

WAGGGS STATEMENT ON COVID-19

UPDATED 17 APRIL 2020

As the world continues to navigate the different impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, we at WAGGGS have been committed to keeping you informed of the changes we are making. Already, across all our 150 Member Organisations, there is a strong sense of solidarity and shared experience. We are inspired by the many stories from leaders, volunteers and girls in every part of the world.

As we look at how we at WAGGGS continue to support you in **delivering activities and programmes**, providing opportunities to **amplify the voices of young women** and bringing our communities together in **solidarity and sisterhood**, we too have to do some things differently.

We know from speaking you many of you that we need to be strategic in our response, focusing our efforts on how we can best support you in keeping the Movement going, acting as a bridge and as keeper of the flame.

[VIEW WAGGGS' COORDINATED APPROACH TO COVID-19](#)

SUPPORTING YOU, OUR MEMBERS

Most importantly, we remain committed to helping you day-to-day with direct support.

- [Apply for consultancy support](#) from a working group of senior advisors helping to navigate changes to programme delivery, grants or funding, leadership or communications.
- Talk directly to your Regional team of highly experience staff and volunteers – we are contacting every International Commissioner or Chief Commissioner personally.

KEEPER OF THE FLAME

We are keeping the sisterhood connected internationally.

- Connect with WAGGGS and #ShareTheLight
 - At our global [World Centre campfire](#) on 18 April
 - With our virtual camp [#SingalongChallenge](#)
 - Every Sunday on Facebook or Instagram, light your candle for sisterhood
- Get [inspiration, ideas and tips](#) from other members around the world on engaging with girls through Stay At Home and community-led activities

ACT AS A BRIDGE

We want to amplify the voices of your members on the issues that affect them and provide a platform for girls to speak out as agents of change.

- [Read, explore and share our Position Paper](#) on the safety of girls and young women during the coronavirus pandemic.
- Discover [blogs](#) written by girls and for girls all over the world.
- Join and engage with [global webinars](#) led by UN Youth Envoy.

DEVELOP AND GROW

We want to help all our members continue to deliver activities and programmes safely and in new ways.

- Download and share with your members the WAGGGS World Centre Home from Home Activity Pack [coming soon!]
- Discover [WAGGGS tips for staying connected](#) and continuing Girl Guide and Girl Scout activities safely online

FUNDRAISE

We are working to ensure a sustainable future for our organisation and our Movement.

- Upcoming launch of the WAGGGS COVID-19 Emergency Appeal
- We are working with our sponsors and partners to visit new ways to deliver our funded programmes, online and offline.

We know that Girl Guides and Girl Scouts are change agents, resilient and responsible. As young leaders of the world, our members have – and continue to have – a valuable role in the global response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here are just a few examples of how Girl Guides and Girl Scouts are guiding their communities through this global crisis:

In Bangladesh and [in Pakistan](#), Girl Guides have been distributing masks, soap and hygiene products to communities in need, whilst maintaining physical distancing

[Costa Rican Girl Guides](#) have launched an educational campaign, supported by local professionals, to help young people to manage health and wellbeing

Girl Guides and Girl Scouts [from Belgium, Czech Republic to the USA](#) have been making masks, either sewing or using 3D printing machines and distributing to those working on the front line

In Australia, Girl Guides are using innovative ways to grow the Movement through a [new Girl Guide TV](#) aimed at Guides and non-Guides to learn more about what we do

In Canada and USA, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts have been getting creative at finding new ways to sell and distribute cookies, including the [cookie care](#) package which gets shipped directly to frontline workers in local communities

YESS Girls across Africa and Asia have continued campaigning through their networks to grow the Guiding community and speak out on issues, such as Red Pride

In Slovak Republic, Girl Scouts are [transporting food and medicine](#) to elderly and disabled people

Malaysian Girl Guides [Stay At Home](#) Activity Pack, developed by a JLS 2019 participant, includes ways to build sustainable development goals and leadership mindsets into every day practice

In Austria, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts are [helping out in their local neighbourhoods](#) and in Lichtenstein, Girl Scouts are part of the local government's charity campaign

Girl Scouts of the Philippines have increased campaigning on topics like girl-powered nutrition and have built a [brand new Fight COVID-19 badge](#).

This is just a small selection of activities that Girl Guides and Girl Scouts are doing to take an active role in their communities.

CONTACT

As we navigate this period together, please keep in touch with your Regional Committees, regional coordinators or relationship manager and the Membership team at membership@waggggs.org.

For general concerns or questions relating to COVID-19, please contact Magdalene Thomas, WAGGGS Head of International Operations.

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