



# Family Watch International

Promoting Family Based Solutions to World Problems

To: All GSUSA Local Councils, Girl Scout Leaders, Parents of Girl Scouts, and Organizations Affiliated with the Girl Scouts

From: Sharon Slater, President of Family Watch International

The purpose of this letter is not to malign the Girl Scout organization, but rather (1) to inform leaders and parents of what seems to be a seismic shift in the focus of an otherwise worthy organization that has done much to develop the character of young women; (2) to raise awareness of serious problems that are developing at the national and international level; and (3) to invite those within the Girl Scouts to join together to root out the problems before they spread throughout the entire organization.

You may already be aware of the great confusion surrounding incidents relating to a “Girls Only” workshop held by Girl Scouts of the USA and their partners in conjunction with the 2010 Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations. I would like to set the record straight and provide facts and information so that individuals involved with local Girl Scout councils and troops can make their own determination as to whether the Girl Scout organization is being led at the corporate level to stray from its original purposes. Evidence contained herein shows that some leaders at Girl Scouts of the USA are attempting to advance an agenda replete with feminist and sexual ideology to young girls, which includes advocating for abortion and unrestrained sex. There are many honorable Girl Scout council and troop leaders who sacrifice much to help girls develop into women of integrity but who remain unaware of the current direction of GSUSA.

On Monday, March 1, 2010, I entered the “Girls Only” workshop hoping to observe the meeting. I was approached by a female adult who politely but firmly asked me to leave, as the meeting was intended only for girls. She informed me that the workshop participants would be working on a “Girls’ Statement” and that my presence would compromise their ability to work unimpeded.

I left the room, but as soon as the meeting adjourned, I immediately entered the room again specifically to see what, if any, literature was made available to the girls. (It is customary for organizations to place their handouts for a session on the tables in the rooms where these UN parallel events are held.)

On the table in the room where the “Girls Only” event was held was a stack of colorful booklets. I picked one up. The title was [“Healthy, Happy, and Hot”](#) published by the [International](#)

[Planned Parenthood Federation](#). The booklet contains graphic information on sex and sexuality. It encourages masturbation and talking “dirty,” and depicts both same-sex and opposite-sex couples. It also states that HIV-infected teens do not have to inform their sexual partners they are infected.

That evening, we reported in “The Family Watch” e-newsletter that is emailed to our list of subscribers in over 170 countries that the vulgar “Healthy, Happy, and Hot” booklet was “available” to the girls in the “Girls Only” meeting sponsored by the Girl Scouts.

Because some news outlets picked up our story and reported that the booklet was “distributed” to the girls (even though I had not witnessed the booklets actually put into the girls’ hands), unfortunately, some have tried to discredit my report by focusing on the word “distributed” rather than the fact that the brochure on the back table was available to the girls at the meeting, which is the common way of “distributing” handouts at these types of UN meetings. And more importantly, those who have focused on the word “distributed” and what the word means or does not mean, rather than the fact that the Girl Scouts were at the UN promoting a number of radical sexual rights that are outlined in the Planned Parenthood booklet, have entirely overlooked the facts, which are that the Girl Scouts were promoting abortion and other controversial sexual rights at the UN.

It has been suggested, but seems unlikely, that the vulgar “Healthy, Happy, and Hot” booklets were left in the room by a group from a previous meeting. However, it was the first day of the conference, and there were only three other meetings scheduled in the room prior to the “Girls Only” event. The meeting at 10:00 a.m. was “Overcoming Copenhagen: Black Women Organizing Climate Justice” convened by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The meeting at 11:00 a.m. was “Orientation for NGO Representatives” convened by the NGO CSW Committee, and at 2:00 p.m. CORDAID held a meeting on the “Impact of counter terrorism measures on women activists.” It is clear that the Planned Parenthood booklets would not have pertained to the topics covered by these organizations.

After a number of media outlets picked up our story, GSUSA subsequently issued an official statement in which they denied that the booklets were distributed. They did not state that they believe the booklet is inappropriate, just that they did not actively pass it out. The GSUSA response also denied any official association with Planned Parenthood.

While it may be true that that the national GSUSA *office* has no formal association with Planned Parenthood, their policy allows *local councils* (the entities that deal directly with the girls) to partner with them. This policy was confirmed by Kathy Cloninger, CEO of GSUSA, who [admitted on NBC's Today Show](#) in 2004 that Girl Scouts partners with “Planned Parenthood organizations across the country to bring information-based sex education programs to girls.”

One example of this type of partnership with Planned Parenthood is the local Girl Scout council in Waco, Texas. [According to USA Today](#), during one such conference a sexually graphic book, [It's Perfectly Normal](#), was distributed to 700 girls. The book condones masturbation and contains explicit cartoon drawings of couples having sex and of a boy putting on a condom.

The [Girls' Statement](#) produced at the "Girls Only" workshop co-sponsored by GSUSA in which 10 Girl Scouts from Connecticut and Vermont participated, advocates for sexual rights and demands that governments "*ensure that girls have access to information and services regarding reproductive and sexual health.*" The term "reproductive health" is often used to pressure governments to legalize abortion. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton [recently confirmed](#) that she considers "reproductive health" to include abortion. "Information . . . regarding sexual health" is often used to ensure that explicit sex education is provided to children.

Ironically, the Girl Scouts' Girls' Statement to the UN is in violation of the Girl Scouts' own policy. Kathy Cloninger, stated in a 2005 letter to the National Federation for Catholic Youth that "GSUSA policy is not to take a stand on or advocate for or against any issue regarding a girl's health and sexuality, especially outside the confines of Girl Scouts." (See the GSUSA letter at the end of this [National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry Position Statement](#) written several years ago in response to concerns that U.S. Girl Scout councils had been partnering with Planned Parenthood.) Cloninger later contradicted herself when she stated in a [2007 interview with the Harvard Business School](#): "I feel like we cannot be the nation's expert on girl issues without dealing with how issues of sexuality affect the girls of this nation. We believe parents are part of the discussion, but girl scouting needs to be part of education and discussion as well."

Even more revealing is the [statement](#) prepared at the same UN conference by the [World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts](#) (WAGGGS), to which GSUSA belongs. The 10 Girl Scouts from the U.S. mentioned earlier were part of the WAGGGS delegation of girls at the UN, and they demanded "sexual and reproductive rights," which they defined to include "access to comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services, including . . . accessible, affordable and safe abortions."

In an additional [written statement](#) submitted to the UN by WAGGGS, the girls called on governments to ensure (among other things) that (1) non-formal education programs be instituted for the "sexual development of girls and young women"; (2) young women be provided with "opportunities to be involved in the planning, delivering and evaluation of sexual education"; and 3) that support be given to organizations that "provide safe spaces for girls and young women to discuss sex and sexuality free from discrimination."

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts has a [very clear position on sexuality education](#), endorsing it wholeheartedly.

The GSUSA Web site states that “Girl Scouts of the USA supports international friendships through contributions to WAGGGS, including a donation every year from its [Juliette Low World Friendship Fund](#) and Thinking Day Fund.” Local Girl Scout councils donate thousands of dollars annually to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund.

There were three other organizations that co-sponsored the “Girls Only” workshop with GSUSA; UNICEF, Girls Learn International, and The Grail.

While UNICEF helps needy children throughout the world, in recent years they have also focused on children’s rights, including sexual rights. In 2002 at the World Summit for Children, we exposed a [UNICEF manual](#) published in Mexico that included a section on how to obtain sexual pleasure, including with a person of the same sex, with an animal, with inanimate objects or with a non-consenting person. The [Washington Times](#) carried a front page story on this at the time.

Girls Learn International has two of the most prominent radical feminists in the world on its board—Gloria Steinem and Charlotte Bunch. Charlotte Bunch authored a [radical document](#) on political lesbianism in the 1970s that to my knowledge she has never disavowed. Ms. Bunch also participated on a UNICEF panel concerning girls’ rights at CSW.

[The Grail](#) was originally founded as a conservative Catholic entity, but in the 60s and 70s it began to develop “a feminist liberation theology that emphasized the interconnections between racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism, and environmental degradation.”

A few days after the “Girls Only” workshop, Family Watch representatives attended another UN Girl Scout meeting, organized by WAGGGS. One of the panelists from the [European Youth Forum](#) boasted at this meeting that they partner with International Planned Parenthood to reach children through non-formal education programs (such as the Girl Scouts) to teach acceptance of gays, lesbians and transgenders at an early age (WAGGGS is an official member of the European Youth Forum.)

In addition to the events of this UN conference, other Girl Scout materials pose concerns.

The Girl Scouts’ “Journeys” leadership program trains girls to become feminist activists and provides examples held up for young girls to emulate that include feminists, lesbians, existentialists, communists and Marxists. A [comprehensive review](#) of the “Journeys” program detailing many inappropriate elements was done by Chelsea Schilling of WorldNet Daily.

The [Our Rights, Our Responsibilities Patch](#) For Junior Girl Scouts requires young Girl Scouts to peruse third party Web sites that would have them make Condom Cupcakes to “bring sexual protection to the masses,” play an interactive game where a girl can role play having sex with or without a condom, and teach kindergartners how to “identify the attitudes they have about gender, sexual orientation, and athletics.”

In order for the Girl Scouts to restore their reputation as an organization we are asking them to:

1. Acknowledge they are aware that some of their councils have partnered and may still be partnering with Planned Parenthood to bring sex education to girls instead of denying any association;
2. Instruct *all* of GSUSA’s councils to cut *all* ties with Planned Parenthood;
3. Denounce the “Girl’s Statement” that GSUSA cosponsored at the UN; and
4. Withdraw membership from the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and denounce their statement to the UN.
5. Eliminate all elements of their program dealing with sexuality.

Please contact your local Girl Scout Council and ask them to work with other Girl Scout Councils to call upon the GSUSA national leadership to comply with the above requests so that Girl Scouts of the USA can regain the trust of the faithful parents, leaders and girls who are the heart of the organization.

You can send a strong message of concern to the national leadership of GSUSA (Kathy Cloninger, Chief Executive Officer, Connie L. Lindsey, President, Davia B. Temin, First Vice President, Linda P. Foreman, Second Vice President, and media relations staffers Joshua Ackley and Michelle Thompson) and ask them to take these actions by going to this [Web site](#).

Sincerely,



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