

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”

“Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, sexual orientation or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion.”

**IFA statutes, Article 4**

*We the undersigned organisations are ready to support FIFA and the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy in their efforts to ensure an LGBTIQ+ friendly FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 that is safe for both local and international LGBTIQ+ persons, football fans and attendees, creating a lasting legacy of inclusion and non-discrimination.*

## LGBTIQ+ rights and the FIFA Mens World Cup Qatar 2022

We are a grouping of organisations who support the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons. We have come together to highlight discrimination and exclusion against the LGBTIQ+ community particularly in relation to the FIFA Mens World Cup Qatar 2022. We support the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons<sup>1</sup> and highlight articles 3 and 4 of the FIFA statutes on human rights and countering discrimination, and mention of the same within the joint sustainability strategy agreed between FIFA and the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy.

People of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics come from all regions of the world. They are however often marginalised, shunned, silenced, ridiculed, discriminated against, taunted, and sometimes shamed, harassed, censored, beaten, arrested, imprisoned or even killed simply for who they are, how they express themselves, who they love, and for having bodies that are different.

Football is a unifying sport that brings people together in healthy competition. It is a place where the best of humanity can shine.

The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the state of Qatar to showcase its technical abilities and prowess as a modern nation state to host the world's most watched sports competition. A sport that reaches every corner of the world and contributes to tolerance, human understanding and equality.

We call on FIFA and the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy to ensure a safe and welcoming atmosphere for LGBTIQ+ persons during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

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This call to action was prepared in consultation with LGBTIQ+ persons and organisations in the Gulf region.

<sup>1</sup> Persons of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics use many different words to describe themselves. These include lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex, queer and many many more depending on their personal and cultural context, including Fa'afafine, Hijra, Gender Non-Binary, Two-Spirit, Travesti, and many many more. In this document both "LGBTIQ+" and "persons of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC)" is used as a shorthand for this incredible diversity.

■ States should respect international human rights standards, including by reviewing, repealing and establishing a moratorium on the application of:

*Laws that criminalize same-sex conduct between consenting adults*

*Other laws used to arrest, punish or discriminate against people on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. ■*

Joint UN statement on Ending violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people. September 2015

As affected persons and groups concerned with their protection, we believe that the following measures should be taken to ensure the safety of LGBTIQ+ persons in the run up to, during, and after the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, including the need to:

- 1** **Repeal laws or regulations** that target persons of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), such as Articles 296, 281, 285, 256 and 290 of the Qatar Penal Code
- 2** **Provide appropriate training** in dealing with all parts of the LGBTIQ+ community, including appropriate responses to gender non-conforming persons, for the police, security, stadium, airport, border control and hospitality personnel in consultation with international and regional LGBTIQ+ organisations
- 3** **Guarantee the right of entry** to Qatar for LGBTIQ+ persons planning to attend the FIFA World Cup 2022, as well as freedom of expression for all people in the country, in a non-discriminatory way, both inside and outside of stadiums
- 4** **Ensure adequate facilities** in stadia for LGBTIQ+ persons, such as, for example, bathroom facilities that are safe and accessible for trans, intersex and gender non-binary persons and appropriate training in managing such facilities for stadium personnel
- 5** **Provide explicit safety guarantees** for LGBTIQ+ people against harassment, arrest or detention for reasons including but not limited to the use of symbols, such as the 'Rainbow flag' in public, as well as mechanisms to ensure accountability from law enforcement authorities
- 6** **Provide a clear communication** by FIFA and the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy in the lead up to the tournament that welcomes LGBTIQ+ persons
- 7** **Ensure that there is no censorship** of or ban on discussion of LGBTIQ+ issues in the local and international media or in broadcasting
- 8** **Work with stakeholders** from the international and regional LGBTIQ+ community to ensure the long term safety of LGBTIQ+ persons in the Gulf region