

WAGGGS STATEMENT ON COVID-19

UPDATED 6 JUNE 2020

In our latest COVID-19 update, we bring you a selection of practical guidance and resources as we look to the immediate and longer-term needs of our Movement.

We know from speaking to 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.

SAVE THE DATE 17 JULY FOR THE WAGGGS ONLINE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Join us to celebrate the sisterhood of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting worldwide and the chance to reflect on the past Triennium and say farewell to some of our outgoing Board members.

This July, we should have been together for our World Conference. Instead, we push forward our event celebrations until we can be together, in person, in 2021. In the meantime, we still have plenty to share!

Join us from 13 July across all our social media platforms to meet the next full WAGGGS Member Organisations, celebrate the 2020 Olave Awards and Medals of Service, and immerse yourself in the WAGGGS Online International Festival live on YouTube. Stay tuned to Facebook to share the invitation with your members!

COVID-19 CRISIS RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS

Navigating an international crisis on a local level is challenging. As we all look ahead to the 'new normal', we have been working with our Regional Committees, Members and volunteer teams to identify some tips and strategy for all MOs. All resources available in English.

Crisis Management: Testing your Strategy in Times of Crisis

- [Crisis Management Framework](#)
- [Supporting Presentation Materials](#)
- [Communications in times of Crisis](#)

'A New Normal': Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting post COVID-19

- [Tips for Members returning to Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting](#)

Fundraising

- [Fundraising Tips for Members](#)
- [Individual Giving](#)

Advocacy

- [Advocacy Clinics for Members](#) (11 and 29 June)
- [Stop the Violence Webinars](#) (every Thursday)

COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR GIRLS

Last month, we shared the [COVID-19 Survival Strategy Guide](#) developed by girls, for girls. We've received a huge response from across all regions on the importance of tools like this to help girls through the current situation.

The pack is available in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Arabic](#).

Girls and leaders can also:

- [Download our World Centre International Adventure Pack](#)
- [Join the worldwide #PositivityPatrol](#)
- [Discover tips for virtual Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting in Ideas from Around the World on our #ForHerDigitalWorld website](#)

WAGGGS FINANCIAL POSITION

In the last couple of months, we introduced a number of changes to the way we operate now to help us secure our long-term sustainability in the future. Looking at WAGGGS' current financial situation, we can be confident that the redesign was successful in producing a balanced budget. Before the effects on COVID-19, the 2020 budget was balanced and in 2021 we projected being in surplus to start to rebuild unrestricted reserves.

Our modelling of the impact of COVID-19 has deliberately taken an extremely conservative view of our income in 2020 and 2021. This model has informed the Board on the options available to end 2021 with sufficient unrestricted reserves to still be a going concern.

As we highlighted in our April COVID-19 update we are utilising government schemes in Switzerland, Belgium and UK to enable us to furlough staff with a view to them returning once the situation stabilises. The UK government has extended the scheme until October, and Belgium until the end of June. We will continue to take advantage of these schemes, rotating some staff in and out of furlough according to priority deliverables.

RELEASING FINANCIAL INFORMATION

We will be releasing projected triennium figures in July. These will contain non-final 2019 figures (subject to final audit adjustments) and an estimate for 2020. We finished the 2019 financial year with overall reserves of £10.5million of which £2.63million are available to the World Board to deploy in current circumstances. We are working on the basis of requiring a minimum of £1.6 million at the end of 2020 in unrestricted reserves, and would like to achieve a figure higher than this.

Our planning for 2021 explores a range of options available to the World Board for fee levels in 2021 to provide relief support to MOs within our financial reality. The World Board expects to reach a decision by October 2020. In the meantime, if you have questions please contact governance@waggggs.org.

WORLD BOARD ELECTION PROCESS

In April, the World Board agreed that the outgoing World Board members finish their term and step down in July 2020, and the World Board will continue with 11 members until the

election of new World Board members at the 37th World Conference in 2021. An interim chair will be elected from the 11 on-going Board members by the end of June 2020.

- With a smaller size Board only one Vice-Chair will be elected.
- Only the continuing members of the Board will vote in this election.
- The results of the election will be shared by the current World Board Chair with Member Organisations once the election is completed.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON OUR MOVEMENT

Over the past two months, our Regional Committees and staff have been reaching out to each of you, our Members, to talk about how you have been coping with COVID-19 and the support we can provide at WAGGGS. In the next two weeks, we will send you a summary of the results of this global engagement campaign and a reminder of the practical ways we can help.

We will also publish an Impact at Home review, which consolidates the incredible response of leaders and girls across our Movement in the face of COVID-19.

In the meantime, you can:

- [Review the consolidated WAGGGS COVID-19 Response](#)
- [Reach out to us for consultancy support](#)
- Keep connected with your Regional Committees or staff, and look out for regional webinars and localised communications.

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@waggs.org.

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

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