

Girl Scouts

charity check

Troubling Connections Between the Girl Scouts and Abortion

Prolife individuals are often concerned that their charitable donations could go to an organization that in some way supports abortion or supports other organizations which support abortion. The following fact sheet discusses the connections between the Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA) and abortion.

GSUSA is a member of WAGGGS, which has promoted abortion globally.

GSUSA is a dues-paying affiliate of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). According to their 2017 annual report, GSUSA's 2,545,067 members make up almost a third of WAGGGS's stated membership of 10 million girl scouts and guides. Affiliate dues to WAGGGS are based on the affiliate's membership size and national per-capita income.

WAGGGS has participated in several international conferences and United Nations events that support a pro-abortion position and promote "reproductive health rights." At these events they have been joined by groups that have supported abortion such as the International Planned Parenthood Federation, Marie Stopes International and the United Nations Population Fund.¹

In 2012, WAGGGS served as a member of the steering committee for the Bali Global Youth Forum. The forum resulted in a declaration demanding that "governments must provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services that include safe and legal abortion" to young people.²

Be Informed!

Extensive research on the connection between the Girl Scouts and abortion has been conducted. To learn more, visit: girlscoutconcerns.com.

Some local Girl Scout councils partner with Planned Parenthood for educational materials or events.

Kathy Cloninger, the former CEO of GSUSA, stated on NBC's *The Today Show* on March 5, 2004, that, "we partner with many organizations. We have relationships with our church communities, with YWCAs, and with Planned Parenthood organizations across the country, to bring information-based sex education programs to girls."

Cloninger was appearing on the show to debate a pro-life advocate from Waco, Texas, where a local cookie boycott was used to highlight the local Girl Scout council's endorsement of a Planned Parenthood sexual education program.

GSUSA and local councils also promote other pro-abortion education materials, organizations and role models. For example, their "Your Voice, Your World" book in their *Journeys* curriculum encourages scouts to explore the pro-abortion Population Council, which introduced RU-486, the medical abortion pill, into the United States.

Are cookie sales supporting abortion?

On their website, GSUSA explains that direct sales from Girl Scout cookies stay with the local councils that sell them. Their website also states, however, that GSUSA collects royalty fees from bakers they license to make the cookies, and those fees are based on their gross annual sales.

References:

1. Sydney Volanski, "Girl Scouts Join Planned Parenthood at Huge Pro-Abortion Conference," *LifeNews.com*, 31 May 2013, <www.lifenews.com/2013/05/31/girl-scouts-join-planned-parenthood-at-huge-pro-abortion-conference>.
2. "Bali Global Youth Forum Declaration," *International Conference on Population and Development*, 6 December 2012, <icpdbeyond2014.org/key-events/view/13-icpd-global-youth-forum>.