

**38th
WAGGGS
World
Conference**



**Opening
Ceremony**

26th of July 2023

**DREAM & ACT
WITH US
FOR AN EQUAL WORLD
WHERE ALL GIRLS
CAN THRIVE**



ΣΩΜΑ ΚΥΠΡΙΩΝ ΟΔΗΓΩΝ
KIBRIS İZCİ TEŞKİLATI
GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION OF CYPRUS



**WORLD ASSOCIATION
OF GIRL GUIDES
AND GIRL SCOUTS**



BEHIND EVERY SUCCESSFUL EVENT LIES A **PASSIONATE TEAM...**

We extend our utmost gratitude to all participants, performers, and volunteers whose unwavering dedication and commitment have contributed to the success of this event. Thank you for being the driving force behind this incredible journey.

OPENING CEREMONY COMMITTEE:

- Anna Maria Lingi
- Maria Terzi
- Andrea Agapiou
- Despo Liasidou
- Nasia Tzortzi
- Melia Toumazi
- Maria Vryonidou
- Martha Oikonomou
- Valentina Constantinidou
- Members of the Limassol Girl Guides Parent Association

LET US TELL YOU OUR STORY...

- Director: Anna Maria Lingi
- Choreographer: Regina Markidou, Etoile dance studio
- Percussionist: Vasilis Vasiliou, Original Composition: "Three Bridges"
- Bucket drumming director: Andrea Agapiou

DREAM, ACT, LEAD

(OFFICIAL SONG OF THE 38TH WAGGGS WORLD CONFERENCE)

- Lyrics: Panayiota Xenophontos
- Music: Andrea Agapiou
- Soloists: June Loizides, Olivia Wolfert

TECHNICAL PARTNERS

- Lighting Designer: Christos Kayias
- Sound technician: Synergiamedia

PROGRAM

Opening Ceremony

PM

- 8:00** **Welcome**
Masters of Ceremony:
[Markella Hadjioannou](#), [Nefeli Eliade](#), [Eleni Markidou](#)
-
- 8:05** **Official presentation of the World Flag to the World Conference host, the Girl Guides Association of Cyprus**
-
- 8:10** **Flag Ceremony**
Experience the powerful symbolism of the Flag Ceremony, as 152 national flags of WAGGGS' MOs march to the World Song, representing unity, diversity and our common mission of empowering girls and young women.
-
- 8:20** **Welcome Speech**
[Maria Kodjamani](#), Chief Commissioner, Girl Guides Association of Cyprus
-
- 8:25** **Welcome Speech**
[Heidi Jokinen](#), Chair of the World Board of WAGGGS
-
- 8:30** **Address by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Cyprus**
[Dr. Nikos Christodoulides](#)
-
- 8:40** **Let Us Tell You Our Story...**
A choreodrama that brings to life the rich heritage and history of Cyprus and the inspiring journey of Guiding in Cyprus, dating back to 1912.
-
- 9:00** **Dream, Act, Lead**
Inauguration of the Official Song of the 38th WAGGGS World Conference
-
- 9:10** **Closing Remarks**
Masters of Ceremony





LET US TELL YOU OUR STORY...

GENESIS

It is a day unlike any other. An eerie stillness covers the earth as the sun is muffled by the pale clouds and the ocean simmers and disappears into the mist, becoming one with the sky. This strange stillness is suddenly interrupted by a sound so thunderous that it makes the earth tremble to its core. The waves rise and swirl, dancing to the rhythm of the storm. Each wave, as bold and strong as the last, crashes to the shore and then vanishes back into the depths of the abyss. In the distance, one can faintly see the figure of a woman appearing. She emerges from the waves and she is drawn into their frenzied dance. She struggles to rise, but the waves embrace her. But alas, there she is! She tames the waves and emerges victorious. Her figure can now be clearly seen. She is a beautiful maiden. Her name is Cyprus.

THE NEOLITHIC ERA

People are drawn to her beauty. They start gathering around her and build houses on her land. They cherish all that Cyprus has to offer and worship the maiden, placing her on a pedestal. Cypriots hunt and gather, farm and cultivate the land, weave and make pots and tools out of clay. The days pass happily on the newly-formed island. But Cyprus has one more gift to offer – the most precious yet.

THE BRONZE AGE

As time stands still, Cyprus descends from the pedestal and approaches a girl who is weaving. The girl comes to life and Cyprus hands her the gift that is hidden in the depths of her land. It is the most magnificent ore the girl has ever seen. Aes Cyprium (the metal of Cyprus)! Cyprium - Cuprum – copper! The inhabitants rejoice at their newfound treasure, which brings them prosperity and good fortune.

HELLENISM

Word quickly spreads across the known world and the fame of the metal of Cyprus soon reaches the renowned Myceneans. The bold traders and prominent engineers come to the island with vessels full of treasures. They build kingdoms (Kition, Salamis, Soli, Engomi, Curium and others) and share their language, their religion and their culture. Cyprus continues to grow and thrive. She dances and celebrates her beauty, her wealth and her Greek identity along with Aphrodite, the goddess of beauty and love.

Little does she know however, that many suitors are jealous of her good fortune. Amongst them, is the Assyrian, who is watching her from afar and, as soon as he sees the opportunity, he grabs the beautiful maiden. Cyprus tries to escape, but in vain. His victory though is short-lived, as the Egyptian conqueror seizes Cyprus, but he too, loses the beautiful maiden to the Persian. Cyprus cannot escape her suitors, no matter how hard she tries. In the midst of her struggle, another conqueror appears. The Roman captures Cyprus and holds her captive for many many years. While the maiden is captive, she is given a prized possession, one that becomes part of her identity: Christianity. Cyprus becomes part of the Byzantine Empire but alas, more suitors appear. Cyprus is captured by the English and passed on to the Templar Knight, to the Luisignan, then to the Venetian, only to end up in the hands of the Ottoman. Cyprus is held captive by the Ottoman for hundreds of years. One day he suddenly decides to become friends with the Englishman and as a gesture of good will, he offers him the beautiful maiden, Cyprus, as a gift.

Cyprus is excited about this new beginning. As she and the Englishman admire the beauty of her land, they see a little girl running towards them. Although she looks quite ordinary with her long brown hair and almond-shaped brown eyes, there is something distinctively different about her. Perhaps it is her determined gaze and confident smile. The little girl approaches them. Cyprus holds out her right hand, ready for a handshake, but the little girl presents her left hand and gently takes hold of Cyprus' left hand shaking it warmly. It is the hand that is closest to her heart. That is how she greets her friends, while with her right hand she salutes proudly. The Englishman smiles knowingly. He knows the little girl well. She is Girl Guiding. He introduces her to Cyprus and Cyprus welcomes Girl Guiding with great enthusiasm. Girl Guiding spreads and is embraced by more and more girls on the island. They admire her kind nature and fierce personality and want to be like her. They too want to explore the world around them, to learn new skills and make their world a better place! Each girl, on her own, starts writing letters to other girls who also have the same dreams and aspirations. They are led by their Captain who lives in a faraway land and brings all of them together. They are lone but they are not lonely. As they are lost in their correspondence, they hear a familiar call. They look around and to their surprise they are not alone as they thought. Hundreds of girls across the island respond to the Leader's call. Hundreds of Girl Guides who are no longer lone. They gather around their Leader. They hold hands and build a bond that is made stronger day by day. What unites them is their friendship but mainly the Guiding values they share. The little girl keeps growing and is now profoundly recognised by all Cypriots...





INDEPENDENCE AND THE TURKISH INVASION

Many years have passed and Cyprus is tired of the many conquerors. The inhabitants start a fight for freedom and after many difficulties and hardships they succeed. Cyprus is independent but their joy is short-lived. War suddenly breaks out and the Turkish invasion destroys everything they have built. The island is divided. Cyprus faces the consequences of war and division with perseverance. The little girl is always by her side. Hardships make her grow up quickly and become a courageous and dynamic young woman. The light that she spreads, reaches hundreds of girls across the island. Girl Guides stand tall, in the aftermath of war, helping refugees to start rebuilding their lives.

CONTEMPORARY CYPRUS AND GIRL GUIDING

In the years that follow, while still divided, Cyprus, like the cyclamen that grows on rocks against all odds, has risen above numerous challenges and blossomed into a vibrant, thriving country, a member of the European Union, still fighting for its reunification. Throughout this journey, the Girl Guides have been at the forefront: they lead efforts to promote environmental awareness and active citizenship, aid those in distress, support their communities in addressing modern challenges and advocate for gender equality, safety and peace. Today, the Girl Guides Association of Cyprus continues to play an essential role in society, sharing the light of Guiding, motivating, and inspiring a new generation of girls and young women, to become leaders and change-makers, always discovering new ways to DREAM, to ACT and to LEAD.

Written by Andrea Agapiou, Anna Maria Lingi, Maria Terzi, Elli Kodjamani, Nasia Tziortzi

OFFICIAL SONG OF THE 38TH WAGGGS WORLD CONFERENCE

DREAM, ACT, LEAD: THE FUTURE IS OURS

We all dream of a world where all girls are free to be themselves, to thrive,
With equal opportunities to make the most of their life,
Where girls live in freedom, in safety and peace,
Where they can explore their beliefs.

Girl Guides and Girl Scouts let's work together, let's act on this day,
our Guiding values will show us the way,
In friendship and love united we stand,
Ten million voices as one.

Oh-eh-oh! So Dream, Act and Lead,
Oh-eh-oh! Ensure the future that we need,
Oh-eh-oh! Let's believe in our power,
Girl Guides, Girl Scouts, the future is ours.

We all dream of a world where all girls deserve a future that is bright,
Let 's be the keepers of the flame, to share and spread the light,
Make it shine even brighter and reach every girl,
Each and every girl across the world.

Girl Guides and Girl Scouts let's work together let's lead the way,
To bring the change, we promise today,
We'll share the journey let's make it real,
Let's sing out loud, let's make it our cheer.

Oh-eh-oh! So Dream, Act and Lead,
Oh-eh-oh! Ensure the future that we need,
Oh-eh-oh! Let's believe in our power,
Girl Guides, Girl Scouts, the future is ours.



38th WAGGGS World Conference

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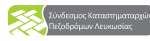


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