

Dear Presidents,

We were saddened to hear about the recent attack in Europe and our thoughts are with our CISV family in Belgium. The events of the last week serve to remind us just how much we need organizations like CISV.

During these troubling times, we understand that parents, participants and even some chapter members will be rightfully concerned about the international travel that is at the heart of CISV. The safety of our participants is CISV's top priority. To assist you in your response efforts, I would like to remind you of a few things about our programs.

As you know, all of CISV's programs are run by families on the ground in host countries around the world. In the National Office, we will continue to monitor events internationally and discuss concerns with CISV International and host N.A.'s. They are aware of risks and how to manage them.

In the coming weeks you will be receiving another Pre-Camp that will tell you about the sites of the programs your delegations will be attending. Most of our programs are held in places away from tourist areas and that are not widely published. Each program will decide on excursions and take appropriate safety precautions. All programs will prohibit participants from wearing anything with a country logo during excursions. CISV USA trains our leaders at National Training and at the chapter level in crisis management.

We will also take steps that we have not taken in the past. In the next few weeks, Stephenie Teichman, our national risk manager, will ask each chapter to submit the travel itineraries for all of your delegations. This will ensure that the National Office knows both our travelers' destinations and the airports they will go through to reach those destinations. In addition, for the first time this summer participants will be covered by travel insurance that includes evacuation coverage. In the unlikely event something happens during their programs, this insurance will allow us to bring our participants home quickly and in a coordinated fashion.

While nothing is guaranteed, CISV International and our N.A. put our participants' safety first and foremost. Thank you for helping us continue our mission to educate and inspire action for a more just and peaceful world.

In Peace,

Laura Kersey
Executive Director
CISV USA