

## World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts celebrates International Women's Day with new Chief Executive

8 March 2007, London

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) celebrates International Women's Day with a new Chief Executive, Mary Mc Phail, who joins the organization with a strong advocacy and lobbying background, and is committed to taking WAGGGS forward to achieve its vision to become the voice for girls and young women worldwide.

Mary Mc Phail says: "Girl Guides and Girl Scouts have a strong tradition of taking active and positive responsibility, not just for themselves but also for others. I am excited by the wealth of experience and energy that WAGGGS has, and at the opportunities that lie ahead for us to enable girls and young women to discover their potential and speak out about issues that affect them in today's world."

Mary celebrated International Women's Day by speaking at an event in London organized by women's organization, Aurora, with the support of HSBC. The theme for this year's celebrations is "Today's girls, Tomorrow's future". Glenda Stone, Chief Executive of networking organization Aurora says "WAGGGS helps girls realise their potential and exercise their power. From my own experience as a Girl Guide, I truly value the tremendous leadership development and team building opportunities that I continue to draw on in my business life today."

"International Women's Day is one day in the year when women can express our solidarity and sisterhood and commit to closing the gaps that still exist all over the world. It is also a day which brings WAGGGS into its place as a global leader," says Mary Mc Phail.

This week also marks the end of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York. The theme was "the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child." WAGGGS' representatives from Korea, Canada, Lebanon, Uganda, Antigua and Barbuda, and the USA actively participated in the meeting, advocating for girls' participation in decision-making, and for the recognition that education, including non-formal education, is a critical factor to ending discrimination. Speaking from her own experiences in Uganda, 15 year old Girl Guide, Laura, stated at the NGO Consultation that "the key tool to fight discrimination and violence is education."

**Ends**

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### About WAGGGS

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) 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.

Through its Member Organizations WAGGGS provides girls and young women with a high quality non-formal education 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)

#### **About Aurora**

Aurora is a global organization that works for the economic advancement for women and provides HR gender management software to industry. Aurora also provides a women-focused jobsite <http://www.WhereWomenWantToWork.com> for women to research and compare employers. For more information see <http://www.auroravoice.com>.