples to pray for the Father's Kingdom to come and will to be done on earth as in heaven (Matthew 6:9-10), and if Jesus has given his disciples peace and sent us as he has been sent (John 20:21) to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20), then it is an essential task of the body of Christ to embrace God's shalom-building mission and our call to follow Jesus into the sacred, healing work of peacebuilding.

How is our theology providing clarity about God's shalom vision and motivating us to follow Jesus in God's shalom-building mission in today's challenges? How are our denominations and local churches actively engaged in the ministry of reconciliation that is the heart of a whole biblical gospel? How are our leaders equipped to disciple their Christian communities as reconciled and reconciling communities in a fractured world facing great tests and looking for hope?

We look with anticipation toward Hope for Europe 2022 with these desired outcomes:

- To call European evangelicals to consider deeply the ministry of reconciliation and peacemaking as central to the Gospel.
- To spur conversation, prayerfulness, and collaboration around the complex leadership challenges of our time that we must engage and encourage one another in now.
- To introduce you to the PRN team.
- To invite you to join our European network of Christians learning about and training disciples and churches in the theology and best practices of peace building.



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Reaching Europe's Children

The European Children's Ministry Network, otherwise known as Reaching Europe's Children (REC) is a community of children's ministry practitioners seeking to inspire, equip and resource churches, ministries, and parents in reaching and discipling children.



Advocate, inspire, equip

The REC core team was formed of representatives of ministries with a vision to

- Advocate on behalf of children's ministries to the European Evangelical Alliance leadership and National Evangelical Alliance (NEA) leaders
- Inspire, equip, and resource children's ministry champions and practitioners from across Europe
- Mobilize ministries in partnering initiatives on a European and national level
- Actively represent the European children's ministries on global partnership movements:
 - Global Children's Forum
 - 4-14 Window Global Movement
 - Global Family Alliance

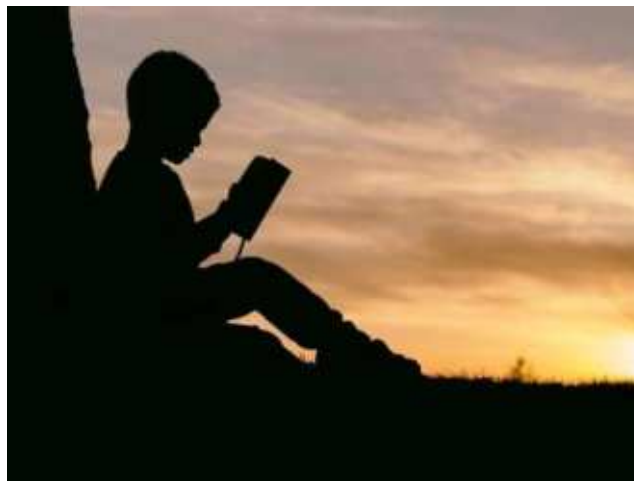
One of the means to advancing these objectives was the organization of two European Congresses which could also serve as a model for national conferences: in Barcelona in 2013 and near Budapest in 2018.

As we gather for a REC network consultation and the HOPE for Europe Experience in Sarajevo, we want to achieve the following outcomes:

- Renew and strengthen the leadership team and expand the REC Community and identify next steps to build on what has been achieved so far.
- Outline goals for our next European Conference to fit current needs in Europe.
- Connect with other global partnerships and contribute to a shared vision for the Church and a joint response to the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis.

We also want to address the following challenges:

- Form stronger links to National Evangelical Alliances (NEAs) with a view to having representation on each NEA team.
- Facilitate more cross-pollination sharing and exchange with other EEA-Hope for Europe networks especially family, women, educators, disability, refugees...
- Provide an online support network with a growing resource platform and host regular online webinars to address hot topics (gender issues and sexuality, etc) and other important needs in the church (missional families, equipping children to disciple, etc) and present effective new methods and resources.



The Global Church is experiencing a Discipleship Crisis as never before where as few as 10% of youth in our Christian families and churches are considered as having a clear and “resilient” faith while a shocking 22% are prodigals who have walked away from the faith altogether. (Faith for Exiles, 2019, David Kinnaman and Mark Matlock). Many parents and church leaders are fearful and intimidated in today’s often toxic culture left feeling devastated, defeated, and discouraged by this reality.

We need an awakening by God of all the generations in the Church today to see things from God’s perspective and discover how He would have us intentionally and proactively work together to more effectively nurture our children to become resilient, lifelong disciples of Jesus and unconditionally love and reclaim our prodigal children. This is not a time for despair but for hope and decisive action.

Never has the Church been so well connected, resourced, and positioned to meet the challenges of equipping and empowering all the generations together. However, we must choose to unite our strengths and proactively partner to bring the Gospel of the Kingdom to every person on the planet, addressing needs in every sphere of society, and bringing a message of hope and transformation to the now and next generations.

The last 2 years with the Covid pandemic have left the church weakened in some areas and stronger in others. The return of younger families to church gatherings appears slow and is of growing concern to church leaders. Families in society have been under great pressure and are struggling with the mental health issues that are surfacing as a result. The invasion of Russia in Ukraine has sent shock waves across Europe and around the globe with more unforeseen consequences ahead.

Recent years in ministry have revealed new biblical understanding and ways to apply what the Bible teaches about nurturing children in the faith. With concerted efforts, we can more easily identify effective models of ministry in the home and the community, and strategic opportunities for family involvement in God’s ever-growing and community-transforming Kingdom. We invite you to

- Visit the www.thegenerationalawakening.com website and sign up to be kept informed and receive a free copy of a book, once published, sharing these new discoveries and possibilities.
- Make known the REC Facebook group in your NEA, churches and networks
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/reachingeuropeschildren>



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Roma Networks

Roma Network's vision is to network, connect, and research for the sake of sharing the gospel and seeing transformation in Roma communities throughout Europe.

We really want to see equipped and empowered Roma leaders and holistic transformation in Roma communities all over Europe and beyond.



Real change at grassroots level

Roma Networks is run by a board of 6 people who are all involved in different Roma ministries in different countries. Since 2014, RN has been strategically at work in Europe, establishing relationships and promoting collaboration among Roma and non-Roma ministries in various contexts. This foundational relationship building was critical for the next step: The Second European Conference in 2016 which brought key Roma leaders together and empowered them to return to their contexts to influence their networks. 190 Roma and non-Roma leaders from 29 different countries assembled. One of the most important steps established during the conference was the election of individuals from each country to serve as country representatives—44 in all—to broaden the networking platform of Roma Networks. Thus, RN's vision is that growth will be both organic and dynamic— a relational movement through existing networks rather than a static program or top-down organization.

Today, with an estimated population of 10-12 million in Europe, the Roma are the largest ethnic minority. Although there are Roma in every occupation and segment of society, many have higher rates of unemployment, illiteracy, substandard housing, and health issues compared to the majority populations. Often, they face severe social exclusion, discrimination, and prejudice.

In the last twenty years, many international and national initiatives have focused on trying to alleviate poverty, raising education levels, and enforcing human rights violations. Such initiatives have only been marginally successful, and one reason is because there is a gap between policy and the reality at the grassroots. Roma churches, however, have been key in numerous contexts to facilitate gradual transformation, encouraging education, and building better relationships with the majority cultures.

This led to a conviction that although policies are important, real change will happen working at the grassroots level. In addition, accurate information enables wider vision and more strategic planning. In fact, a lot of knowledge, tools, and resources already exist in various communities, but what was needed was a platform to connect knowledge with need. Thus, Roma Networks envisions that the complicated challenges existing in many Roma communities today can be addressed through a broad network of people working together, sharing their skills and knowledge.



Areas of focus:

1. Identify and disciple present and future Roma leaders (Mentoring young leaders; -Investing in Roma women)
2. Holistic education for healthy Roma families/ communities
3. Bridge building between Roma and non-Roma (Offer trainings for the (non-Roma) churches; Introduce Roma mission to non-Roma leaders/ ministries/ churches)
4. Development of work ethic amongst Roma (Developing Christian business and social work; Encourage micro-business for churches to be self-sustainable)

There is a movement of God's spirit among Roma communities in Europe. With growth comes a lot of opportunities for ministry as well as a lot of needs. During our regional country representatives' meetings, leaders determined the primary obstacles hindering growth and transformation as well as important focus areas.

Some of the areas that the representatives agreed upon were:

1. Developing job opportunities and opening micro businesses in Roma communities (JOB CREATION)
2. Identifying and discipling Roma leaders (done through ROMA BIBLE SCHOOL and YOUTH MEETINGS)

For the last decade Roma people have become a popular mission field. People, teams and organizations often have come with a patronizing attitude "we know it all". These types of behavior have often put Roma leaders down as they have nothing to contribute.

The main aim of the projects we are working on is to involve Roma leaders and to give them places where they can feel as equals and contribute the talents and knowledge that they have.

Also, conducting such projects confirmed the need for a networking platform such as Roma Networks where different ministries can come and work together. It gives participants the opportunity to share good examples and learning experiences, and influence others from similar contexts.

Empowering Roma leaders and their communities will have an impact on the wider society. Seeing the change among the marginalised people is the evidence of the power of God, both to the Roma themselves and to the watching world.



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Singles, Couples and Family Network

How can our church communities be a place where everyone from the youngest to the oldest, the singles and the marrieds, find their place?

The Singles, Couples, and Family Network brings together specialists and grass roots community activists across Europe who positively influence all aspects of family life.

There are practical and spiritual answers to the challenges we face. Today's youth have an astounding capacity to welcome both older and younger people, and this generation can be a catalyst for an unprecedented movement of compassion and unity.

We all want to see enthusiastic singles, intentional couples and strong families building the church and society. There is no reason that family breakdown cannot be drastically reduced in our communities!

How can we do better?

Every church community across Europe should have access to active programs that educate and support couples and families inside and outside the local church. Our relationships can be a light to the world, a living demonstration that applying the values and principles of the Kingdom of God in our families is transformational.

There are many tremendous initiatives and resources available across Europe (and internationally). Surprisingly many of these remain unknown, and networking is too limited. Let's create a space where groups across the continent can be inspired by what works for others. By accessing the most user-friendly and cost-effective resources we can maximize the action with the least effort and investment.

Singles, Couples, and Family Network



Families share the gospel with power

Mission is invigorated as whole families and intergenerational groups (including single people) move together to share the gospel in their culture and environment. There are very few barriers when such groups move out in acts of compassion and proclamation in their own contexts.



Parents can be empowered to work with their own children and avoid the hidden traps that cause their children to abandon faith as they turn the corner into adulthood. The children also realize that they are part of a much larger European and global community of believers, inspiring them to join a networking generation that wants to change the world.

Educational resources for influencers enable them to tap into the best ideas and understand biblical concepts that can be shared locally. Instead of relying on one or two well-known people, an army of capable trainers and educators becomes available to the Church. Training produces multiplication.

In this recently formed network a small group of initiators from different nations across Europe is taking shape.

Links with other networking groups is key to success, and the breadth of the Marriage Week movement (27 nations) and Family Ministries (17 European nations and a global team), are examples of the way linked networks create strength. Internetwork links are also of great value, such as the CNEDA (Christian Network against Domestic Abuse) or Women in Leadership.

You are invited to take everything you need, as well as benefiting others by sharing resources through this network. Together we can make a difference and share out of our abundance to the world around us.

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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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