

CENTRE FOR SPORT AND HUMAN RIGHTS RESPONSE TO THE “CALL FOR INPUT TO THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORT”

1. What are the different forms of violence that women and girls in sports may experience (e.g. physical, psychological, economic, online violence, coercive control, as well as extreme form of discrimination that amounts to violence)? / 3. Which actors are responsible for committing acts of violence against women and girls and increasing the risks of violence against women and girls in sports? / 5. Which groups of women and girls in sports are more exposed to violence, and on what grounds?

Through decades, sport has been used as an empowerment tool for women and girls around the world with effective results in improving their physical and mental health, equipping them with leadership skills, and providing them with a safe space that sometimes they cannot find at home. However, women and girls also face numerous forms of gender-based violence in sports at all levels - from grassroots to amateur, professional and elite sport. Most cases remain unreported or underreported due to the significant power dynamics in a still very male-dominated environment, the fear of retaliation, and the lack of complaint, remedy and justice mechanisms in place.ⁱ The increasing number of cases of abuse that have come to light in the last decade gives an idea of what the sports environment looks like for women and girls in all their diversity. **Sexual abuse** cases were reported in US Gymnastics,ⁱⁱ the Haiti Football Federation,ⁱⁱⁱ the Afghanistan Football Federation,^{iv} Mali's National Youth Women's Basketball team,^v Cameroon's Karate Federation^{vi}, in South African Swimming^{vii} and Tennis^{viii}, in Rwanda's Cycling Federation,^{ix} and in the Wrestling Federation of India.^x However, this is not the only type of violence women and girls experience in sports. Among others, there have been cases of: **sexual violence in coach-athlete intimate relationships** across continents,^{xi} **grooming** in countless youth sports,^{xii} **sexual misconduct, verbal abuse and emotional abuse** in the US National Women's Soccer League^{xiii} leading to commitment to reforms within the league^{xiv}; **sexual harassment** in US Track and Field^{xv}; **body shaming leading to physical and mental abuse** in UK gymnastics^{xvi}; **training physical abuse** in Japan^{xvii} and China^{xviii}; **doping** of a girl child skater in Russia,^{xix} **racism and neglect** of women of colour in tennis and basketball in the US^{xx}; **sex testing**^{xxi} female athletes in Sub-Saharan and South-Asian countries; **unconsented surgery** of a Ugandan female athlete with naturally occurring high levels of testosterone in France;^{xxii} misinformation and fear-based campaigns against trans women and girls in sport in Europe, the UK, and the US leading to **physical violence, cyberbullying, verbal and death-**

threats,^{xxiii} **anxiety** and **suicidal ideation**,^{xxiv} and **killing**^{xxv} of trans youth; **banning**^{xxvi} of transgender athletes from elite sport without peer-reviewed and credible scientific research evidence, **online abuse** with sexist, racist, homophobic, transphobic, and sexualised comments in social media against female athletes during World Athletics Championships and the Olympics^{xxvii}, **burn out** of female athletes,^{xxviii} discrimination against women coaches,^{xxix} and **physical attacks and threats** against women officials.^{xxx}

This overview shows that cases of different forms of violence against women and girls in sports are far from the exception. Although data has not been extensively collected, and studies around the world focusing on the prevalence of GBV in sport have lacked standardised and internationally comparable methodologies, terminologies, and scope, a number of them show a much higher prevalence of gender-based violence in sport than the global GBV rate of 1 in 3 women being a victim of physical and/or sexual violence.^{xxxi} This raises serious concerns about sport being an enabler of various forms of violence against women and girls. A study in Zimbabwe^{xxxii} with 360 female athletes found that 84% had experienced severe forms of sexual harassment, and 50% experienced sexual abuse in sport. Another study in Kenya^{xxxiii} with 339 female athletes found that 64% had experienced sexual harassment. In Zambia^{xxxiv}, research found that 43% of female athletes experienced sexual abuse and 37% experienced sexual harassment. In India, a third of female athletes experienced unwanted sexual behaviour or inappropriate verbal/physical behaviour by a male coach.^{xxxv} In Israel, 14% of female athletes experienced sexual harassment by a male coach.^{xxxvi} In Serbia, 86.8% of females reported sexual harassment in sports clubs.^{xxxvii} The Study on Gender-Based Violence in Sport, conducted by the European Commission,^{xxxviii} based on results of 38 pieces of research conducted in Europe, found that the estimated prevalence of sexual harassment in sport varies significantly - from 1% to 64% depending on methodologies and definitions -, but most of them report a higher prevalence among female athletes, whether adults or children, in comparison to males. The World Players Association 2021 Census of Athlete Rights Experiences^{xxxix} revealed that 21% of female respondents (as opposed to 11% of male respondents) experienced sexual abuse in sport at least once as a child. Nearly 30% have been looked at in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable (versus 6.1% of males), almost 32% of female participants (versus 26% of males) experienced punishment with excessive training or exercise, 10.6% were beaten with an object (versus 6.5% of males), and 7.6% were forced or knocked to the ground (versus 7.4% of male athletes).

UNESCO and UN Women note that "all women and girl athletes are susceptible to violence, but LGBTQIA+ athletes, athletes with disabilities, and athletes from disadvantaged racial, ethnic, migration, and/ or socioeconomic backgrounds are at particular risk".^{xl} **Women with disabilities** are more than twice as likely to experience sexual assault than the general population of women and struggle with inaccessible reporting mechanisms and support services.^{xli} In the sports context, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has expressed concerns about the limited participation of women and girls with disabilities in physical education in schools, and in national tournaments and sports leagues^{xlii} – 93% of women with disabilities are not involved in sport and women comprise only one-third of athletes with disabilities in international competitions.^{xliii}

The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance has identified **race** as a gatekeeper for elite sport.^{xliv} Likewise, the Human Rights Council's Resolution 40/5 notes with concern that women and girls face "multiple and intersecting forms of stigma and discrimination in sport, and are still subjected to discriminatory laws and practices based on their race and gender". The High

Commissioner highlights that "most well-known women affected in the last decade [by sex testing regulations and medically unnecessary and harmful procedures], have been from sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia".^{xlv} Recently, hijabis have fought for their right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, as they have been forbidden to participate in professional sport wearing religious headwear.^{xlvi}

Furthermore, UNICEF reported on the hesitation by **LGBTQI+ athletes** to declare their sexual orientation for fear of their physical and emotional safety in an environment where verbal harassment, physical violence and exclusion against LGBT people are common.^{xlvii} Human Rights Watch^{xlviii} also reported that sport governing bodies have long subjected women, particularly those from the Global South, to invasive "sex testing" measures and forced women with high levels of naturally occurring testosterone, or **naturally occurring sex variations**, to undergo unnecessary medical treatment just to be eligible for certain competitions. The Special Rapporteur on Health has also indicated that participation in professional sport is often deliberately or effectively denied to **transgender** people and people of **non-binary** gender on an unjustifiable basis.^{xlix} Although it is important to preserve spaces for girls and women to confidently participate in sport, this should not result in the exclusion of others, such as transgender women and girls and non-binary people.

Research and gender-based violence cases in sport all around the world demonstrate that violence against women and girls in sport is overwhelmingly perpetrated by men in positions of power, such as male athletes, coaches, officials, medical professionals, and heads of sports bodies.¹ When the public attention motivated by misinformation, fear, and discrimination diverges from the real root causes of gender-based violence - such as harmful gender norms, cultures of sexism and misogyny, power imbalances, and leadership failure - to a false idea of transgender women being perpetrators of violence against cisgender women and girls in sport, the real perpetrators remain unpunished, the epidemic of violence against all women and girls remains unresolved.

States and non-state actors, such as sports bodies, have the responsibility to prevent, mitigate and remedy acts of violence against women and girls and hold perpetrators accountable. When such actors fail to recognise this duty and act accordingly, they also contribute to the continuation and increase of gender-based violence in sport.

2. What human rights of women and girls in sports are violated as a result of the exposure of women and girls in sports to violence or the risk of violence?

At the international level, violence against women and girls (VAWG) has come to be recognised as a form of discrimination and a violation of women's and girls' human rights. Although VAWG is not explicitly mentioned in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), in its general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against womenⁱ, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) confirms that its definition of discrimination includes all forms of gender-based violence and that these may breach specific provisions of the CEDAW even when violence is not explicitly mentioned in the text. The very exclusion of certain groups of women and girls from participating in sport – such as transgender women, women with naturally occurring sex variations, women of colour, and women with disabilities – and the exclusion, to one extent or another, of most women and girls in sport can be considered a human rights violation. Not only the CEDAW highlights the importance of guaranteeing the same opportunities for women and girls to participate in sports and physical education, but also UNESCO's revised International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and

Sport (2015) acknowledges the practice of physical education, physical activity, and sport as a fundamental right for all without discrimination, including on the basis of gender and sexual orientation.^{lii}

Additionally, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993)^{liii} reaffirms women's entitlement to the equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and emphasises that the following rights are put at risk when women face gender-based violence: the right to **life**; to **equality**; to **liberty and security of person**; to **equal protection** under the law; to be **free from all forms of discrimination**; to the **highest standard attainable of physical and mental health**; to **just and favourable conditions of work**; to **not be subjected to torture, or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**.

In 2020, in her report to the Human Rights Council on the intersections of race and gender discrimination in sport, the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights^{liv} highlighted the human rights violated when women with naturally occurring sex variations are excluded by sports regulations, subjected to practices of sex testing, and requested to undergo unnecessary medical treatment as a prerequisite to participate in sport. In addition to the rights mentioned in the paragraphs above, she cites the right to **privacy, sexual and reproductive health and rights**, and the right to **dignity, bodily integrity, and bodily autonomy**. Moreover, in the reports published by the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in 2021,^{lv} the **right to gender self-determination** is also mentioned as a fundamental part of a person's freedom and identity. Similarly, the Yogyakarta Principles (+10), which uphold the right for LGBT and intersex people to equality and non-discrimination, the right to security of the person, and the right to **participate in cultural life** recommend that "all individuals (...) participate in sport in line with the gender with which they identify, subject only to reasonable, proportionate and non-arbitrary requirements".^{lvi}

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,^{lvii} states both the right to **participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure, and sport** (article 30) and the right to **freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse** (article 16). Likewise, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination^{lviii} ensures the right to "**security of person and protection** by the State **against violence or bodily harm**, whether inflicted by government officials or by any individual group or institution", as well as the right to equal participation in cultural activities. Finally, the Convention on the Rights^{lix} of the Child ensures the **protection of all children** from "**all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse**, while in the care of (...) any other person who has the care of the child", and reinforces the right to accessing **education** - including for the development of their physical abilities (i.e physical education).

6. What are the responsibilities of State and non-State actors in preventing acts of violence against women and girls in sport, including in adopting measures to investigate it, and to hold those responsible for it accountable, and to provide assistance and protection to survivors of violence?

CEDAW attributes to States Parties the responsibility of taking "appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women (...) in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular (...) (c) The right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life".^{lx} Additionally, in its general recommendation

No. 19 (1992) on violence against women^{lxi}, the CEDAW Committee understands that States parties are responsible for taking appropriate and effective measures to prevent, investigate, punish and provide effective remedies to public or private acts of VAWG with the ultimate goal of overcoming all forms of gender-based violence. Similarly, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) requires Member States to condemn VAWG, develop legal mechanisms to punish and redress the wrongs caused to victims and ensure access to legal justice. Under the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,^{lxii} States also commit to supporting the advancement of women in all areas of athletics, including coaching, training, and administration, and as participants at the national, regional and international levels, which should be done in a way that is entirely free from any form of discrimination or gender-based violence.

International sports governing bodies^{lxiii} (i.e. international sports federations), national federations, and local sports organisations are considered non-state actors under international law.^{lxiv} FIFA's "For the Game. For the World" report^{lxv} found that sports governing bodies can negatively impact human rights in three ways: (i) through causing them; (ii) through contributing to negative impacts; and (iii) through being linked to other negative impacts.^{lxvi} While not creating binding international law obligations, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) offer a soft responsibility framework for businesses – the sports sector included – to adhere to human rights standards. Although States have the primary obligation to protect and take appropriate steps against human rights abuses committed by third parties in their jurisdiction^{lxvii} and implement laws that hold third parties accountable for upholding human rights, the sports sector, as part of the wider business community, must integrate the UNGPs into their governance structures and operations, ensuring that human rights are respected, protected, and remedied. This includes adopting a gender-responsive approach that acknowledges and addresses the specific and disproportionate impacts of business activities on women in all their diversity, LGBTQI+ individuals, and other groups at risk.

Additionally, the "For the Game. For the World" report cautions that "legal compliance may not be enough", noting that human rights abuses often occur where relevant laws are absent, weak, or not effectively enforced. Therefore, it underscores the importance of sports bodies adopting a public commitment to human rights embedded in the organisation's culture, undergoing a process of human rights diligence, and having processes for helping provide remedies to those harmed as a result of the organisation's actions or decisions. Principle 20 of the UNGPs also highlights the duty of business enterprises to exert special efforts to monitor the effectiveness of their responses to impacts on individuals belonging to groups that may be at heightened risk of vulnerability or marginalisation.^{lxviii}

When human rights are violated, victims must have access to effective remedies that are legitimate, accessible, predictable, equitable, transparent, and compatible with rights.^{lxix} As well observed by the Working Group on Business and Human Rights, women, in all their diversity, face significant barriers to accessing effective remedies for human rights violations. In accordance with Principle 3 of the UNGPs, not only must States ensure non-discrimination and equal protection under the law, but they should also provide appropriate guidance to businesses on how to adopt a gender-responsive approach. The 'Gender dimensions of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights'^{lxx} also suggest a gender-transformative approach to remedy, where States ensure that their own policies and laws and those acting within their jurisdiction (i.e., businesses and organisations) tackle the root causes of VAWG and contribute to its elimination.^{lxxi}

7. What measures do State and non-State actors have in place to ensure that incidents of violence against women and girls in sports can be effectively reported, and that they are thoroughly investigated and sanctioned?

In her report "Intersection of race and gender discrimination in sport", the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, affirms that informed, comprehensive, effective, and rights-based responses to abuse, both preventative and remedial, are not yet in place at any level in sport. She recognised that, "There is currently no global consensus on a consistent and comprehensive approach to the remediation of human rights abuses in sport, neither in general nor in terms of the equal rights of women and girl athletes specifically".^{lxxii}

Most international sport governing bodies and federations are private entities which set out rules and regulations that are implemented worldwide through regional and national sports bodies. This has led to a regulatory "autonomy of sport", with only limited interference from States and legislation, if any. While the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Olympic Charter does enshrine respect for human rights, the statutes and policies of many international federations do not contain a broader commitment to respecting the full range of human rights of athletes.^{lxxiii}

Moreover, the complaints procedure and system for bringing a case within national and internal sport bodies are often confidential, as claimants are forbidden from disclosing that they have brought a complaint.^{lxxiv} Complaints are often either handled by third parties hired by a sporting organisation to manage claims of abuse or wrongdoing or handled by those leading the organisation and having a link with the alleged perpetrator(s), which can both create significant inequality of arms for victims. For example, when Jessica Gartner filed a rape complaint against a referee of Hockey Canada, she alleged that she was required to sign a confidentiality agreement prior to the launch of the third-party investigation, which prohibited her from disclosing to anyone that a complaint had been made, or that the process was taking place.^{lxxv} It is often difficult to access public records of allegations, meaning that perpetrators can continue to participate in sports without facing any consequences while they are being investigated.^{lxxvi}

Further, international sport governing bodies generally seek to exclude the jurisdiction of national courts over sporting disputes. The Olympic Charter and the statutes of most international federations provide for the internal resolution of disputes, with appeals permitted exclusively to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).^{lxxvii} When athletes sign contracts and licensing deals to participate in elite sport, they agree with the arbitration clauses stipulating that disputes must be resolved through CAS. The primary default rules applied in appeals to the CAS are the relevant sport body regulations.^{lxxviii} Neither these regulations nor the statutes of sport governing bodies include human rights norms and standards as binding sources of law for adjudication. As a result, consideration of and expertise on human rights norms and standards in the resolution of sport disputes is very limited.

As an exception, in 2015, the transgender woman elite cyclist Kristen Worley challenged the IOC regulations at the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario, alleging that her case was not a sports dispute but a human rights case.^{lxxix} Worley was a victim of invasive sex testing by several doctors. Additionally, as a result of complying with the protocols outlined by the IOC in their 2003 Statement of the Stockholm consensus on sex reassignment, she suffered from severe hormone deprivation, which compromised her body's health to the point that it became impossible for her to remain in sports. In a settlement, Cycling Canada, the Ontario Cycling Association and the International Cycling Union agreed to "review and revise" their policies towards XY female athletes, gender verification and Therapeutic Use Exemptions

(TUE) based on objective scientific research and to embrace human rights.^{lxxx} Less than a decade later, and despite the much more progressive IOC Framework on Fairness, Inclusion and Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity and Sex Variations 2021, which states that every person has the right to practise sport without discrimination and in a way that respects their health, safety, and dignity, the UCI has an eligibility regulation which bans completely the participation of transgender women in cycling^{lxxxii}. This is an example of how lacking or fragile the remedy and human rights compliance mechanisms for sports bodies are.

As CAS is often afforded exclusive jurisdiction to hear sporting disputes, judicial review of CAS's awards is submitted exclusively to the Swiss Federal Tribunal (SFT), regardless of whether the parties or the disputes are linked to other States. As Switzerland is a signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights (the ECHR), it is possible for cases to subsequently be heard before the European Court of Human Rights (the ECtHR). For example, in 2021, Caster Semenya appealed the SFT's decision about her case against World Athletics' regulations, originally challenged at CAS,^{lxxxiii} and the ECtHR concluded that Switzerland had violated the ECHR by failing to protect Semenya's right to non-discrimination under Article 14; the right to private life under Article 8; and the right to an effective remedy under Article 13.^{lxxxiii} In November 2023, the Swiss Government appealed against the ECtHR decision and sought for referral of the case to the Grand Chamber of ECtHR.^{lxxxiv} The decision of the Grand Chamber is pending at the point of writing.

9. Please provide examples of good practice that have been adopted by State and non-State actors with regards to ending violence against women and girls in sports?

- The IOC has several initiatives to ensure athletes have a safe environment, free from all forms of harassment and abuse.^{lxxxv} These include: the IOC Consensus Statement: harassment and abuse (nonaccidental violence) in sport (2016), the IOC Consensus Statement on Mental Health in Elite Athletes (2019); the IOC Safe Sport Unit (2022), and pilot regional safeguarding hubs in Southern Africa and the Pacific Islands (2023).^{lxxxvi} Additionally, the 2021 IOC Framework on Fairness, Inclusion and Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity and Sex Variations^{lxxxvii}, states that every person has the right to practise sport without discrimination and in a way that respects their health, safety, and dignity, with no presumption of unfair advantage or unpreventable risk based on sex characteristics or gender identity. The Framework also prevents any medically unnecessary procedures or treatment in order to meet eligibility criteria and prohibits gynaecological examinations and other invasive physical examinations to determine an athlete's sex, sex variations or gender.
- Through the FIFA Guardians programme,^{lxxxviii} FIFA offers Safeguarding training and certificates to its 211 Member Associations and the 6 Confederations to promote everyone's wellbeing in football. Courses target Safeguarding officers, employees, volunteers, and is open to anyone willing to learn about safeguarding in football.
- FIFA, the International Basketball Federation, and World Rugby, are three examples of International Federations that provide a Code of Ethics at the international level that cautions against the perpetration of violence and provides safeguarding training to those involved in the sport. At the domestic level, the members of each of these three sporting bodies provide a national code, which may contain differing guidance and regulation on intersectional safeguarding issues dependent on the domestic legislation that is applicable to that body.^{lxxxix} All three organisations have reporting procedures to sanction or report when VAWG occurs during activity relating to their

sport at both domestic and governing body levels.^{xc} Since 2017, when FIFA published their Human Rights Policy and established a (now dissolved) Human Rights Advisory Board, it has provided increasing practical support to athletes whose rights have been violated, as seen in the cases of sexual abuse against female players of the Afghanistan and Haiti women's national football teams. FIFA has also incorporated measures which focus particularly on the protection of children and young people from harassment and abuse.^{xcii}

- Other examples of International Federations that currently have safeguarding policies in place are World Sailing,^{xcii} World Ability Sport,^{xciii} Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique,^{xciv} World Athletics, World Triathlon,^{xcv} International Hockey Federation,^{xcvi} International Fencing Federation,^{xcvii} International Tennis Federation,^{xcviii} International Weightlifting Federation,^{xcix} International Canoe Federation,^c Fédération Internationale de Volleyball,^{ci} International Judo Federation,^{cii} and World Dance Sport Federation.^{ciii}
- Because World Rugby operates with policies on two levels – the "World Rugby Level", and the "Member Level" – members have discretion to act in contravention of the overarching World Rugby guidance if domestic legislation presents challenges with compliance in the Member's jurisdiction. Therefore, despite World Rugby's banning transgender women from competing in tournaments,^{civ} Canada Rugby acts in accordance with Canada's national laws,^{cv} and not only allows transgender women to play rugby,^{cvi} but also specifically includes provisions in their ethical guidelines to prevent and mitigate violence that transgender women may face whilst playing the sport.^{cvi}
- Despite sports bodies resisting State intervention by relying on the idea of "sports autonomy", examples such as the Empowering Olympic, Paralympic, and Amateur Athletes Act of 2020 in the United States potentially signal a future of increasing State intervention and regulation justified on the basis of State duties to protect affected groups whenever national sport bodies do not comply with international human rights norms and standards.^{cviii} The Empowering Athletes Act – in addition to the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 (SafeSport Act) after the USA Gymnastics scandal –, submit the US Olympic/Paralympic committees (USOPC) and all national governing bodies to national sporting laws, which safeguard athletes from abuse, oblige sports bodies to immediately report any allegation of child abuse to law enforcement, and assure independent investigation of cases. Moreover, the Empowering Athletes Act empowers the United States Congress through legislative mechanisms to dissolve the Board of Directors of the USOPC and to terminate federal recognition of any national governing body. Unfortunately, the US Safe Sport Body has been criticised for its high rate of administrative closures due to the interpretation that the evidence provided is insufficient or because the survivor decides not to be involved in the investigation and for its low rate of actual resolution.^{cix}
- In fact, several Safe Sport entities have been established lately around the world, also not without significant shortcomings. The World Players Association, in partnership with the Army of Survivors and the Sport&Rights Alliance have developed a short guidance to support Safe Sport entities adopt a human rights-based and survivor-centred approach.^{cx}
- Currently, the Sport&Rights Alliance is scoping a Global Survivors Network, comprised of athletes around the world with lived experience of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse for exchange, advocacy and support. An emergency fund will also

be established to “provide individual or collective legal, emotional, physical or digital support, as required and analyzed through a detailed and holistic needs assessment”.^{cx}

11. Please provide recommendations as to how violence against women and girls in sport can be prevented and what needs to be done to better respond to the needs of survivors of such violence?

Effective recommendations can be found in the following documents and publications:

- Centre for Sport and Human Rights' [Effective Responses to Abuse in Sport: preview of co-created guidance on human rights compliant investigations](#).
- [Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health](#) (2019), [p. 22-23].
- [Intersection of race and gender discrimination in sport - Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) (2020), [p. 13-15].
- [Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy](#) (2020)
- [The law of inclusion - Report of the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity](#) (2021) [p. 19-10]
- [Practices of exclusion - Report of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity](#) (2021) [p. 23-24]
- [Policy position by United Nations Special Procedures mandate holders in relation to the protection of human rights in sport without discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics](#). (2023) [p. 5]
- UN Women's [Sports for Gender Equality Framework](#) [p. 5]
- UN Women's [Guidelines for Gender-Responsive Sports Organizations](#) [p. 35-40].
- UNESCO and UN Women's [Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls in Sport: A Handbook for Policy Makers and Sports Practitioners](#).
- UNICEF's [Protect Children from Violence in sport](#).
- [International Safeguards for Children in Sport"](#).
- Court of Arbitration for Sport's [Guidelines for the hearing of vulnerable witnesses and testifying parties in CAS Procedures](#).
- Gymnastics Ethics Foundation's [New Internal Guidelines on special measures for protecting vulnerable witnesses](#).

ⁱ World Players Association 2021 Census of Athlete Rights Experiences. Available at: <https://uniglobalunion.org/wp-content/uploads/WPA-Census-of-Athlete-Rights-Experiences-Report-2021-2-compressed.pdf> [Accessed 2 April 2024].

ⁱⁱ A blind eye to sex abuse: How USA Gymnastics failed to report cases. Available at: <https://eu.indystar.com/story/news/investigations/2016/08/04/usa-gymnastics-sex-abuse-protected-coaches/85829732/> [Accessed 2 April 2024];

Former USA Gymnastics doctor accused of abuse. Available at: <https://eu.indystar.com/story/news/2016/09/12/former-usa-gymnastics-doctor-accused-abuse/89995734/> [Accessed 2 April 2024].

ⁱⁱⁱ Haiti FA president accused of sexually abusing young female footballers. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/football/2020/apr/30/haiti-fa-president-accused-of-sexually-abusing-young-female-footballers> [Accessed 2 April 2024].

^{iv} 'There was blood everywhere': the abuse case against the Afghan FA president. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/football/2018/dec/27/sexual-abuse-allegations-afghan-fa-president-keramuudin-karim> [Accessed 2 April 2024].

^v Mali is a textbook example of how to fail victims of sexual abuse in sport. Available at: <https://www.playthegame.org/news/mali-is-a-textbook-example-of-how-to-fail-victims-of-sexual-abuse-in-sport> [Accessed 2 April 2024].

- ^{vi} Cameroon suspends Karate officials after sexual assault allegations. Available at: <https://www.sportsintegrityinitiative.com/cameroon-suspends-karate-officials-accused-of-sexual-assault/> [Accessed 2 April 2024].
- ^{vii} South African sport under scrutiny over handling of child sexual abuse claims. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2020/nov/13/south-african-sport-under-scrutiny-over-handling-of-sexual-abuse-claims> [Accessed 2 April 2024].
- ^{viii} South Africa: Bob Hewitt gets 6 years in prison for rape. Available at: <https://www.themorningsun.com/2015/05/18/south-africa-bob-hewitt-gets-6-years-in-prison-for-rape/> [Accessed 2 April 2024]
- ^{ix} Rwanda cycling boss resigns after abuse accusations. Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-50701549> [Accessed 2 April 2024].
- ^x Despite years of alleged abuse by Brij Bhushan Singh, why wrestlers were not believed. Available at: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/wrestlers-protest-survivors-of-sexual-assault-are-not-believed-let-that-change-8641830/> [Accessed 2 April 2024]
- ^{xi} Sexual Violence and the Coach–Athlete Relationship—a Scoping Review From Sport Sociological and Sport Psychological Perspectives. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8155665/> [Accessed 2 April 2024].
- ^{xii} The Grooming Process in Sport: Narratives of Sexual Harassment and Abuse. Available at: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/251618998_The_Grooming_Process_in_Sport_Narratives_of_Sexual_Harassment_and_Abuse [Accessed 2 April 2024]; Sexual Violence and the Coach–Athlete Relationship—a Scoping Review From Sport Sociological and Sport Psychological Perspectives. Available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10538712.2018.1477222> [Accessed 2 April 2024]
- ^{xiii} Report Details ‘Systemic’ Abuse of Players in Women’s Soccer. Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/03/sports/soccer/us-soccer-abuse-nwsl.html> [Accessed 2 April 2024].
- ^{xiv} NWSL took several corrective measures to respond to the case, as per their Statement Regarding Corrective Action: <https://www.nwslsoccer.com/news/statement-regarding-corrective-action>
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