



### **Raising our voices: the world we want for girls and young women**

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) have selected Krysta Coyle, a Girl Guide leader with Girl Guides of Canada in Halifax, as a member of its youth delegation to the 60th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60) in New York. CSW is an annual event, being held in 2016 from 14-24 March, to evaluate progress on gender equality, set global standards, and formulate concrete policies. The delegation will add their voice to those demanding a better future for girls and young women.

Last September, world leaders gathered at the United Nations (UN) in New York and agreed on a set of global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change. The SDGs explicitly recognise that gender equality is critical to the progress of all goals. The priority theme for CSW60 is women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development.

Attending the 60th session will provide an opportunity for the WAGGGS delegation to ensure that the voices of 10 million Girl Guides & Scouts in 146 WAGGGS member countries around the world are heard on the issues that matter to them.

"Attending CSW60 is an opportunity to influence decision-makers so that the aspirations contained in the SDGs are implemented and translated into real progress in the lives of girls and young women" Krysta says. "All over the world, girls and young women continue to face unique challenges because of the double discrimination of their sex and age, so there is work to be done in every country in the world to achieve full gender equality. The new goals are universal, therefore all governments have a strong imperative to turn their promises into tangible action on the ground for girls, and we will be ensuring this takes place"

Key issues the WAGGGS delegates will be advocating for governments to commit to at CSW60 include:

- Combating discriminatory social norms and practices, especially violence against women and girls
- Building the capacity of girls and young women to participate in and drive change for a better world
- Investing in specialised programmes aimed at girls and young women
- Developing systems that assess the impact of the goals on girls and women for truly reflective societal progress

### **Key information**

- WAGGGS is the leading voluntary organisation dedicated to girls and young women in the world. Their goal is to support girls and young women to develop their full potential as responsible citizens of the world. The organisation has been attending the CSW each year for the last decade, using the conference as an opportunity to advocate for the rights of girls and young women and directly engage with decision-makers. You can find out more on the website:  
<https://www.wagggs.org/en/what-we-do/speak-out/60th-commission-status-women/>
- The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. During the Commission's annual two-week session, representatives of UN Member States, civil society organizations and UN entities gather at the UN headquarters in New York. Member States agree on further actions to accelerate progress and promote women's enjoyment of their rights in political, economic and social fields. - See more at <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw>

- Sustainable Development Goal 5 is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Targets include ending all forms of discrimination, violence and harmful practice against women and girls everywhere and ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership in political, economic and public life. See more at <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs/sdg-5-gender-equality>

For more information about the work of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) at the 60th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60):

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