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## World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts selected to attend the UN Alliance of Civilizations

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) has been selected as one of only four international youth organizations to attend the second Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (AoC) and the pre-forum Youth Event in Istanbul from 4 to 7 April 2009.

The Forum aims to develop joint initiatives and launch new programmes that advance intercultural understanding.

The Youth Event '**Building a global movement: youth for the Alliance of civilizations**' will be held on Saturday 4 April and Sunday 5 April, before the Forum itself which is held on Monday 6 April and Tuesday 7 April.

The WAGGGS delegation will be part of a group of 75 youth organizations from around the world. The youth contingent will make recommendations to the draft **UN AoC strategy**, and appoint representatives to take part in presentations and events at the forum. This block of youth voices will form the basis of a Global Youth Movement, dedicated to generating cross cultural understanding in government and society.

### Multiculturalism in WAGGGS

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts aims to engage and empower young women so they can make a difference in their communities. WAGGGS works to reach out to more girls and young women from all ethnic, cultural, religious, and social backgrounds in society to give them the opportunity to experience Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting.

For instance, the Association des Guides du Tchad are working on a project to address the life skills and educational needs of 2,250 refugees and displaced girls and young women at the four refugee camps in Southern Chad. Over a period of three years, this project aims to provide training programmes on life skills, non formal education and entrepreneurship to the refugees. The project also aims to recruit and train 35 volunteer Guide leaders who will deliver the trainings.

The four WAGGGS World Centres: [Sangam](#) in India, [Our Chalet](#) in Switzerland, [Pax Lodge](#) in UK and [Our Cabaña](#) in Mexico also offer a high standard of activity programmes and provide the chance to learn about international aspects of the Movement whilst meeting people from different countries and cultures.

## **About the UNAOC**

The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations is a powerful network of opinion leaders, heads of international organizations, corporations, media, foundations, civil society, religious groups and youth, who will convene at the Istanbul Forum.

The aim of the Alliance is to support, through a network of partnerships, the development of projects that promote understanding and reconciliation among cultures globally.

The conference will be hosted by the government of Turkey, and follows the success of the inaugural Alliance Forum which was held in Madrid, Spain, in January 2008. This year's event will feature the participation of His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey, His Excellency José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, President of the Government of Spain, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the UN Secretary General's High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, President Jorge Sampaio, and a host of other top-level political leaders.

## **About the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts**

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 145 Member Organizations, which are organized into five regions – Africa, Arab, Asia Pacific, Europe and Western Hemisphere. Altogether, WAGGGS has approximately 10 million individual members.

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)

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