

**6 December 2006**

**New Chief Executive for the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts**

Mary Mc Phail, an expert in policy and advocacy work, has been appointed to the position of Chief Executive for the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) from March 2007.

Mary will join WAGGGS from the European Women’s Lobby, where she was Secretary-General for six years. Mary has also held senior positions in the field of health and social care, including the position of Secretary General of the European Public Health Alliance in Brussels. She is an experienced advocate for equality and justice for women within civil society organizations, with governments and European and international institutions. “It feels a very natural step to consider shifting my focus of work from the equality agenda for women to advocating on behalf of girls and young women,” she says.

“My commitment to equality stems from deeply held personal and political values in support of social justice, equality and human rights. I look forward to this opportunity to continue to promote the rights of girls and young women in all areas of public and private life,” Mary continues.

Mary will be responsible for implementing WAGGGS’ Strategic Vision which is to be the voice of girls and young women to build a better world. “We are thrilled that Mary will be joining us. She is more than qualified to help us speak out on behalf of girls and young women nationally, regionally and internationally,” says Elspeth Henderson, Chairman of WAGGGS’ World Board.

Mary Mc Phail is from Ireland and has worked in Brussels and the UK.

Mary Mc Phail takes over from Lesley Bulman-Lever who leaves the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts at the end of December 2006, after almost ten years of service.

**About WAGGGS**

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts is the official umbrella organization for national Girl Guide and Girl Scout organizations in the world. It comprises 144 Member Organizations, which are organized into five regions – Africa, Arab, Asia Pacific, Europe and Western Hemisphere. Altogether, WAGGGS has approximately 10 million individual members.

Through its Member Organizations, WAGGGS provides girls and young women with a high quality non-formal educational programme, including training in life skills, leadership and decision making.

WAGGGS offers projects and programmes at an international level that enable Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to be responsible world citizens, through teamwork, service and action in the community and to influence issues that affect them. For more information visit

[www.wagggsworld.org](http://www.wagggsworld.org)

For further information, contact the World Bureau communications team on:

+ (44) 20 7794 1181, [charlotte@wagggsworld.org](mailto:charlotte@wagggsworld.org)

World Bureau, Olave Centre, 12c Lyndhurst Road, London NW3 5PQ, England

Tel: +44 (0)20 7794 1181 Fax: +44 (0)20 7431 3764

E-mail: [wagggsworld.org](mailto:wagggsworld.org) [www.wagggsworld.org](http://www.wagggsworld.org)