

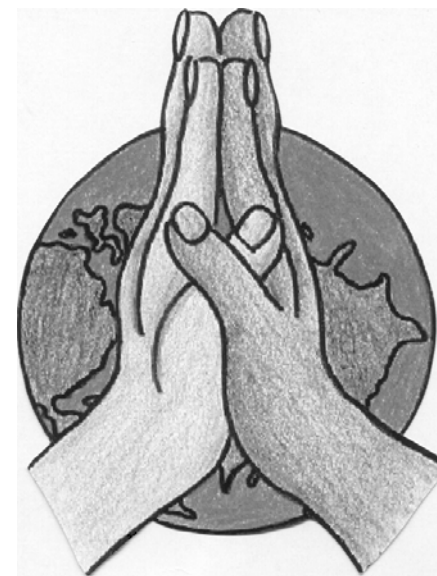
We, the members of this Conference, hereby promise to:

- Pray for our Twinned Conference each week
- Write letters to them at least three times each year
- Send £ _____ * every year to our Twin in _____ via the Central Council Twinnage Representative

Conference President: _____ Date: _____

** For and Indian Conference this is currently £120
And for Romanian Conference this is currently £250*

Twinnage Information



St. Vincent de Paul Society
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Registered in England & Wales No: 3174679
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More information and up to date news available from
www.twinnage.org.uk

Background to Twinnage

For about 40 years the Twinnage Scheme has enabled the Society in developing countries to thrive and grow, strengthened by the spiritual, financial and moral support the members have received. What is a very small sum of money for a Conference in England & Wales can make a vast difference in a poor country, where a poor person may earn about 20 pence per day (if they are fortunate); just enough for one day's food.

Whilst the major part of Twinnage in terms of Conference to Conference Twinning is currently with India, the links with Grenada, Guyana and Sudan are also strong. Each of these countries has its own unique problems and the Twinnage scheme is tailored to each so that we can offer the best help within the resources available. The Society in each country shares the same Spirit that guides us in our work for the poor and each country benefits from the encouragement that Twinnage offers.

What does Twinnage Involve?

Prayer is the key aspect of any successful Twinning. The promise to pray for the Twin is really what sets Twinnage apart from a secular exercise.

It is impossible to really have a good relationship with a Twin without a closer link. **Correspondence** is the answer



and letters should be exchanged at least three times each year. In this way a true bond can be established.

The tangible evidence of our sharing is shown by our **Financial Support**. This helps our overseas

Sisters and Brothers to increase their efforts to overcome the poverty in their own Parishes.

Application to be Twinned with an Overseas Conference

(Block Capitals and dark Ink only, please)

Conference Name: _____

Town: _____

District Council: _____

Central Council: _____

Correspondent's Name: _____

Correspondent's Address: _____

Post Code (essential): _____

Death rate: 10.04 deaths /1,000 population (2001 est.)
Net migration rate: 0.04 migrant(s) /1,000 population (2001 est.)
Infant mortality rate: 68.67 deaths /1,000 live births (2001 est.)
Life expectancy at birth: *Total population:* 56.94 years *male:* 55.85 years
female: 58.08 years (2001 est.)
Total fertility rate: 5.35 children born /woman (2001 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: 0.99% (1999 est.)
Ethnic groups: black 52%, Arab 39%, Beja 6%, foreigners 2%, other 1% **Religions:** Sunni Muslim 70% (in north), indigenous beliefs 25%, Christian 5% (mostly in south and Khartoum)
Languages: Arabic (official), Nubian, Ta Bedawie, diverse dialects of Nilotic, Nilo-Hamitic, Sudanic languages, English
Literacy: *total population:* 46.1% *male:* 57.7% *female:* 34.6% (1995 est.)
Economy - overview: Sudan is buffeted by civil war, chronic instability, adverse weather, weak world agricultural prices, a drop in remittances from abroad, and counterproductive economic policies. The private sector's main areas of activity are agriculture (which employs 80% of the work force), trading, and light industry which is mostly processing of agricultural goods. Most of the 1990s were characterized by sluggish economic growth as the IMF suspended lending, declared Sudan a non-cooperative state, and threatened to expel Sudan from the IMF. Starting in 1997, Sudan began implementing IMF macroeconomic reforms which have successfully stabilized inflation at 10% or less. Sudan continues to have limited international credit resources as over 75% of Sudan's debt of \$24.9 billion is in arrears and Khartoum's continued prosecution of the civil war works to isolate Sudan. In 1999, Sudan began exporting oil and in 1999-2000 had recorded its first trade surpluses. Current oil production stands at 185,000 barrels per day, of which about 70% is exported and the rest refined for domestic consumption. Despite its many infrastructure problems, Sudan's increased oil production, the return of regular rainfall, and recent investments in irrigation schemes should allow the country to achieve economic growth of 6% in 2001.

Some Facts about the Five Main Countries Twinned with England and Wales

The edited details below have been selected to give a 'flavour' of each country.

Please note that the data is accurate at the time of printing, but errors and omissions are inevitable. Up to date details and statistics are available in libraries and from a variety of Internet sites.

UK Information is included briefly for comparison

Source: www.countryreports.org

United Kingdom

Population: 59,778,002 (July 2002 est.)
Age structure: *0-14 years:* 18.7% (male 5,732,385; female 5,443,900) *15-64 years:* 65.5% (male 19,803,478; female 19,381,734) *65 years and over:* 15.8% (male 3,931,463; female 5,485,042) (2002 est.)
Population growth rate: 0.21% (2002 est.)
Birth rate: 11.34 births/1,000 population (2002 est.)
Death rate: 10.3 deaths/1,000 population (2002 est.)
Net migration rate: 1.06 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2002 est.)
Sex ratio: *at birth:* 1.05 male(s)/female *under 15 years:* 1.05 male(s)/female *15-64 years:* 1.02 male(s)/female *65 years and over:* 0.72 male(s)/female *total population:* 0.97 male(s)/female (2002 est.)
Infant mortality rate: 5.45 deaths/1,000 live births (2002 est.)
Life expectancy at birth: *total population:* 77.99 years *female:* 80.84 years (2002 est.) *male:* 75.29 years
Total fertility rate: 1.73 children born/woman (2002 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: 0.11% (1999 est.)
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS: 20,800 (1999)
HIV/AIDS - deaths: 450 (1999 est.)



India

The Indus Valley civilization, one of the oldest in the world, goes back at least 5,000 years. Aryan tribes from the northwest invaded about 1500 B.C.; their merger with the earlier inhabitants created classical Indian culture. Arab incursions starting in the 8th century and Turkish in 12th were followed by European traders beginning in the late 15th century.

By the 19th century, Britain had assumed political control of virtually all Indian lands. Non-violent resistance to British colonialism under Mohandas GANDHI and Jawaharlal NEHRU led to independence in 1947. The subcontinent was divided into the secular state of India and the smaller Muslim state of Pakistan. A third war between the two countries in 1971 resulted in East Pakistan becoming the separate nation of Bangladesh. Fundamental concerns in India include the ongoing dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir, massive overpopulation, environmental degradation, extensive poverty, and ethnic strife, all this despite impressive gains in economic investment and output.

Area: total: 3,287,590 sq km land: 2,973,190 sq km water: 314,400 sq km **Coastline:** 7,000 km

Climate: varies from tropical monsoon in south to temperate in north

Natural hazards: droughts, flash floods, severe thunderstorms common; earthquakes

Population: 1,029,991,145 (July 2001 est.)

Population growth rate: 1.55% (2001 est.)

Birth rate: 24.28 births /1,000 population (2001 est.)

Death rate: 8.74 deaths /1,000 population (2001 est.)

Net migration rate: -0.08 migrant(s) /1,000 population (2001 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 63.19 deaths /1,000 live births (2001 test.)

Life expectancy at birth: total population: 62.86 years male: 62.22 years Female: 63.53 years (2001 est.)

Total fertility rate: 3.04 children born /woman (2001 est.)

Ethnic groups: East Indian 49%, black 32%, mixed 12%, Amerindian 6%, white and Chinese 1%

Religions: Christian 50%, Hindu 33%, Muslim 9%, other 8%

Languages: English, Amerindian dialects, Creole, Hindi, Urdu

Literacy: total population: 98.1% male: 98.6% Female: 97.5% (1995 est.)

Economy - overview: Severe drought and political turmoil contributed to Guyana's negative growth of -1.8% for 1998 following six straight years of growth of 5% or better. Growth came back to a positive 1.8% in 1999 and 3% in 2000. Underlying growth factors have included expansion in the key agricultural and mining sectors, a more favourable atmosphere for business initiative, a more realistic exchange rate, a moderate inflation rate, and continued support by international organizations. President JAGDEO, the former finance minister, is taking steps to reform the economy, including drafting an investment code and restructuring the inefficient and unresponsive public sector. Problems include a shortage of skilled labour and a deficient infrastructure. The government must persist in efforts to manage its sizable external debt and attract new investment.



Sudan

Military dictatorships promulgating an Islamic government have mostly run the country since independence from the UK in 1956. Over the past two decades, a civil war pitting black Christians and animists in the south against the Arab-Muslims of the north has cost at least 1.5 million lives in war- and famine-related deaths, as well as the

displacement of millions of others.

Area: total: 2,505,810 sq km land: 2.376 million sq km water: 129,810 sq km **Climate:** tropical in south; arid desert in north; rainy season (April to October)

Terrain: generally flat, featureless plain; mountains in east and west

Population: 36,080,373 (July 2001 est.)

Population growth rate: 2.79% (2001 est.)

Birth rate: 37.89 births /1,000 population (2001 est.)

worst. The country emerged in 2000 from a punishing three-year recession thanks to strong demand in EU export markets. A new government elected in November 2000 promises to promote economic reform. Bucharest hopes to receive financial and technical assistance from international financial institutions and Western governments; negotiations over a new IMF standby agreement are to begin early in 2001. If reform stalls, Romania's ability to borrow from both public and



Guyana

Guyana achieved independence from the UK in 1966 and became a republic in 1970. In 1989 Guyana launched an Economic Recovery Program, which marked a dramatic reversal from a state controlled, socialist economy towards a more open, free market system. Results through the first decade have proven encouraging.

Location: Northern South America, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean, between Suriname and Venezuela

Area: total: 214,970 sq km **land:** 196,850 sq km **water:** 18,120 sq km **Coastline:** 459 km

Climate: tropical; hot, humid, moderated by northeast trade winds; two rainy seasons (May to mid-August, mid-November to mid-January)

Natural hazards: flash floods are a constant threat during rainy seasons

Population: 697,181 (July 2001 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.07% (2001 est.)

Birth rate: 17.92 births /1,000 population (2001 est.)

Death rate: 8.87 deaths /1,000 population (2001 est.)

Net migration rate: -8.38 migrant(s) /1,000 population (2001 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 38.72 deaths /1,000 live births (2001 est.)

Life expectancy at birth: total population: 63.31 years male: 60.52 years Female: 66.24 years (2001 est.)

Total fertility rate: 2.1 children born /woman (2001 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: 3.01% (1999 est.) , **people living with HIV/AIDS:** 15,000 (1999 est.), **deaths:** 900 (1999 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: 0.7% (1999 est.), **people living with HIV/AIDS:** 3.7 million (1999 est.), **deaths:** 310,000 (1999 est.)
Ethnic groups: Indo-Aryan 72%, Dravidian 25%, Mongoloid and other 3% (2000)

Religions: Hindu 81.3%, Muslim 12%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.9%, other groups including Buddhist, Jain, Parsi 2.5% (2000)

Languages: English enjoys associate status but is the most important language for national, political, and commercial communication, Hindi the national language and primary tongue of 30% of the people, Bengali (official), Telugu (official), Marathi (official), Tamil (official), Urdu (official), Gujarati (official), Malayalam (official), Kannada (official), Oriya (official), Punjabi (official), Assamese (official), Kashmiri (official), Sindhi (official), Sanskrit (official), Hindustani (a popular variant of Hindi/Urdu spoken widely throughout northern India)

Literacy: definition: age 15 and over can read and write total population: 52% male: 65.5% Female: 37.7% (1995 est.)

Economy - overview: India's economy encompasses traditional village farming, modern agriculture, handicrafts, a wide range of modern industries, and a multitude of support services. More than a third of the population is too poor to be able to afford an adequate diet. India's international payments position remained strong in 2000 with adequate foreign exchange reserves, moderately depreciating nominal exchange rates, and booming exports of software services. Growth in manufacturing output slowed, and electricity shortages continue in many regions.



Grenada

One of the smallest independent countries in the western hemisphere, Grenada was seized by a Marxist military council on 19 October 1983. Six days later the island was invaded by US forces and those of six other Caribbean nations, which quickly captured the

ringleaders and their hundreds of Cuban advisers. Free elections were re instituted the following year.

Caribbean, island between the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean, north of Trinidad and Tobago

Area: *total:* 340 sq km *land:* 340 sq km *water:* 0 sq km **Coastline:** 121 km

Climate: tropical; tempered by northeast trade winds

Population: 89,227 (July 2001 est.)

Population growth rate:-0.06% (2001 est.)

Birth rate: 23.12 births /1,000 population (2001 est.)

Death rate: 7.82 deaths /1,000 population (2001 est.)

Net migration rate:-15.86 migrant(s) /1,000 population (2001 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 14.63 deaths /1,000 live births (2001 est.)

Life expectancy at birth: *Total population:* 64.52 years *male:* 62.74 years *female:* 66.31 years (2001 est.)

Total fertility rate:2.54 children born/ woman (2001 est.)

Ethnic groups: black 82% some South Asians (East Indians) and Europeans, trace Arawak/Carib Amerindian

Religions: Roman Catholic 53%, Anglican 13.8%, other Protestant 33.2% **Languages:** English (official), French patois

Literacy: *Definition:* age 15 and over can read and write *total population:* 98% *male:* 98% *female:* 98% (1970 est.)

Economy - overview: In this island economy progress in fiscal reforms and prudent macroeconomic management have kept annual growth steady since 1998. The increase in economic activity has been led by construction and trade. Tourist facilities are being expanded; tourism is the leading foreign exchange earner. Major short-term concerns are the rising fiscal deficit and the deterioration in the external account balance. Grenada shares a common central bank and a common currency with seven other members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Romania

Location: Southeastern Europe, bordering the Black Sea, between Bulgaria and Ukraine

Area: *total:* 237,500 sq km *land:* 230,340 sq km *water:* 7,160 sq km

Coastline: 225 km

Climate: temperate; cold, cloudy winters with frequent snow and fog; sunny summers with frequent showers and thunderstorms

Twinning Information Leaflet

January, 06

Natural hazards: earthquakes most severe in south and southwest; geologic structure and climate promote landslides

Population: 22,364,022 (July 2001 est.)

Population growth rate: -0.21% (2001 est.)

Birth rate: 10.8 births/1,000 population (2001 est.)

Death rate: 12.28 deaths/1,000 population (2001 est.)

Net migration rate: -0.6 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2001 est.)

Sex ratio: *at birth:* 1.06 male(s)/female *under 15 years:* 1.05 male(s)/female *15-64 years:* 0.99 male(s)/female *65 years and over:* 0.71 male(s)/female *total population:* 0.95 male(s)/female (2001 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 19.36 deaths/1,000 live births (2001 est.)

Life expectancy at birth: *total population:* 70.16 years *male:* 66.36 years *female:* 74.19 years (2001 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.35 children born/woman (2001 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: 0.02% (1999 est.)

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS: 7,000 (1999 est.)

HIV/AIDS - deaths: 350 (1999 est.)

Ethnic groups: Romanian 89.5%, Hungarian 7.1%, Roma 1.8%, German 0.5%, Ukrainian 0.3%, other 0.8% (1992)

Religions: Romanian Orthodox 70%, Roman Catholic 3%, Uniate Catholic 3%, Protestant 6%, unaffiliated 18%

Literacy: *total population:* 97% *male:* 98% *female:* 95% (1992 est.)

Economy - overview: Romania, one of the poorest countries in Central and Eastern Europe, began the transition from communism in 1989 with a largely obsolete industrial base and a pattern of output unsuited to the country's needs. Over the past decade economic restructuring has lagged behind most other countries in the region. Consequently, living standards have continued to fall - real wages are down over 40%. Corruption too has worsened. The EU ranks Romania last among enlargement candidates, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) rates Romania's transition progress the region's



Twinning Information Leaflet

January, 06