



Council of Irish Guiding Associations (CIGA)
A federation of the Irish Girl Guides (IGG) and Catholic Guides of Ireland (CGI)
c/o 27 Pembroke Park, Dublin 4, Ireland Email: cigareland@ciga.ie

29 June 2017

Re: Information on our candidate Jillian van Turnhout to World Board of WAGGGS



Dear Friends,

We are greatly honoured to be presenting a candidate of the calibre of Jillian van Turnhout for your consideration for election to the World Board of WAGGGS. In this letter, I wish to outline four reasons why we believe Jillian merits your support. Knowing her strengths, we are confident she can contribute to the achievement of the Global Strategic Plan while remaining a keeper of the flame.

The first reason we are nominating Jillian is her experience of providing more opportunities for more girls. As a former Chief Commissioner for six years, Jillian is a leading member of the Irish Girl Guides and during her term our membership grew by 8%. She has played a strong role at all levels in our organisation and at European level. Jillian has an innate ability to move seamlessly from national to local or from leadership to supporting roles as and when needed. Jillian joined us as a Brownie and held many roles throughout her time. She has represented WAGGGS at European level, attended World and European conferences and participated in a Juliette Low Seminar. She is currently a District Commissioner, a Child Protection Trainer and a member of the Board of our Foundation.

Our second reason for Jillian's candidacy is the global influence experience she will be able to bring to the role. Twenty years ago, Jillian represented WAGGGS Europe on several European bodies at both Council of Europe and European Union level. As Secretary General of the platform for International Youth Organisations, Jillian successfully led the negotiations that created the European Youth Forum. This merger of three umbrella organisations into a single platform to be the voice of young people in Europe involved intense mediation between dozens of International Youth Organisations and National Youth Councils across Europe.

For over 11 years Jillian was a member of the EU Advisory Body, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). As the elected Vice President, she represented the 344 members from the then 27 EU Member States. This work entailed high level representation of the EESC on inter-institutional bodies, at bi-lateral meetings with Member States and at global level. Of particular note is her work on the EESC EU-China Round Table when she initiated the first ever formal EU China talks on the rights of the child during their meeting in Chongqing, China.

The third reason why Jillian will make a positive contribution to the World Board is because of the strength she can add to WAGGGS' work. In 2005 Jillian moved from the private sector to the not-for-profit sector and headed up the Children's Rights Alliance, an umbrella body for over 100 NGOs. She secured an exceptional 5-year funding commitment from 2 philanthropic foundations and from the State providing a firm basis for the organisation's Strategic Plan. In 2013, the One Foundation independent evaluation report 'Daring Voices' highlighted her success when they concluded that the Children's Rights Alliance "can claim to have made an historic contribution to advancing the rights of children in Ireland. The organisation can trace multiple advocacy wins from 2006 onwards".

Last year, Jillian completed a successful 5 years as a Senator (member of Upper House of Irish Parliament). She was nominated by the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland. She was leader of the 'Independent Group' and advocated on a wide range of social justice and human rights issues. In her final year, she was recognised as 'Senator of the Year' by a national newspaper and 'Politician of the Year' by a national TV station. The judging panel said that as a Senator "Jillian has demonstrated how to bring advocacy issues forward and make a real impact." As Chief Commissioner of the Irish Girl Guides, I watched with immense pride as Jillian used every opportunity to promote Guiding and Scouting, and shared with her colleagues and the public, the role Guiding played in her personal development and demonstrated her belief in our shared values. She also used her role to practical effect such as securing an exemption to the local property tax for children's and youth organisations citing Scouts and Guides premises as prime examples.

Throughout her professional life Jillian has always made time to 'give back' and has played leading roles in several not-for-profit organisations. For example, in 2011, Jillian was head hunted to be the first Chair of Early Childhood Ireland, which is the result of a merger between the two leading Irish early childcare organisations and represents over 80% of all early childcare settings in Ireland. It was an immense challenge to foster a new culture and ethos. She managed to ensure the smooth bedding down of the organisation, its financial viability whilst navigating between a wide spectrum of stakeholders. Jillian will be shortly finishing this role.

The fourth reason for supporting Jillian is the vibrancy she can bring to any task. For over 4 years, Jillian led the national review of the Irish Girl Guides programmes involving nationwide consultation with the membership and research drawing from international best practice in other Guiding and Scouting organisations. In March 2015, the Journey Programme for members aged 5 to 30 was launched which enables each girl and young woman to embark on a developmental journey full of fun, adventure and challenge. It has an easy to understand framework linking to 15 national outcomes and the resources provide plenty of support for leaders. This vibrant programme was very warmly received and implemented by our members.

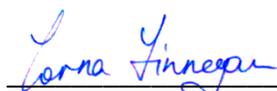
Jillian and I have discussed the needs for WAGGGS, its Strategy, and the needs of the member organisations. Jillian has the commitment of time, energy and vision that needs to be given to this position. I am very proud that we are nominating her for the World Board.

Jillian is currently running her own consultancy and continues to challenge and sharpen her skills. She has recently completed the International Directors Programme at INSEAD business school for the world. This course aims to develop effective directors for the global business scene.

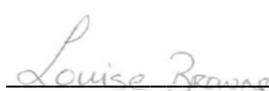
There are many facets to Jillian and I hope in this letter I have managed to share with you why we believe she is an ideal candidate. Both Jillian and I will be part of the Irish Delegation to the World Conference and are available to discuss her candidacy with you. Of course, you can also contact us at the above address/email.

I thank you in advance for giving attention to this matter.

Yours in Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting,



Lorna Finnegan
International Commissioner
Irish Girl Guides



Louise Browne
International Commissioner
Catholic Guides of Ireland



Catholic
Guides
of Ireland