

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, LABOUR RIGHTS, MEDIA FREEDOM, NON-DISCRIMINATION, ANTI-CORRUPTION AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT FOR THE EUROPEAN GAMES 2019**

Below we specify the key steps the European Olympic Committee (EOC) should take to ensure that future Games respect and promote universal human rights, protect the rights of workers, and contribute to transparency and good governance. We also underscore the importance of creating mechanisms to ensure that Belarus' compliance with basic standards is rigorously monitored and that there is accountability and redress available to people who suffer abuses directly linked to the Games. At all stages, the EOC as well as the host should have mechanisms in place to ensure that athletes, workers, journalists, activists, vulnerable groups, and other key national and international stakeholders have a seat at the table and a voice in key decisions.

The requirements below are rooted in the International Bill of Human Rights and the core ILO standards, and draw heavily on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The SRA calls for the implementation of all these requirements with immediate effect.

Where relevant, these requirements should apply for the entire life-cycle of the event.

The EOC, the government of Belarus and the Organizing Committee should:

- Issue a public human rights commitment and human rights policy stating that it will comply with international human rights standards;
- Carry out human rights “impact assessments” including labour standards and corruption due diligence, in consultation with potentially affected groups, including children, and other stakeholders and experts as well as independent human rights institutions and bodies;
- Include a clear stipulation in all contracts with commercial partners that they must respect human rights, labour standards, and anti-corruption throughout their supply chain;
- Accept independent outside monitors to receive and act on complaints of human rights abuses, labour standards violations, and incidents of corruption linked to Games or business relationships; and
- Monitor and manage all post-event impacts consistent with human rights obligations, report on actions taken, and make reports public; and enforce and uphold the commitments made with immediate effect.

In addition, the EOC, should insist that the government of Belarus take the following steps in advance of the 2019 European Games, to ensure that the Games are held in an environment which respects human rights, non-discrimination, and media freedom:

- Amend the Law on Mass Events, to repeal provisions which currently make it practically impossible to hold any public gathering without the express permission of the authorities, severely restricting the right to freedom of assembly. Authorities arbitrarily detained activists to prevent them from participating in public events before the May 2014 International Ice Hockey Federation World Championship;
- Repeal legislation criminalizing involvement in unregistered organizations, which Belarusian authorities continue to enforce while routinely and arbitrarily denying registration to nongovernmental groups. Strong and open civil society is a prerequisite for fostering a human rights-friendly environment for conducting the Games;
- Repeal the bill adopted by parliament in May 2016 regarding “protecting children from information harmful for their health and development.” These provisions may be used to restrict dissemination of neutral or positive information about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people as “discrediting the institution of the family”;
- Implement the recommendations called for by a 2004 International Labor Organization (ILO) Commission of Inquiry into Belarus regarding labor rights; and
- Guarantee media freedom for Belarusian and foreign journalists. Rigorously investigate all attacks on, threats against, and harassment of journalists and other media workers with a view towards ending impunity for violence against journalists. Stop politically motivated prosecutions of journalists and bloggers.