**Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal**

**Questionnaire**

*This questionnaire forms part of consultations undertaken by the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee with* ***States Members of the United Nations****,* ***international*** *and* ***regional organizations****,* ***national human rights institutions****,* ***civil society organizations*** *and* ***other relevant stakeholders****, with a view to preparing a study on the possibilities of using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights for all and to strengthen universal respect for them, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 24/1.*

**Background**

In its resolution 24/1 of 26 September 2013, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a study on the possibilities of using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights for all and to strengthen universal respect for them, bearing in mind both the value of relevant principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter and the value of good sporting example, and to present a progress report thereon to the before its twenty-seventh session of the Council (September 2014).

In this context, the Advisory Committee decided, at its twelfth session held in February 2014, to designate a drafting group[[1]](#footnote-2) in charge of the preparation of this study. The drafting group will present a draft progress report to the Advisory Committee before its thirteenth session (August 2014), with a view to submit it to the Council in September 2014.

The resolution also requested the Committee, in its preparation of the study, to seek the views and inputs of States Members of the United Nations, international and regional organizations, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders in this regard. The drafting group therefore elaborated the hereunder questionnaire. Respondents are advised to reply only to questions that are applicable to them.

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Note; Following answers are the responses of the Safeguarding in Sport service in Scotland**

In Scotland we are working towards a vision of children growing up healthy, active, safe, happy, included, listened to and fulfilling their potential in life. The benefits to children of participation in sport are consistent with this vision.

The Safeguarding in Sport Service believe that;

• All children have the opportunity to participate in sport in an environment which is fun and safe and which supports their rights as individuals;

• Staff and volunteers feel confident when leading activities for children;

• People working or volunteering with children and young people in sport, in all settings and at all levels of organisations, are trained to recognise their responsibilities and act accordingly to keep children safe;

• Concerns about the welfare or safety of children are responded to appropriately and in a timely manner; and

• All children participating in sport know what to do (including how to access assistance), should they have a concern about their welfare or wellbeing, or the welfare or wellbeing of another child.

1. How is sport used in your country to promote human rights? What are the best practices being applied?

CHILDREN 1ST provide the Safeguarding in Sport Service in partnership with **sport**scotland. This service provides an expert resource for sports organisations and individuals in the area of safeguarding and protecting children from abuse and the promotion of their wellbeing. The service is committed to developing and promoting a rights based approach to working with young people in sport, i.e. the right to participate, feel and be safe and achieve their potential. We believe that

sport offers young people a place to develop life skills including trust, co – operation, self worth and personal wellbeing. This in turn contributes to building confidence in young people and offering an environment where they can develop positive relationships with trusted adults. This is achieved by the safe recruitment and training of adults to work with young people.

Opportunities to play, competitively or recreationally are readily available to all either through education, community or commercial provision. Sport is currently being recognised more and more as a vehicle for inclusion and cohesion. Its benefits in terms of equality and social integration, of building self-esteem and resilience and its power to unite more than divide are gaining ever more political and a-political credibility. Its contribution to the physical and mental well-being of individuals, communities and the nation are manifold and not to be ignored or undervalued as has happened in recent times.

The best practices are arising from the collective body of sport lobbying and convincing politicians to coordinate the input of Health, Education and social services to address the inadequate emphasis that has plagued sport for so long. The improving collective focus on the wellbeing of children gives a strong base on which to build and use the best of sport to turn increasingly active children into lifelong active adults with all the societal benefits that this will provide.

2.What are the possibilities of using sport and the Olympic ideal to strengthen respect for human rights?

• The ability of sport to promote self-belief alongside collective optimism makes it an ideal sociological development tool. All sport functions on respect for the rules and equal respect for and acceptance of those who make and apply the rules. The Olympic focus on the harmonious development of humankind echoes at every level from children’s street games to the highest levels of performance sport.

• If the practice of sport is a human right then the Education programmes to support that right need to be given due prominence in curriculum planning. Through such programmes can the spirit of friendship, mutual respect, solidarity and fair play be promoted, learned and embedded into individuals and their communities.

3. What are the sports practised in your country and how far are they all inclusive (for women, youth, vulnerable groups etc.)?

In terms of the 50 Governing Bodies that we work with we can only comment that our work on child protection with these governing bodies is predicated on them adopting an inclusive approach. These governing bodies are funded at varying levels by **sport**scotland and therefore will need to fulfil their criteria laid down by sportscoland’s policy on inclusion.

4. In what way can sport and the Olympic ideal become a means to:

1. advance the cause of peace ?
2. promote development?
3. combat all forms of discrimination?

5. What kinds of challenges are faced in promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal?

* The use of outdated coaching methods which are hierarchical and confrontational. This is by no means universal but still an issue. Organisations like Winning Scotland are bringing a new and inclusive approach to coaching techniques.
* The need to “win” instead of participate. This often excludes young people from playing and participating.
* The behaviour of parents and carers on the touchline.

6. How can the media help in the promotion of human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal?

* Exposure of all levels of sport.
* Moderate the obsession with the very elite.
* By highlighting minority sports/ sports played by woman/sports played by people with disability.

**Deadline for submission of responses to the questionnaire:**

In order to give the Drafting Group the opportunity to take into account the different contributions, all parties are encouraged to submit their responses as soon as possible and at the latest by **11 April 2014**.

Answers can be submitted via email to the following address:

hrcadvisorycommittee@ohchr.org

OR

Secretariat of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

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Thank you for your contribution.

For more information on the Advisory’s mandate: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/AdvisoryCommittee/Pages/HRCACIndex.aspx>

1. A/HRC/AC/12/L.4 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)