



WORLD ASSOCIATION  
OF GIRL GUIDES  
AND GIRL SCOUTS



# WAGGGS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

AT THE WORLD ASSOCIATION OF GIRL GUIDES AND GIRL SCOUTS WE PLACE THE SDGS AT THE HEART OF ALL OUR WORK AND FOCUS OUR ENERGY, PROGRAMMING AND ADVOCACY ON HELPING TO CREATE A BETTER WORLD FOR GIRLS.



# INTRODUCTION

When world leaders agreed the SDGs at the UN General Assembly in September 2015, it represented a historic moment in the fight to address the biggest challenges facing our world today.



These new **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** succeed and expand on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and are part of the global plan of action for people, planet and prosperity under the motto: **“LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND”**.

We believe that the Goals present the opportunity for transformative change to the lives of girls and young women as they:

- Recognise that gender equality is critical to the progress of all Goals. Include a stand-alone goal on gender equality that includes targets on the elimination of violence against women.
- Recognise the importance of education and of life-long learning opportunities.
- Are truly global and relate to every country in the world.
- Despite progress towards gender equality, girls and women continue to be disproportionately affected by poverty, injustice, violence, disease, discrimination and a lack of access to basic rights such as a quality education and health care.

By putting the SDGs at the heart of all we do at WAGGGS, we are striving for girls, who are often thought of last, to be considered first.

## WAGGGS GLOBAL SDG WORK

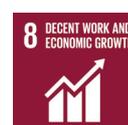
**EVERY ONE OF THE 17 GOALS IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT, AND EACH MUST BE ADDRESSED TO HELP CREATE A BETTER, MORE EQUAL WORLD.**

However, we know our organisation has particular areas of expertise and priorities. As the world's largest voluntary organisation for girls and young women with **10 million members across 150 countries** - we are the girl experts, the leadership development experts and the non-formal education experts. Our research and work focuses on girls' rights and opportunities.

To reflect this, we have adapted our organisational priorities so that they cover all the SDGs, but focusing on those most relevant to our work so that all our energy, programming and advocacy at a global level can help create the world we want to see for girls.



*These priorities are all reflected throughout all of our global programmes. Each programme enables Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to work towards at least two different SDGs.*



# GLOBAL PROGRAMMES AND THE SDGs

All our global programmes tackle issues identified by the SDGs as challenges that girls face in the world today - from body confidence and well-being, gender based violence, environmental sustainability and being able to access a healthy, nutritious diet - we educate and inspire girls to make a positive difference at a local, national and international level.

Each programme is embedded with the Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting methodology of - **Learn, Lead, Speak Out and Volunteer** – which enables girls to better understand their rights on a range of issues and then gives them a voice and platform to change attitudes in wider society.

## STOP THE VIOLENCE AND SDG 3,5,10 AND 17



“ At some point, every girls feels that gender equality is important, I think this programme is important to encourage them to think it is important. ”

Girl Guide, Malaysia

**STOP THE VIOLENCE** is one of our flagship global programmes - made up of five different pillars - and is a key example of how our programmatic work is enabling girls to have a direct impact on a range of different goals.

1. AWARENESS CAMPAIGN
2. EDUCATION PROGRAMME
3. RESEARCH AND POLICY
4. LOBBYING
5. NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNS

One of the key components of the programme is the non-formal education curriculum, Violence against Violence (VAV). The programme makes girls and boys aware that gender stereotypes and inequality are the root causes of violence, and enables them to identify it in their own families and communities and take action to challenge it.

Many Girl Guides and Leaders tell us that they are introduced to the concept of gender equality for the first time through the VAV programme. It is a major driver towards Goals 3, 5 and 10 as it enables girls to better understand what violence looks like and protect themselves from it, address the root causes of gender inequality in their own families and communities, and enable them to take action to tackle it.

## WAGGS AND THEGOALS.ORG (TGO)

This is how the first connected generation becomes the first sustainable generation.

**TheGoals.org** is an online crowd-learning platform connecting Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world so they are knowledgeable about the SDGs and inspired to take action to achieve the goals.

We work together with TheGoals.org to educate 12,000 young people and 600 leaders around the globe on the SDGs through **waggs.thegoals.org**

The three elements of the programme are:

- **EXPLORE:** Understand global challenges, find out about local circumstances
- **CREATE:** Find practical solutions and share it with other learners on TheGoals.org
- **CHANGE:** Learning by doing, apply your knowledge with the feedback received

The online platform has been incorporated into WAGGS wider SDG strategy, and is focused on engaging leaders and MOs so they can offer education and advocacy opportunities to their members so they learn about SDGs and take action to help achieve the goals.



## GIVING GIRLS A VOICE



At WAGGGS, we believe that girls are experts on their own needs and it is vital that their contribution and opinions are heard if the SDGs are to be realised. Around the world we are helping Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to do exactly that:

### SRI LANKA, GLOBAL GOAL 5: GENDER EQUALITY



In her role as national coordinator, Chamathya made it her mission to end violence against women in Sri Lanka. She led workshops on gender-based violence across the country and trained leaders who helped reach over 10,000 young people on Voices against Violence. She organised rallies around railway and bus stations and worked with bus drivers to make them more sensitive to violence and harassment. She has now been appointed as the youngest ever WAGGGS World Board member in recognition of her efforts.

*"As a young woman in Sri Lanka, one of the worst things has to be using public transport. I am harassed on a daily basis and it's at risk of becoming normalised in my country... But strides are being made and the Girl Guides Association here in Sri Lanka is doing all it can to change attitudes and breakdown stereotypes."*

### GREECE, GLOBAL GOAL 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



When refugees began arriving on European shores the Greek in 2015, Charitini a Girl Guide who lives in a suburb of Athens near the sea called Voula knew she had to help. Since early 2017 she has volunteered as part of A World in a Suitcase, a new programme led by the GGA and run in Greek schools to help support and integrate refugees. Through games children understand what it would be like to leave their homes and move to a totally new society. These cultivate principles like respect, understanding and acceptance.

*"I believe it is very important for Guides to be active in their communities. They represent the principles of peaceful coexistence and acceptance, so this is why we should not only cultivate these ideas to our teams, but also in the wider society. Children really amaze you with their answers and how they describe their feelings. They can really understand the big picture."*

### NIGERIA, GLOBAL GOAL 3: HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



In Nigeria, many girls, particularly those living in rural areas face a number of challenges. But Praise Adeyemo, a young leader in the Nigerian Girl Guides believes it is a lack of self-confidence and a sense of inferiority compared to girls living in more urban areas, which is helping to hold them back.

*"I have been a victim of low self-esteem due to my skin colour. I wanted to be fairer. I wanted to be able to speak fine and elegant English, like girls from other schools. I wanted to be able to make all the boys turn their heads. But I have learnt I'm beautiful, just the way I am. I learnt how to find ways of expressing my individuality, my personality and my physical traits."*

To help other girls feel more confident about themselves and build up their self-esteem, Praise has been running Free Being Me training at local primary schools in her area. At her first training 70 girls attended, and since then they have become an integral part of camps at a local and national level.

