

PRACTICAL ACTION GUIDE 4

Enabling church groups to:

- ◇ build a relationship with other European groups in order to share knowledge about sex trafficking;
 - ◇ develop a prayer network;
 - ◇ stand in solidarity with others by joining the Women in Black movement.
-

Contents

	Page
Introduction	1
Draft letter to adapt	3
Ideas for developing a prayer life and motivating your prayer network	4
Stand in solidarity through “Women in Black”	5
Glossary of terms	6-7
Flyer for European Methodist Festival	8
Map of Europe	9

Introduction

Action Guide 4 offers you an opportunity to build on the experiences that some people had during the Women’s Network Vision of Peace Programme. It will help you to begin developing links with the rest of Europe as we think and pray together over the issue of the Trafficking of Women and Children in Europe.

The Vision of Peace programme enabled Women's Network to build relationships with women's groups in other parts of Europe as well as the rest of the world. If you are still in touch with the contacts you made then, or would like to get back in touch with the same people, please do so. We need to keep an up-to-date record in the office of who is linking with which group. Therefore, when you have made contact and have agreed to work together, please let us know the name of the group with the contact person's details so that we can keep a central record of these networks.

We are part of the European Methodist Church bodies and organisations but we are separated by a channel of water that can act as a great psychological barrier as well as a physical one. The issue of sex trafficking can only be addressed if the continent of Europe can work together. As women of faith, we can cross that divide by sharing stories and knowledge and developing a prayer life together. You may wish to consider attending the European Methodist Festival in Bratislava to do this. The event is open to anyone and takes place from 1-5 August 2007. A flyer is enclosed.

As the Methodist Church in Britain, we can offer two ways to establish links with other groups in Europe.

1. Write to the Women’s Network office requesting a contact in a country which your group has identified. Please do so by post rather than e-mail.

OR

2. Use the resources provided by Mission Education entitled **International Partnership Development for Local Churches** available from Mission Education, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR. These can also be downloaded from the Methodist website www.methodist.org.uk (See Mission Education – Mission Education Resources, then Mission Education Booklets). With this process, you have the opportunity to complete an application form and request a partnership link in a country you have identified.

Inform your District Secretary for Women's Network when you have established links with your chosen country so that this can be highlighted on our Methodist web pages.

Before you make contact, you may want to research the country of your choice so that you are aware of traditions and culture particular to the region. This could then be used to build up a portfolio of information to share around your church, circuit or district. It will also help you build a good relationship and can serve as a useful resource in the future, particularly when we hold the next area seminar in the UK for the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.

Look again at the *CATnet* and *CEC* booklets in your Social Action Pack so that you are aware of what has been going on throughout Europe. You may already have been collecting cuttings from the press, both local and national, that will help you keep informed of any developments in the UK. You can share this information with your partners.

The purpose of this fourth action is to learn more about one another and to pray together. Fund raising is not the aim of this part of the project.

Dear

I am writing to you on behalf of the (xyz) group of the Women's Network of the Methodist Church in the UK.

We are looking at the issue of Sex Trafficking of Women and Children in Europe as our current social action project. So far we have..... (Outline what your local group has done to date. You may want to include a copy of the project outline with this letter so let them know that you are including it here).

We would be very interested in forming a relationship with you that

- ◆ would enable our group to understand what life is like in your country;
- ◆ would help us learn what is being done to address the issues of trafficking, particularly the demand side of the issue;
- ◆ enables us to exchange information about what happens to those who are trafficked into the UK.

We know that there are many agencies in the UK as well as in Europe that are working hard to overcome this dreadful crime. The Church is also a visible part of this work.

We would also like to create a prayer life together so that we can receive each other's prayer petitions and so create a network of prayer. Each of our Districts in the UK will be contacting different countries so that we will eventually have a network of prayer. Do you know of people who would like to build a prayer-partner relationship? If so, please could you put us in touch with them?

Here in the UK we have become aware of the Women in Black movement which helps us to stand in solidarity with women all over the world. Together, we make silent protest at the treatment of women in the warring areas of the world: women who have been raped, tortured or killed at the hands of an aggressor, or who have been sent to concentration camps, are acknowledged as we wear black on Thursdays. In regard to trafficking, many women are held prisoner. Their human rights are violated when they are trapped in this web of deceit. We believe that the Women in Black movement needs to witness to these women too. Perhaps we could use Thursday as a day when we pray together as well as wear black?

We hope that we can develop some of the ideas contained in this letter and look forward to hearing from you.

We wish you many blessings as you continue to work in your church.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

(Name of an individual)

(Name of your church or group)

Prayer Ideas

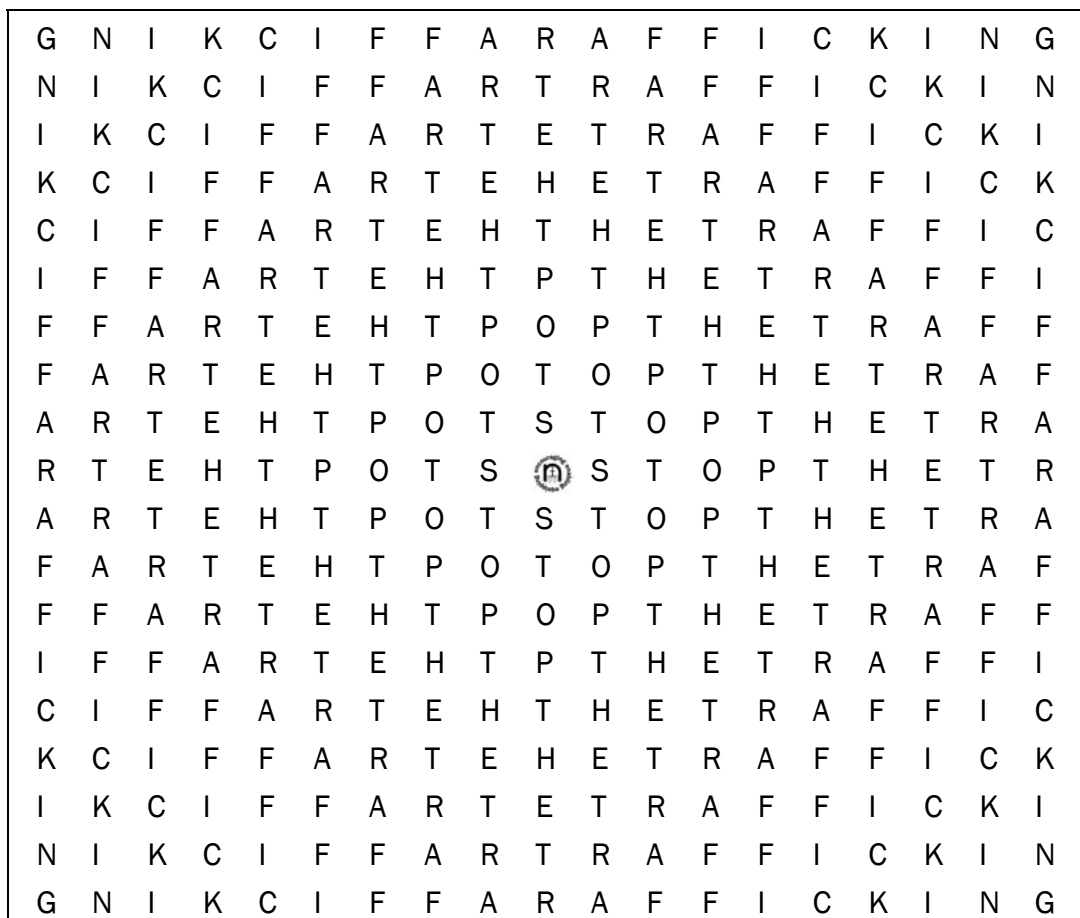
Portable Prayer List

Use out-of-date business cards to maintain a portable prayer list.

Write a name or topic on each one, fasten the pack with a rubber band, and keep it in your pocket. When walking, waiting, or using public transport, work your way through as many cards as you have time for. The pack will grow over time as you add new people and topics.

Stop the Trafficking Mandala

Start from the Women's Network logo in the centre and work your way out to a corner. Moving horizontally or vertically, you can switch direction as often as you like and 'Stop the trafficking' will always be spelt out.



Prayer Station

Create an area in either your home or church where you can focus on either the country you have twinned with or on any issues concerned with "trafficking". Use relevant newspaper cuttings or anything symbolic.

E-mails

Set up e-mail group and send each other prayer ideas and requests.

Women in Black

Women in Black - c/o Maypole Fund - PO Box 14072 - London N16 5WB

Visit the Website of **Women in Black** to find out more at: <http://www.womeninblack.org.uk/> or contact them for information on e-mail: WiBinfo@gn.apc.org

Their web-based resources can also be downloaded for use, so you may find it useful for someone with Internet access to look at these.

“Why wear black on Thursdays”

Wearing black on Thursdays indicates that you are tired of putting up with rape and violence in your community. It demonstrates a desire for a community where we can all walk safely without fear of being beaten up, verbally abused, raped, or being discriminated against due to your sexual orientation, political affiliation, gender or ethnicity. It shows that you want to be free

From the Women in Black Website is the following introduction:

Women in Black (WiB) is a world-wide network of women committed to peace with justice and actively opposed to injustice, war, militarism and other forms of violence.

We are not an organisation, but a means of mobilisation and a formula for action. Women in Black actions are generally women only, and often take the form of women wearing black, standing in a public place in silent, non-violent vigils at regular times and intervals, carrying placards and handing out leaflets.

Non-violent actions... We use non-violent and non-aggressive forms of action. In addition to vigils Women in Black groups use many other forms of non-violent direct action such as sitting down to block a road, entering military bases and other forbidden zones, refusing to comply with orders, and "bearing witness". Wearing black in some cultures signifies mourning, and feminist actions dressed in black convert women's traditional passive mourning for the dead in war into a powerful refusal of the logic of war.

A worldwide movement... It is impossible to know exactly how many Women in Black groups exist, how many women they include and how many actions have been held. When Women in Black in Israel/Palestine, as part of a coalition of Women for a Just Peace, called for vigils in June 2001 against the Occupation of Palestinian lands, at least 150 WiB groups across the world responded. Countries reporting vigils included: Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Maldive Islands, Mexico, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the USA. The organisers estimate that altogether 10,000 women were involved.

International Women in Black conferences and encounters have been held in Jerusalem, Beijing, former Yugoslavia, and Brussels. Another is planned for Italy in 2003. In 2001 Women in Black was awarded the Millennium Peace Prize for Women by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and International Alert. Women in Black in Israel/Palestine and former Yugoslavia were also nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize and the Right Livelihood Award.

International networking... Women in Black has an international e-mail list and website.

Women in Black is about building bridges across differences and borders, based on a shared perspective that we and other women create

Glossary of terms and acronyms

Acronyms

Cat net	Christian Action and Networking Against Trafficking in Women
CAT	Christian Action Against Trafficking
CAIU	Child Abuse Investigation Units
CCME	Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe
CEC	Conference of European Churches.
COATNET	Christian Organisations against Trafficking Network
DfID	Department for International Development
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
ECPAT	End Child Prostitution and Trafficking. Global network against sexual exploitation in children, including trafficking
ENATW	The European Network Against Trafficking in Women for Sexual Exploitation
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
HST	Human Smuggling and Trafficking
IASFM	International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (www.forcedmigration.org)
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IPEC	International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
JWEP	Joint Workplace Enforcement Pilot
NCOF	National Crime and Operations Faculty
NGO's	Non-governmental Organisations
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the OSCE (see below) anti-trafficking focus
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PALERMO PROTOCOL	Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children
REFLEX	A multi-agency task force to combat organised immigration crime, set up by the Home Office & Met. Police Force
SCDEA	Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency
SOCA	Serious Organised Crime Agency
SOCAP	Serious Organised Crime and Policing Act (2005) effective from 1/04/06
UKHTC	United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre
UNTOC	United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Terms

Asylum Seeker	<p>Asylum seekers are people who have moved across an international border in search of protection under the 1951 Refugee Convention, but whose claim for refugee status has not yet been determined. (<i>definition from Forced Migration Online promoted by the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration</i>)</p> <p>The Current Immigration Rules of the United Kingdom Home Office state that: "Under the Rules an asylum applicant is a person who makes a request to be recognised as a refugee under the Geneva Convention on the basis that it would be contrary to the United Kingdom's obligations under the Geneva Convention for him to be removed from or required to leave the United Kingdom." (www.homeoffice.gov.uk)</p>
Bonded Labour: (or known as debt debt bondage)	<p>An illegal practice that is the most widely used method of enslaving people. A person becomes a bonded labourer when his or her labour is demanded as a means of repayment for a loan. The person is tricked or trapped into taking a loan for as little as the cost of medicine for a sick child. To repay the debt, many are forced to work long hours, 7 days a week, up to 365 days a year. They may receive basic food and shelter as "payment" for their work, but may never pay off the loan, which can be passed down for generations. The value of their work is invariably greater than the original sum of money borrowed. The United Nations Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery estimated in 1999 that some 20 million people are held in bonded labour around the world. (<i>definition from Anti-Slavery International</i>)</p>
Forced Labour:	<p>All work or service that is exacted from any person illegally recruited by individuals, governments or political parties and forced to work, usually under threat of violence or other penalties, when such persons have not offered himself or herself voluntarily. (<i>definition from Anti-Slavery International</i>)</p>
Migrant:	<p>Person who moves from one region, place or country, to another. This may be voluntary or may be forced migration. Forced migration may take place as a result of conflict (<i>due to war, generalised violence, persecution on the grounds of nationality, race, religion, political opinion or social group</i>), disaster (<i>natural, environmental change and human made</i>) or is development induced (<i>as a result of policies or projects implemented to supposedly enhance "development". i.e. dams, roads, ports, airports, urban clearance, deforestation</i>). Refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, smuggled people and trafficked people are all affected by forced migration. (<i>Collins English Dictionary definition with additional definition from Forced Migration Online</i>)</p>
Migrant Worker:	<p>A person who moves from one region, place or country to another in search of work. A foreign worker is a person who works in a country other than the one of which he or she is a citizen.</p>
Slavery:	<p>A civil relationship whereby one person has absolute power over another and controls her/his life, liberty and fortune. The subjection of a person to another person especially in being forced into work. (<i>Collins English Dictionary definition</i>)</p> <p>"A slave is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Forced to work -- through mental or physical threat;○ Owned or controlled by an 'employer', usually through mental or physical abuse or threatened abuse;○ Dehumanised, treated as a commodity or bought and sold as 'property';○ Physically constrained or has restrictions placed on her/his freedom of movement. (<i>definition from Anti Slavery International www.antislavery.org</i>)
Trafficking:	<p>The transportation and/or trade of people - women, children and men - that are moved by deception or coercion (sometimes abduction) from one area to another for the purpose of exploitation, forcing them into slavery conditions. The profit in trafficking people comes not from their movement, but from the sale of their sexual services or labour in the country of destination. The trafficked person may be physically prevented from leaving, or be bound by debt or threat of violence to themselves or their family in their country of origin. (taken from content provided on Forced Migration Online www.forcedmigration.org)</p>

European Methodist Festival in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 1-5 August 2007

Let's celebrate!

The European Methodist Council invites you to another big Festival - this time in Bratislava, Slovakia. Three years ago, on the 300th birthday of John Wesley, 1000 Methodists from all over Europe met in Potsdam, Germany.

As the Bishop of this area, based in Geneva, I am delighted to welcome the Festival to a country of the Central Conference of Central and Southern Europe. Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, lies on the beautiful blue Danube in the heart of Europe, only 50 km from Vienna. The Festival, from 1-5 August 2007, will take place in the grounds of the Economic University at Horský Park. We will be using many of the rooms in the student hostels.

The small Methodist Church in Slovakia is preparing for this meeting of Methodists with great enthusiasm, faith and hope. They are being supported by an international team which has chosen the Festival theme "Let's celebrate!"

What are we to celebrate? We want to celebrate the love of God for creation. Through Jesus Christ we are God's beloved children. Our variety and that which we have in common are treasures that we can experience

in this Europe-wide meeting. The abundance of God-given gifts and tasks will hopefully be discovered by children, young people, adults, families, and throughout our Methodist churches.

At the same time we are celebrating the 300th birthday of Charles Wesley, who was born in England on 18 December 1707. His hymns have influenced the Methodist movement all over the world.

In Bratislava we shall sing and make music. We shall use various ways of listening to and working on biblical texts, and experience various forms of spirituality. We shall come together in "Wesley groups" for prayer and conversation. We expect lots of young people and children. Their creativity, musical talent and joyful attitude will enrich the Festival. Around 25 workshops on very varied topics will be offered. Sport, drama and other leisure activities are planned. Some big events - with ecumenical and political guests - are in preparation.

There will be opportunity for lively and informal conversations in the evenings at the Night Cafés and in small groups, when we also hope for warm weather. The events will be translated into various languages.

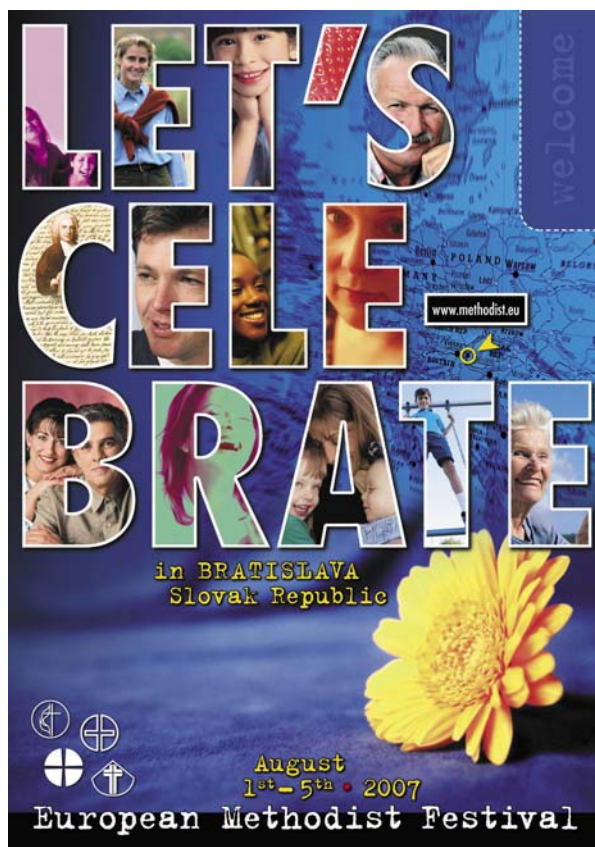
Look out for further information in your churches, in the church press and on the Internet. I'm looking forward to meeting you in Bratislava in Summer 2007.

May the spirit of Jesus encourage us to celebrate God's love and to live out God's love in the world.

Yours

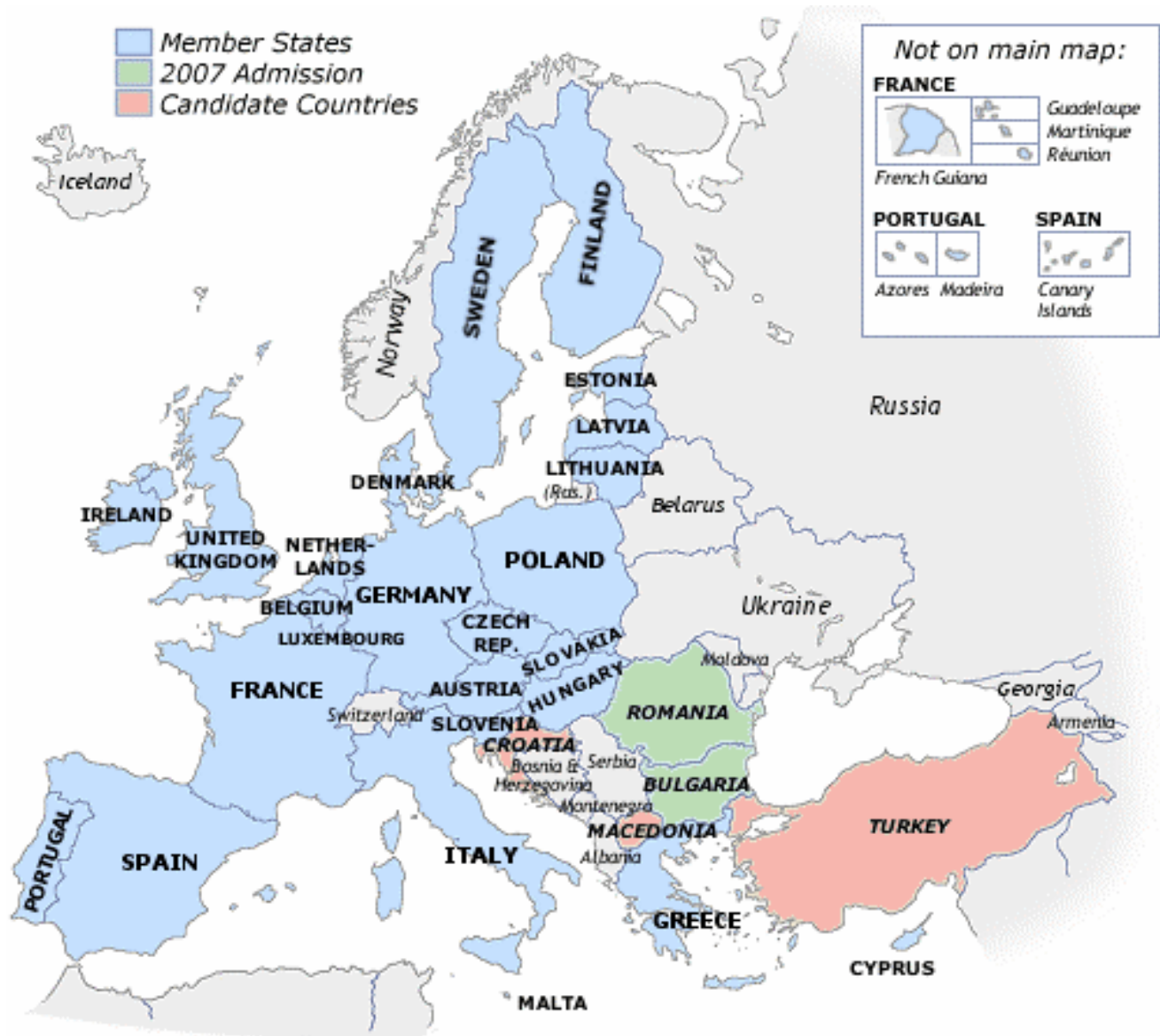
Bishop Dr Patrick Streiff

UMC Central Conference of Central and Southern Europe



Book online at www.methodist.eu

Map of Europe



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

[EU map names isles.png](#) (45KB, MIME type: image/png)

Based on existing Europe map. Attempt at a clearer map of the [European Union](#) and its neighbours (also candidates). Includes outlying EU member-state territories. (Only those considered part of home country). Inclusion as on [euro](#) banknotes, but also including [Cyprus](#). [Blank version](#).



Permission is granted to copy, distribute and/or modify this document under the terms of the [GNU Free Documentation License](#), Version 1.2 or any later version published by the Free Software Foundation; with no Invariant Sections, no Front-Cover Texts, and no Back-Cover Texts. Subject to [disclaimers](#).