

one hundred years - one billion young people  
cent ans - un milliard de jeunes  
cien años - un billón de jóvenes



**W.B.3319**  
**July 2004**

Geneva and London

To: All WOSM National Scout Organizations  
and all WAGGGS' Member Organizations

cc: Members of the World Scout Committee  
and of the WAGGGS World Board

World Scout Bureau and  
WAGGGS World Bureau Executives

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year sees the Olympic Games returning for the first time to their place of origin – Athens, Greece. Thousands of athletes from across the globe will come together in a spirit of fair competition, compassion for humanity, reconciliation and tolerance. Each one of these values is shared by WAGGGS and WOSM and is present in the non-formal educational programmes that millions of young people around the world participate in. These shared values are what has led WAGGGS and WOSM, following requests at the 11<sup>th</sup> European Guide and Scout Conference, to sign the Olympic Truce.

The Olympic Truce calls for conflict to cease during the Olympic Games and beyond. The United Nations has backed the Olympic Truce and over 160 Heads of States and Governments have signed the Millennium Declaration of 2000.

WAGGGS and WOSM have now joined the many other World Leaders who have committed themselves to the values and principles of the truce and we encourage WAGGGS Member Organizations and WOSM National Scout Organizations to also consider supporting the Olympic Truce and to developing projects that continue our common efforts to bring peace to our global community.

Further information on the Olympic Truce can be found at <http://www.olympictruce.org> and a copy of the Statement that has been signed is attached to this letter.

Yours in Scouting and Guiding,

**KIRSTY E. GRAY**  
Chairman, World Board, WAGGGS

**MARIE-LOUISE CORREA**  
Chairman, World Scout Committee, WOSM

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## **“STATEMENT OF WORLD PERSONALITIES IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL CAPACITIES IN SUPPORT FOR THE OLYMPIC TRUCE”**

### WHEREAS:

The idea of the Olympic Truce (“Ekecheiria”) dates back to an ancient Hellenic tradition. In keeping with this tradition all hostilities would cease during the Olympic Games. The Olympic Truce was fully respected for twelve centuries of Olympic Games in antiquity.

In 1992, the International Olympic Committee urged the international community to observe this tradition anew, calling for all hostilities to cease during the Olympic Games, and beyond. Since then, numerous initiatives to promote understanding and peace through sport in communities around the world have been developed with the cooperation of National Olympic Committees. In July 2000, the International Olympic Committee and the Government of Greece established the International Olympic Truce Centre. This Centre seeks to further promote the observance of the Olympic Truce.

The United Nations General Assembly, with the strong support of all of our countries, has five times called on member states to observe the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, most recently in its Millennium Declaration in September 2000, with the signatures of over 160 Heads of State and Government.

**Today, the Olympic Truce has become an expression of mankind’s desire to build a world based on the rules of fair competition, humanity, reconciliation, and tolerance. Moreover, the Olympic Truce epitomizes a bridge from the old and wise tradition to the most compelling purpose of today’s world – the maintenance of international peace and the promotion of multicultural dialogue, cooperation, and understanding.**

The period of the Olympic Games, and beyond, should provide an opportunity for such a dialogue and the search for durable solutions for the restoration of peace in all areas of conflict, where the first victims are the children, the youth, women, and the aged.

**Humanity’s quest is for a world free of hatred, terrorism, and war, where ideals of peace, goodwill and mutual respect form the basis of relations among peoples and countries. The goal may still remain elusive, but if the Olympic Truce can help us to bring about even a brief respite from conflict and strife, it will send a powerful message of hope to the international community.**

### WHEREFORE, WE, THE UNDERSIGNED:

1. Urge world leaders, Governments, and International Organizations, to give peace a chance and to agree to join efforts to use the Olympic Truce as an instrument to promote peace and reconciliation in areas of conflict and strife;
2. Pledge to exercise our best efforts to ensure that the Olympic Truce appeal is observed in our countries and in our region during the upcoming Olympic Games as a way of promoting goodwill and encouraging the peaceful settlement of conflicts in full conformity with the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations; and
3. Pledge to support and disseminate, individually and collectively, the symbolic call for Olympic Truce throughout all future Olympic Games and beyond, and to exercise our best efforts within our communities, countries, and relevant international organizations to achieve its recognition and observance.

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## STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE OLYMPIC TRUCE FROM THE WORLD ASSOCIATION OF GIRL GUIDES AND GIRL SCOUTS and THE WORLD ORGANIZATION OF THE SCOUT MOVEMENT

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts is the largest voluntary organization for girls and young women in the world, with over eight million members. Through its national Member Organizations in 144 countries, WAGGGS provides a dynamic, flexible, values-based non-formal education programme, which is relevant to girls' needs. Using its fundamental principles as its basis, WAGGGS has a commitment to peace and world citizenship.

The World Organization of the Scout Movement brings together more than 25 million Scouts, boys and girls, in 215 countries and territories. Scouting is an education for life; it is fun with a purpose. Scouting contributes to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

It will soon be 100 years since our common Founder Lord Baden-Powell started Scouting and, a bit later, Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting. Since 1907 close to one billion boys and girls, youth and adults, have been Scouts and Girl Guides/Girl Scouts. Baden-Powell was convinced that the Movements that he had created could bring a significant contribution to a more peaceful world. And, indeed, over almost a century Scouts and Girl Guides/Girl Scouts have been active in peace-oriented activities at national, regional and world levels. The World Scout Committee and the WAGGGS World Board have decided to engage in a common project: **A billion young people WORKING FOR PEACE for a hundred years.**

The Olympic Truce reflects very well our commitment to peace and the need for all citizens of the world to play their part in promoting peace and reconciliation in areas of conflict, war and suffering. We believe that by working with young people and empowering them to be active citizens in their communities, to have a sense of responsibility and to enable them to develop the skills that allow them to be autonomous, responsible, committed and supportive, we will build peaceful communities and a peaceful world. Through international activities such as events, exchanges and camps we bring together young people from many diverse cultures and backgrounds and encourage them to see past the differences and to see the similarities. Only by working together can we build tolerance and understanding of each other.

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and the World Organization of the Scout Movement are happy to support the Olympic Truce and encourage other International Non-Governmental Youth Organizations to join us. By working for and with young people, peace will have a better chance.

Yours in Scouting and Guiding,

**KIRSTY E. GRAY**  
Chairman, World Board, WAGGGS

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