



APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATE AND FULL MEMBERSHIP

WORLD CONFERENCE DOCUMENT NO 9

APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

GIRL SCOUTS OF ALBANIA (GSOA) - Vajzat Udhëheqëse të Shqipërisë

INTRODUCTION

Albania is a democratic and developing country in south-eastern Europe. It has an upper-middle income economy (GDP\$ per capita: 4,543 in 2015) and a high Human Development Index score (HDI/UNDP: 0.733 in 2014). Albania has a total population of three million (2016) with a total girl population of 557,132. A target membership proportion of one per cent of the total girl market would equal 5,571. Albanians generally speak more than two languages usually English, Italian or Greek. 59 per cent of Albania adheres to Islam, making it the largest religion in the country; Christianity is practiced by 17 per cent of the population, and 24 per cent of the total population is either non-religious, belongs to other religious groups, or are «undeclared».

Albanian society is extremely conservative and patriarchal, particularly in rural areas. Albania ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1994. Under the Albanian Constitution, women have equal rights to vote and to stand for election. The 2008 Gender Equality Law includes the provision that 30 per cent of all government appointed positions and of party lists at election time should be reserved for women. Many women lost their jobs when the socialist regime collapsed and female unemployment remains high. In recent years Albania has improved the status of women and promoted gender equality. However, the country still faces many challenges in terms of fully displaying and utilising women's potential in the labour market and economy, increasing participation in decision-making and eradicating the widespread violence against women, particularly in a family environment. In addition, the country still needs to strengthen its legislative and institutional framework pertaining to gender equality and non-discrimination, improve monitoring and accountability of public offices towards women, as well as ensure gender mainstreaming in public policies. Albania's UN Gender Inequality Index stands at 0.267 (2015).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1998 - Shoqata e Guidave dhe Scoutëve në Shqipëri, a Catholic organisation, was created.
- 2011 – Membership collaboration suspended because despite long term experience in Guiding activities, the programme and its volunteers, it still faced many challenges e.g. the inability to attract young people, the lack of young women in decision making positions, and the lack of communication and participation in WAGGGS initiatives.
- May 2016 - Country visit undertaken by Anne Guyaz and Natalia Plou.
- Jul 2016 - Local champions attended Europe Regional Conference.
- Sep 2016 – ‘Training of Trainers’ undertaken for Social Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP).
- Oct 2016 – Local Albanian champions identified by Peace Corps volunteers.
- Dec 2016 – Attended Danish conference to build on knowledge of SEP.
- Jan 2017 – National Board election held; awarded Helen Storrow grant.
- Feb 2017 – National Board two-day meeting held; took part in World Thinking Day (WTD).
- Mar 2017 – First draft of constitution received by WAGGGS for feedback.
- Apr 2017 – Assessment visit completed 24- 25th April by Paula Viikari and Melanie Ford.



RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT VISIT

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

In the six months since troops were first formed, GSoA have been using the WAGGGS approved Social Entrepreneurship programme (SEP), adapted from original Danish resources. Using this as a framework, Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) and leaders source activities drawn from individual experiences. There is currently no national GSoA educational programme or handbooks/resources for the different age groups. Girls can decide for themselves which activities they find interesting (e.g. campaigns against alcohol abuse, helping in an orphanage or supporting a local house for the elderly).

TRAINING

Currently, a new person needs to volunteer for six months before applying for a leader position (except for girl members). Before starting, there is a one-day training about the essentials of Girl Scouting in general and in Albania. At present, troops are doing the SEP for which the leaders have had specific training. Leaders share their ideas and activities through a monthly newsletter and through Facebook. All current Board Members are leading a local troop so they are already very well informed. All troop leaders have a Peace Corps Volunteer as their counterpart and, at present, new volunteers are given 'on the job' training on the SEP only by the existing troop leader.

MEMBERSHIP

There are 12 Regions in Albania and eight currently have troop presence. Plans are already in place for the remaining four areas and these can be actioned if their application for Associate Membership is successful (being officially linked to WAGGGS opens new in-country funding opportunities to allow them to grow into these regions). They currently have 230 girls and 23 volunteers. Troops are meeting in schools, private business locations, and non-governmental organisation (NGO) facilities. All have great support from local communities and municipalities.

RELATIONSHIP TO SOCIETY

There is a newly elected Board, all of whom are also active troop leaders who currently meet once a month (using online platforms to overcome travel issues). A National Leaders' Conference for adult volunteers is planned for June 2017. They are working towards legal registration in order to open a bank account and apply for national sources of funding. The Board are fundraising for US\$600 to cover registration/other costs. GSoA are currently using office space in Vlorë Youth Centre and have negotiated access to a bank account on a short-term basis to allow them to deposit funds.

STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

The concept of volunteering is unfamiliar in Albania and it has been necessary for the Board to raise awareness about the purpose of GSoA. Especially for girls, the social situation means there are no opportunities to have hobbies/extracurricular activities if their parents do not have money. In rural areas, Girl Scouting is seen as a way to educate and empower girls (especially as there is no cost), and it is likely there will be mothers willing to come forward as leaders. A strong partnership has been established with Peace Corps. They get publicity for their activities and there is one leader who is an employee of a local newspaper so they get very good coverage!

FINANCE

Although fundraising is not common in Albania, some troops have completed community work or sold items to raise funds. Other than this, the cost of activities is currently covered by troop leaders out of their own funds. The Board are planning to introduce a fee of 500 LEK (around 3,6€) a year, per girl, but are aware that this will be a challenge for some people, especially those living in rural areas.



(Full member vote, 75 per cent majority required)

PROPOSED MOTION

That Girl Scouts of Albania, the National Organisation in Albania, be recognised as an Associate Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

MOUVEMENT DES GUIDES & ECLAIREUSES DU NIGER (MGEN)

INTRODUCTION

Niger is a landlocked country in Western Africa, bordered by Libya, Chad, Nigeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and Algeria. Niger is a developing country (UNDP/HDI: 0.353 in 2016) and is one of the poorest in the world (GDP\$ per capita: 415.42 in 2013). Niger has a total population of 19 million (2016) with a total girl population of 5.9 million. A target membership proportion of one per cent of the total girl market would equal approx. 60,000. Islam is practiced by 80 per cent of the population, followed by Christianity. French is its official language.

Most of the laws adopted by the Government to protect the rights of Nigerien women are generally based on Muslim beliefs. A public holiday in Niger known as the National Day of Nigerien Women (Journée Nationale de la Femme Nigérienne) held annually on the 13th of May commemorates a 1992 march by women in Niamey during the National Conference period, demanding greater involvement of women in national institutions. It is estimated that over one-third of Nigerien women are in polygamous unions. 80% of women are uneducated. Niger is the worst place in the world to grow up as a girl, according to Save the Children. With 76% of women married before 18, often due to extreme poverty, and 1 in 5 adolescent girls giving birth each year, the country is a dangerous place for girls. Girls who get married young are less likely to complete their education and more likely to fall victim to domestic abuse, while complications due to pregnancy and childbirth are the second leading cause of death for adolescent girls globally. Niger's UN Gender Inequality Index stands at 0.695 (2015).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1996 - The Association des Scouts du Niger become WOSM members with 3,000 members.
- 2002 - Guiding introduced in Niger.
- 2003 - The Association Nigérienne des Scouts de l'environnement (ANSEN).
- 2009 - Guiding suspended following an internal conflict.
- Dec 2014 - Guiding revived following a general assembly and official relaunch.
- Apr 2016 - Country visit undertaken by Sabine Zigane.
- Aug 2016 - Attended Africa Regional Conference.
- Dec 2016 - Advocacy and training visit planned; governance documents confirmed.
- Jan 2017 - Advocacy/training visit (carried out by Sabine Zigane and Isabelle Ahou).
- Feb 2017 - Free Being Me (FBM) plan submitted; YESS volunteers identified; WTD.
- Mar 2017- FBM training
- Apr 2017 - Assessment visit by Alphonsine Kabagabo and Helinoro Rakotomalala.

RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT VISIT

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

MGEN has a basic educational programme for the four existing branches: Jeanettes (six-ten years) Guides (11-14 years), Senior guides (15-20 years) and La Relève (+20 years). It receives testimonies from parents demonstrating their satisfaction with the programmes offered. The activities revolve around different themes: knowledge of movement; health development; personal development; development of character; manual ability; citizenship; nature protection; agriculture; and physical and sports development. Members tend to meet once a week.

TRAINING

Training is conducted by the national/regional commissioners, but since MGEN does not yet have a training strategy and plan, training remains basic and aimed at allowing leaders to begin activities with a unit. With the help of WAGGGS, a successful FBM training course was organised with 41 trainers and 136 heads of units from the Regions of Niamey and Tillabery.

MEMBERSHIP

MGEN has more than 1,429 members, whereas there were fewer than 500 members two years ago. The units are grouped in three regions currently (Niamey, Tillabery and Dosso) - the target is to move into the five other zones in the country. In future, MGEN wants to use networks of national and regional commissioners to identify potential members. After the FBM training, MGEN is using this programme to raise awareness and attract new members.

RELATIONSHIP TO SOCIETY

MGEN has a national team of five people (each has at least one portfolio). At the regional level, there is the same structure as the national level. Members come from different regions and ethnicities of the country and include a young woman under 30. It should be noted that the team was composed of 13 members and that for greater efficiency, it was reduced to five members at the last general assembly. However, it will be necessary to think about growing it again because the current members have a lot of responsibilities. They meet at least once a month, but more meetings can take place, depending on the activities to be done. The current national team was elected at the 2016 meeting. The search for a physical space as well as the resources to occupy it is a current concern of the national team. Whatsapp groups have been set up for the national team, regional teams and units, and seem to be effective for information sharing and communication. MGEN does not have a head office or permanent staff. All actions are carried out by the national team and the regional teams.

STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

MGEN is officially recognised by the Ministry of Youth. They also work with partners such as World Vision and Le Scouts du Niger. MGEN, through its commissioner general, will participate in the United Nations Alternative Meeting on the Status of Women, representing Niger (UNWOMEN). The members of the national team are also part of different women's networks. This is a plus for the association.

FINANCE

The membership fee has not yet been decided. For the moment most of the activities are financed mainly by the Commissioner General. This is an area for development in the coming year.



(Full member vote, 75 per cent majority required)

PROPOSED MOTION

That the Mouvement des Guides & Eclaireuses du Niger, the National Organisation in Niger, be recognised as an Associate Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

APPLICATION FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP

HET ARUBAANSE PADVINDSTERS GILDE (APG)

INTRODUCTION

Aruba is a constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the southern Caribbean Sea, located about 1,600km west of the main part of the Lesser Antilles and 29km north of the coast of Venezuela. Aruba has one of the highest standards of living in the Caribbean region (GDP per capita \$28,924 in 2014); among the highest in the Caribbean and the Americas. The island's economy has been dominated by three main industries: tourism, aloe export, and petroleum refining. Aruba has a total population of approx. 100,000 (2016) with a total girl population of 5000. A target membership proportion of one per cent of the total girl market would equal approx. 500. Aruba currently reports approx. 350 members (2015 census). The population is estimated to be 75 per cent mixed European/American/African, 15 per cent Black and 10 per cent other ethnicities. The official language is Dutch although English is known by many. Three-quarters of the population is Roman Catholic.

The number of women in the labour market has increased enormously but unemployment for women is higher than for men. Women tend to leave the labour force at an earlier age than men do. Women outnumber men in service and sales positions. Discriminatory rules, which hampered female participation in the civil service, have been removed. Nevertheless, men continue to hold the more important positions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1941 - Introduction to Girl Guiding, using manuals from Nederlands Padvindsters Gilde (NPG).
- 1946 - Officially joined NPG and became part of the Region of Curaçao.
- 1953 - Aruba became an autonomous Region.
- 1972 - Made an independent Association within the Netherlands Antilles.
- 1986 - New interest; new constitution, new name: Het Arubaanse Padvindsters Gilde (APG).
- 1992 - APG was invited to the Western Hemisphere Conference. Guiding active in most of the country, and the APG plans to start more groups around the island.
- 1993 - A group of Pioneers/ Rangers was started and installed in 1994.
- Sep 2015 - Country visit by Camaro West about the UK Guiding GOLD project.
- 2015 - APG attended the Caribbean Link Trainers' Retreat.
- 2016 - APG attended the Caribbean Link Trainers' Meeting in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- Sep 2016 - APG completed the GOLD project.
- April 2017 - An Assessment Visit was completed by Cindy-Ann P. Alexander and Marnye Hall.



RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT VISIT

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

APG has adapted the Caribbean Link accredited education programme to make it relevant to the girls in Aruba. APG activities place girls and young women at the centre of the programme. Service and community development involves beach cleaning, fundraising activities, supporting Breast Cancer Aruba, collection of funds for the Cancer Society Aruba, assisting Red Cross in calamities centres, and helping service clubs (e.g. Rotary International & Women's Club of Aruba). APG participates in WAGGGS programmes such as Free Being Me, Voices Against Violence, and Surf Smart. Girl members represent Aruba's diversity and express appreciation for the adventure, personal development, and community service activities of the programme. Girls are encouraged to make their own decisions in planning of activities, to voice their opinion on topics handled, and in evaluation of activities. They have plans to improve the Ranger and Pioneer programme using key learnings from the Gold Programme.

TRAINING

APG does not have its own Adult Training Policy. APG conducts basic training, which includes the Vision and Mission of WAGGGS and of APG, the principles and values of Guiding and APG's organisational structure; coupled with a mentorship programme for new leaders. Other leadership development training is provided based on the leader's individual growth, skills development, and a training cycle, which includes a Mentor Coaches' topic recommendation and Leaders consultation each year. Leader and Board training are being provided as training packages by external training consultants/companies, and with other NGOs. They currently have an understanding with one of these companies to receive free training in exchange for opening Guiding to the daughters of their employees.

MEMBERSHIP

APG has six community units in Aruba's geographic districts - one per district and has a total of 326 members. APG has grown its membership through a new unit in a low-income district. This is the pilot unit of 'Adopt-a-Guide' which provides financial support to members who cannot afford membership (subscription, uniform and activities). APG plans to grow the 'Adopt-a-Guide' programme which will also increase membership. In 2016, APG experienced a decline in membership, particularly of older girls and young women. Their 2017-2019 Strategic Plan plans to continue recruitment in schools. Their goal is to increase market penetration to five per cent by 2019.

RELATIONSHIP TO SOCIETY

APG has a positive relationship with the national government which recognizes APG's community projects and their contribution. APG is the two-time recipient of the Governor's award for most outstanding youth organisation. In April 2017, they received the Governors Plaque for outstanding community work. APG has applied for grants to have a campground and improve their headquarters. APG collaborates with NGOs (e.g. Lions Club; Women's Club of Aruba) on issues affecting young women, cancer awareness events and the Orange Aruba project which advocates against violence.

STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

APG has an eight-member Board structure that represents all areas of the country, ethnic groups and backgrounds. Currently young women are members of the Board committees; but not on the Board. The Board surveys young women leaders as part of the planning process for the adult training schedule and other activities. At least three members of the current Board will be stepping down at the end of this term, and they hope to recruit new members under 40. They have been recruiting women under 30 as leaders and to committees but have challenges getting them to commit. APG's Strategic and Development Plan for 2017-2019 includes: increasing membership, programme development, infrastructural improvement and improved financial documentation and reporting.

FINANCE

APG's financial reporting is fair with a simple recording system. APG prepares a yearly budget including large national activities and regional and international representation costs. In 2016, APG did not collect subscriptions because they are changing the fees structure. APG has sustainable income generation with two major fundraising activities each year: an annual cookie sale and a fundraising event. This generates at least \$10,000. APG has identified the 'Adopt-a-Guide' programme (sponsored subscription) and corporate donations/sponsorships in their budget. These include: payment of WAGGGS membership fee for five years; use of company meeting spaces for training/meetings; and supermarkets providing groceries for events and camps.



(Full member vote, 75 per cent majority required)

PROPOSED MOTION

That the Het Arubaanse Padvinders Gilde, the National Organisation in Aruba, be recognised as a Full Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

APPLICATION FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP

ASSOCIATION OF SCOUTS OF AZERBAIJAN (ASA)

INTRODUCTION

Azerbaijan is a country bound by the Caspian Sea to the east, Russia to the north, Georgia to the northwest, Armenia to the west and Iran to the south. Despite its wealth, poverty and corruption continue to overshadow the country's development (GDP\$ per capita: 7812 in 2014). Azerbaijan has a high level of human development (UNDP/HDI: 0.75 in 2014). Azerbaijan has a total population of 9.1 million (2016) with a total girl population of 1.8 million. A target membership proportion of one per cent of the total girl market would equal approx. 18,000. Around 98 per cent of the population are Muslim, society is open and embraces diversity. The official language is Azerbaijani, with Russian and English playing significant roles as languages of education and communication.

Women in Azerbaijan nominally enjoy the same legal rights as men. During 2011 female members of Parliament and the Head of the State Committee on Women and Children increased their activities against domestic violence. Media coverage of domestic violence issues also began to raise awareness of the problem. Traditional social norms and lagging economic development in the country's rural regions continue to restrict women's roles in the economy, and there are reports that women had difficulty exercising their legal rights due to gender discrimination. Its Parliament has women members (16 per cent) and 90 per cent of the women above 25 years old have completed their secondary studies. Azerbaijan's UN Gender Inequality Index stands at 0.326 (2015).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1996 – ASA founded.
- 2000 – ASA becomes a member of WOSM.
- Jan 2016 - Country visit was undertaken by Elisa Chiodi, Nina Fleck and Anne Guyaz.
- Jul 2016 – ASA attended Europe Regional Conference.
- Oct 2016 – Core Team created to intensify support.
- Jan 2017 – Event held to introduce WAGGGS to ASA members; give information about the Movement to potential ASA members and increase number of girl scout members.
- Feb 2017 – Redesigned logo. Application for FBM.
- Apr 2017 – Assessment visit 22nd- 23rd April by Kerrie Fuller and Ana Maria Mideros.

RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT VISIT

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

Currently girls are receiving programmes, based on scout values, adventures, outdoor activities, challenges, developing knowledge and skills. The WAGGGS girls' curriculum has yet to be developed. Girls enjoy the programmes that are adventurous, challenging and outdoors. A priority in their Strategic Business Plan 2016- 2019 is to create an effective and sustainable programme framework with resources for all age groups. They have so far completed the Cub programme curriculum and are willing to include WAGGGS tools to support the development of girls and young women.

TRAINING

Training has two parts: The Foundation Training Programme (FTP) and the Specified Training Programme (STP). The FTP, for Assistant Leaders and Leaders of Cubs (called Mowglies), Scouts, Ventures (called Knights) and Rover Scout Troops. It delivers basic outdoor skills that any Adult member needs to know to plan and execute safe, adventurous and educational outdoor Scout activities. The STP is a list of specific topics that leaders can select according to their personal development needs. To provide more volunteer training is a priority in their Strategic Business Plan 2016-2019.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all and they have members from different cultures and religions. ASA knows that few girls from the rural areas of Azerbaijan take part and they will work to reach them with the support of WAGGGS' programmes. Currently total membership is at 1748 (35 per cent girls) and in 2012, this was only 600 (approx.) so their rate of growth is very strong. They have a presence in nine regions, Baku being the largest. Their strategic priority is to improve the geographic reach of scouting in Azerbaijan and continue growing in Baku as it represents 48 per cent of the total population of the country.

RELATIONSHIP TO SOCIETY

They have a very positive relationship with the Ministry of Youth, who funds projects each year and they report annually to the Ministry of Finance. For the World Scout Conference, Government is their main sponsor. ASA is perceived as an organisation that has proven reach and success with young people. They are a member of NAYORA (National Assembly of Youth Organisations of the Republic of Azerbaijan) which gives them support from 145 other youth organisations. They share best practice and support each other's projects sometimes financially. This is a very successful relationship and ASA is consider one of their most valuable partners. Scouting itself is perceived positively. ASA is working with the Ministry of Emergency Situations to train leaders and scouts in search and rescue techniques so that they become an emergency contact in future that can mobilise quickly and easily. This will only aid the image of the Scouts.

STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

The new Constitution was approved in 2016 to include alignment with the WAGGGS' CIO. ASA has recruited a professional team at head office and redesigned the structure to make decision making more effective. The new structure covers the main areas to develop the organisation: the National Scout Conference, the National Committee and the Council of National Commissioners (Executive Committee). There is also a National Auditor Commission responsible for verification of annual accounting reports. The National Committee meets every two months, the executive team meet every week. There is currently one young woman on the National Board (of seven members) and she is leading WAGGGS developments. It is hoped that more women will become volunteer leaders and increase the number of women in decision making. At the executive level there are three women in leading roles: Ethics Committee, Programme Scout branch lead, and Assistant to Communications and PR. A female International Commissioner (together with the current male IC) is also a role they are looking to fill.

FINANCE

Financially ASA is stable, they receive Government funding and are also looking at business and commercial partnerships. ASA has an Audit Committee and accounts are audited internally and externally as they have to go to the Ministry of Finance every year. Last year the Ministry of Justice did an 'on the spot' audit and found everything satisfactory.

ASA is fully formed and functional. It is willing and prepared to join WAGGGS, recognises WAGGGS' value and has committed to embrace girl guiding and girl scouting, so necessary for the girls and young women in their country.



(Full member vote, 75 per cent majority required)

PROPOSED MOTION

Subject to the approval of Proposal Motion 4.1, the World Board recommends that the Association of Scouts of Azerbaijan, the National Organisation in Azerbaijan be recognised as a Full Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

If Proposed Motion 4.1 is not passed, then the World Board recommends that the Association of Scouts of Azerbaijan, the National Organisation in Azerbaijan be recognised as an Associate Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

APPLICATION FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP

PALESTINIAN SCOUT ASSOCIATION (PSA)

INTRODUCTION

Palestine is a geographic region on the West Bank of the River Jordan and Gaza on the Mediterranean coast. Due to its 'unrecognised status' in the world, its economy fluctuates. Its \$GDP per capita is \$2,783 (2012) and its rating in the Human Development Index is 0.684 (2015). It has a total population of 4.5 million (2014) with a total girl population of 737,197. A one per cent market share for target membership figures would be 7,197. The main language spoken is Arabic.

The significant influences to the rights of women in Palestine are the patriarchal tradition and the teachings of the Quran. This is changing due to an increased demand for women on the labour market, changes in the status of the economy, the 'economic interests' of parents, and the idea that a well-educated Palestinian woman has a better place and opportunity on the 'marriage market'. Women in Palestine are reported to be experiencing adversity due to political discord, and the denial of full rights and protection by Palestinian society in general. 35 per cent of married women in Gaza have been on the receiving end of physical violence by their husband and 40 per cent of unmarried women have been physically abused by a member of their household. Women make up almost 54 per cent of students at universities and yet women present only 17 per cent of the academic teaching staff.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1912 - Scout movement in Palestine starts.
- 1945 - The Palestinian Scout Association recognised by the World Scout Bureau.
- 1949 - Recognition withdrawn.
- 1996 - Official recognition was restored by the World Scout Conference.
- 2016 - Palestinian Scouts Association joins WOSM.
- 2016 - Core Team set up; PSA attend Arab Regional Conference; WAGGS meeting held.
- Feb 2017 - PSA takes part in the 22nd Arab Girl Guides Camp in Egypt and WTD.
- Mar 2017 - Meeting held at Arab Scout Conference.
- May 2017 - Assessment visited completed by Raeada Bader and Maryam Al Hadhri.

RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT VISIT

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

There is a curriculum for each age group: brownies (seven- ten), girl guides (11- 14), advanced guides (15 – 17) and Rangers (18- 23), with a progress card to record the girls' progress in different areas. This curriculum was last updated in 2012 and they evaluated the programme by asking for the feedback from the girls and their leaders after each activity using an evaluation form and open discussions. Through the different activities (e.g. community service, outdoor activities, different workshops) different issues affecting girls and young women are explored. Unit meetings are organised in cooperation between leaders and guides. The guides units meet twice a month. They have a dedicated sub-committee for programs, curricula and phases. Palestine guides are very active in WAGGGS initiatives e.g. WTD and Stop the Violence (STV) and take every opportunity to participate in WAGGGS Arab Region events like the Arab Camps and the Arab Regional Conferences. There is a chapter about scouting and guiding in the school curriculum for grades five and seven.

TRAINING

For the school units, there are supervisors who support and mentor the leaders. There are 25 supervisors all over Palestine who are also staff at the Ministry of Education. For the community units, there are experienced volunteers to support and mentor the leaders. There is a training system that contains five courses: 1. The primary course (information about guiding). 2. Assistant unit leader Course. 3. Unit Leader Course. 4. Assistant Leader Course (to prepare them as trainers) 5. Trainers Course (similar to TOT). One of the sub-committees is devoted to capacity building and training. There is training for patrol leaders, one-day camp, workshops at the unit level and there are annual camps for five days on the national level for each stage. When possible they also participate in international training e.g. two leaders participated in the UPS leadership training in Cairo in 2016 and a group of leaders participated in the Arab Camp in Sharm Al Sheikh in Egypt in 2017. In the next WOSM World Conference, a young female leader will represent Palestine. Training provides the leaders with the knowledge, skills, tools and opportunities on a national and international level to thrive as individuals and as leaders. Palestinian leaders are very proud to belong to the Girl Guiding/Scouting Movement and believe that guiding represents a source of joy for themselves and their community.

MEMBERSHIP

Guiding is open to every girl/young woman and they all work together without any difficulties. There are three kinds of units: school units; units in the community all over Palestine and units in Lebanon and Syria. Membership is growing: 2014/2015 = four per cent; 2015/2016 = seven per cent); and now membership is approximately 5000 girls and leaders. In each sub-committee there are seven female leaders with a total of 21 female leaders in each commission. The executive committee has 13 elected members with two being female.

RELATIONSHIP TO SOCIETY

PSA have a positive relationship with government and is fully supported. Parents support activities and usually participate with their daughters. They have good partnerships with NGOs - UNICEF, Red Cross and UNDP. The Supreme Council of Youth and Sport received \$500m from the Islamic Development Bank to support scouts/guides activities. Guiding is well perceived - during the International Marathon of Palestine, all organisers were guide/scout volunteers. During Ramadan, 1,200 scouts and guides organised prayers in Al-Aqsa Mosque. Guiding research is encouraged e.g. «The role of the scouts and guides movement in developing the local community in Palestine», by M. Ziyad, Birzeit University and «The educational aspects of scouts and guides movement in West Bank Governorates» by R. Hamed, Al Najah University. Some rangers at university do their graduation research in guiding. PSA signed the Convention on Women as they are members of the Women's Committee in Palestine.

STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

The executive committee meets once a year and the sub-committees meet, on average, 20 times a year. PSA has its own official headquarters allocated by the Supreme Council of Youth and Sport as well as some headquarters for some of the commissions. With cooperation from the Ministry of Education, PSA uses schools, clubs, youth centres, halls and courtyards of monasteries and churches for its activities. The association forms a commission in every district, supervises its groups applying the regulations and ensures links between the group and the association. The office is well equipped and has four staff members and many volunteers. Policies and procedures are clear and transparent.

FINANCE

PSA has financial government support. There is also a small fee paid by each officially registered group which is \$35 per year. Organisations like the Islamic Development Bank also give financial support. There is a treasurer in each commission and there is also the National Fund Treasurer at the association and the financial system is clear to all. In addition, there is a financial committee composed of three members and is subject to an external auditing company. The financial report is approved by the Conference. The Association has a bank account in Al-Quds Bank.



(Full member vote, 75 per cent majority required)

PROPOSED MOTION

Subject to the approval of Proposal Motion 4.1, the World Board recommends that the Palestinian Scout Association, the National Organisation in Palestine be recognised as a Full Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

If Proposed Motion 4.1 is not passed, then the World Board recommends that the Palestinian Scout Association, the National Organisation in Palestine be recognised as an Associate Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

APPLICATION FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP

SCOUTS OF SYRIA

INTRODUCTION

Syria (officially Syrian Arab Republic) is a country bordering Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, Jordan and Israel. It has a UN Human Development Index of 0.594 (2015). Syria's population (pre-war) was 22 million. Its total girl population was estimated as 11 million so a one per cent market share would be 100,000. The current membership is over 2000 female members. The country is 87 per cent Islam and 10 per cent Christian. Arabic is the official language.

Women constitute 49 per cent of Syria's population. The conflict has had a negative impact on women and their rights, leading to high levels of violence, including war rape and honour killings. Syria ranks 125th out of 152 in the Gender Inequality Index. Syrian women are legally allowed to participate in everyday life, although they are not guaranteed a spot in being part of political, social, cultural and economic categories. Early marriage is not unusual, even though the legal age is 17. The literacy rate for women is 74 per cent and just 29 per cent over 25 have a secondary education. Women are 15 per cent of the labour force.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1950s - Guiding and Scouting started.
- 1970 - The 3rd Arab Regional Conference was held in Damascus.
- 1976 - Arab Committee Meeting held in Syria.
- 1980s - Guiding/Scouting Movement ceased to be officially recognised.
- Jul 2000 - Guiding and Scouting was again allowed to operate.
- 2008 - Scouts of Syria was made an Associate Member of WAGGGS.
- Oct 2009 - Visit by Essia Fathallah, a training event for Assistant Training Commissioners.
- Jun 2017 – Assessment visit undertaken virtually by Chaymaa Hassan and Haifa Ourir.

RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT VISIT

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

Two years ago, guidelines for common programmes (for boys and girls) were created. Individual development curriculums addressing girls only were also created in order to reflect the needs of girls/young women. There is leadership training on how to deliver the curriculum with different ages. Troops meet weekly and girls set their own activities. The curriculum supports girls to develop their leadership potential and as world citizens. Girls learn new skills, and enhance their capabilities: physical, mental and emotional development; character building; spirituality; team working; outdoor skills; camps; and projects. There is a female leader in charge of programmes who is a member of the executive committee. They take part in WTD, FBM, STV. The association is open to all sections of society with no differentiation. Some programmes run in partnership with NGOs e.g. Red Crescent, Orthodox Patriarch and UNICEF (first aid). There is a guiding unit for special needs and disabled girls. Every three or four years, the programme is reviewed; the latest version in 2015. Girls and young women are involved in the review process – their feedback is acknowledged; the review addresses the changes that happen in their lives.



TRAINING

On a local level, in each commission (city) there is someone that is in direct contact with the leaders and supports them when needed. There is a database of leaders and trainers on a national level; there is pool of 'leaders of support' which are those leaders that have taken part in WAGGGS and Arab Region training and leadership events. Leaders who take part in regional or global training are encouraged to cascade their key learning outcomes during the camps. The organisation previously organised training for trainers at a national level, but at the last one only two were able to attend because of travel difficulties. There is a committee that sets the roles and responsibilities and the training commissioner is among this committee – documents and references for any training sessions are studied to ensure content is appropriate for both genders.

MEMBERSHIP

Guiding is open to all and in locations not linked to religion or politics. Increases in membership happens at big events that attract new members. Membership registration is done once and is automatically renewed each year based on fee payment. There is no growth strategy in place; the population is decreasing due to high emigration. The main priority is to keep the association functioning. There are troops for former members wishing to join in with less commitment. Groups exist in 10 out of 14 regions; four regions are under ISIS (also known as Daesh, ISIL or simply Islamic State) control. Current membership is approx. 2200 girls. 18 females are involved in decision making: three on executive committee; five on national committee; and 10 on central committees. The membership is a civil membership - in each neighbourhood, a guiding unit is open to all (neither school nor faith based).

RELATIONSHIP TO SOCIETY

There is a positive relationship with government and ministries e.g. Ministry of Environment and Health. Because the movement stopped for 15 years, it took time for young people to understand the mission and vision of guiding. Over the last 10 years, this has changed. TV and newspapers cover scouting/guiding activities and there is a leader in charge of public relations in each commission who ensures connected connection with local media. There has been a TV interview on the FBM achievements in Syria and other charity work. Meetings with parents occur e.g. involving adults as troop sponsors. At a national level, they work with UNICEF and are considering working with UNFPA on projects addressing issues affecting girls.

STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

The executive committee has nine members but no one under 30 – they will work to change this. They hold monthly meetings and the latest national congress was in 2008. They have not been able to hold any more but one is planned for 2018. There is a proposal to create a new Central Committee who will monitor work and ensure that the constitution is being adhered to. They have a central HQ (owned by the association) and each commission has a headquarters; some owned by the association, some offered by supporting bodies, some rented. In Damascus, the association owns land where camps can be held and three have already been held. FBM training was delivered in Sudan, where Syrian facilitators trained 50 Sudanese leaders. They have one member of staff: a newly hired secretary who is supported by volunteers. Information is cascaded to the commission, then to units and troops. There is no long-term strategy, just short term plans to ensure the movement continues.

FINANCE

An annual budget plan is always set. The association is mainly self-funded, but sometimes gets grants from ministries for specific programmes. Membership fees are paid to the local troops. The treasurer (responsible for finance) is a member of the executive committee. They review all financial actions to ensure they are in line with processes and rules. There are not a lot of financial partners at national level, but troops have local sponsors. Annual reports are created and audited by government. A national finance report is prepared at the end of each year, and cascaded to the city-unit-troop level.



(Full member vote, 75 per cent majority required)

PROPOSED MOTION

That the Scouts of Syria, the National Organisation in Syria, be recognised as a Full Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.