



TERMINATION OF WAGGGS MEMBERSHIP

WORLD CONFERENCE DOCUMENT NO 10

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WAGGGS' Constitution states that "Removal of membership of WAGGGS shall be considered by the World Board if:

10.4.2.1 the Member Organisation ceases to exist or a change occurs affecting a National Organisation such that it no longer complies with the conditions of membership as set out in sub-clauses 10.1.2 and 10.9;

10.4.2.2 the Member Organisation ceases to comply with any of the conditions of membership set out in sub-clauses 10.1.2 and 10.9;

10.4.2.3 any sum due from the Member Organisation has been wholly or partly outstanding for at least two years in succession.

Following consideration by the World Board, the World Board shall inform the Member Organisation as to the reasons why it is proposed to remove the Member Organisation from membership. In the case of failure to pay its membership fee the World Board may grant remission or postponement of the membership fee.

10.4.3 Should the Member Organisation fail to comply with advice given to it by the World Board or should the Member Organisation for any reason not be able to fulfil the conditions of membership as set out in sub-clauses 10.1.2 and 10.9 within the time frame determined by the World Board, having been duly reported to the Member Organisation, the World Board shall consider whether its membership should be terminated. The matter shall be referred to the Full Members at the next World Conference who may then terminate the membership of the Member Organisation by a resolution passed by a %75 majority of votes of Full Members". WAGGGS Constitution and Bye-Laws Section 10.

The World Board, through the Regional Committee, works with Member Organisations to ensure that they provide quality Girl Guiding/Scouting to their members. However, if the Member Organisation concerned continually fails to meet the criteria and conditions as laid down in the Constitution and Bye-Laws of WAGGGS (see above), the World Board will recommend termination of its membership to the World Conference.

The Europe Regional Committee has proposed the termination of one Member Organisation to the World Board in accordance with WAGGGS' Constitution. There is not a functioning organisation in the country and the Europe Regional Committee is satisfied that appropriate efforts were made to support the Member Organisation without any success. The decision to present an Association for termination of its membership is not taken lightly. The Europe Regional Committee has followed the progress of this Member Organisation and has taken this decision based on a comprehensive evaluation by both Regional Committee and membership staff.

LIETUVOS SKAUCIU SESERIJA (LSS)

– ASSOCIATION OF GIRL GUIDES OF LITHUANIA

DESCRIPTION

Lithuania is a country bordered by Latvia, Belarus and Poland in Europe. Its population is 2.8 million with a total girl population of approx. 200,000. It has a very high Human Development Index of 0.848. Lithuania has had a female president since 2009 and is generally a developed country in regards to gender inequality however one-third of women have experienced domestic violence and trafficking is still common.

REPORT - BACKGROUND INFO

- 2006 – Membership reported to be 1,370 members.
- 2007 – Meeting with LSS during a networking event in Lithuania.
- 2008 – Country visit undertaken and LSS made an Associate member; LSS attend 33rd World Conference.
- 2009 – Membership reported to be 940 members; LSS stops paying Europe Contribution; meeting held with LSS during International Commissioner (IC) Forum in Malta.
- 2010 – Country visit undertaken by WAGGGS.
- 2012 – Education programme revised; membership reported to be 742 members; country visit undertaken by WAGGGS; action plan developed and Skype meeting held.
- 2013 – LSS intend to develop badge system; WAGGGS assign a mentor who is never contacted; LSS agree to set up a repayment plan for non-payment of fees - no feedback received; estimated to have less than 650 members; at IC Forum, LSS intend to set up a Trainers Pool; LSS attend WAGGGS Leadership Development Programme (WLDP) event for national facilitators; LSS receive a detailed development proposal but no response.
- 2014 – IC changes at LSS - WAGGGS not notified; LSS stops paying WAGGGS membership fee; contact stops.

In 2014, and following the realisation that very little progress had been made by Lithuania since 2012, Europe Committee decided that concrete and innovative action plans should be developed based on accurate and up to date assessments of each Associate Member. The delivery of these plans would provide additional evidence for a more informed decision on the direction for the membership strategy and resource allocation and also highlight similar and country-specific patterns to feed into the strategic decision making process and ensure consistency in approach.

Unfortunately, and despite significant effort from the regional team, the action plan agreed regarding Lithuania was not delivered due to a complete lack of response from the MO. Many attempts to contact Lithuania via email, Skype, Facebook, letters (registered and regular), telephone, via other MOs and volunteers (including contacting the previous national IC, who is no longer an active Guide), GSUSA Overseas, regional volunteers and MOs whom had been in contact with Lithuania previously, have been made. These attempts happened between 2014 and 2016 and unfortunately LSS has not responded to any of these and the last registered letter sent to LSS (mid 2014) was returned to WAGGGS which indicated that the official address does not exist anymore.



Europe Committee is aware of the organisational commitment made at the 35th World Conference to grow membership, whilst also driving quality. However, in the case of Lithuania, despite significant input from the regional team, there remains no commitment or engagement from the MO and therefore it is not possible for WAGGGS to do anything further. The current position is that we are unable to assess the quality of any Guiding that may be occurring in the country, there is no engagement from the MO and there have been serious breaches to the CIO in the past four years (including non-payment of membership fees). This situation can impact on WAGGGS' reputation and the following recommendation intends to formalise what seems to already be a reality.

Following cancellation, it is believed that there could be an alternative approach to re-developing Guiding in Lithuania. In future, the Rapid Response Team could look at creating a new Guiding unit in Lithuania using the programmatic approach or working with the existing Scouting Association.

CONCLUSION

Acknowledging that:

- there is no contact with LSS and that the only known physical address is no longer in use;
- a lot of effort (time and resources) were put in to support LSS and in re-establishing contact;
- LSS has not complied with Membership Fee payments since 2009 and have not responded regarding the repayment plan proposal (165£ of membership fees outstanding since 2014 and 1,677€ of Europe Contribution outstanding since 2009).

It is the Europe Committee and World Board's recommendation that to the WAGGGS membership of LSS should be terminated at the 36th World Conference. The Rapid Response Team could now explore other options to develop Guiding in Lithuania.

(Full Member vote, 75 per cent majority required)

PROPOSED MOTION

That the Membership of Lietuvos Skauciu Seserija (LSS), the National Organisation of Lithuania, be terminated with immediate effect.