



STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BGO EXECUTIVE

The decision taken by the Girlguiding Board of Trustees in the UK to cease the operations of British Girlguiding Overseas (BGO) has come with immense shock and sadness to us.

British Girlguiding Overseas has been in existence for well over 100 years after the first unit was established in Portugal in 1911. Our leaders have always worked extra hard to keep their units compliant with the standards set by Girlguiding in the UK and additionally in the countries that host them. To this end, our safety record is exemplary.

The closure of the BGO region will have a negative impact on both our Guiding members in the ex British territories as well as many British families living outside of mainland UK. Those who are already Girlguiding members will have to leave guiding and the valuable English speaking, girl-only space, which has continuously provided a lifeline to our members when they move overseas, will disappear.

We have worked hard to suggest solutions to the Board of Trustees in order to provide an alternative delivery method so that we may continue as a Region. We are disappointed that all suggestions so far have been rejected.

Whilst we will never fully understand the decision that has been made, and it is not of our making, we will work with our membership to make sure that we continue to care for every individual girl and member; and we hope that an alternative offer can be swiftly made to them in one form or another.

We would kindly request that any letters of complaint and disappointment are sent to the email addresses provided by Girlguiding HQ and not directly to members of the BGO executive team or to local volunteer members.

To Contact Girlguiding HQ - enquiries.bgo@girlguiding.org.uk Phone +44 020 8159 4040
Girlguiding Press Office - 020 7592 1891