



Mr Gianni Infantino
President
FIFA
FIFA-Strasse 20
P.O.Box 8044
Zurich
Switzerland

April 20th 2016

Dear Mr Infantino,

Congratulations on your recent election as President of FIFA. Football is a major passion for, and influence on, millions of people worldwide and it is a great honour and responsibility to lead such an important institution. I send you all my best wishes for your future.

You have recently visited Russia to inspect their preparations for the 2018 World Cup. It is not surprising that you were asked there about Russia's human rights record and particularly the country's law which bans the promotion of homosexuality. This is a major issue for the many hundreds of thousands of gay football fans, like myself, who are concerned about their safety should they wish to attend the World Cup.

Professor John Ruggie's report into human rights and the World Cup, commissioned by FIFA and published only last week, specifically raised concerns about Russia's anti-gay laws.

Russia's Sports Minister, who defended the gay propaganda law in your presence by saying that "no one has been persecuted, no one is persecuted", is simply not being truthful. The existence of this law has sent a strong negative signal to the Russian population that being gay is wrong. There has been a significant rise in attacks on gay people, including torture and murder. Journalists have been sacked for reporting on gay issues. Gay Pride marches are banned and, where they do take place, often result in violence against the participants. Gay people in Russia are frightened to come out and live their lives to the full.

Gay European Tourism Association, 6 Chemin de la Biconque, 34600, L'Horte, France

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www.geta-europe.org www.gaywelcome.com



GETA promotes the interests and wellbeing of LGBT tourists throughout Europe. Safety of LGBT tourist when travelling is a major concern for us. We work, for example, with the British Government to issue travel advice to LGBT tourists.

We believe that we cannot recommend to LGBT football fans that they attend the 2018 World Cup given the current situation in Russia. We will have to advise them that their enjoyment and safety as visiting football fans will be severely curtailed in Russia.

We are aware that the 2022 World Cup is to be held in Quata where homosexual acts are illegal and can be punished by up to 3 years imprisonment plus lashings. Indeed in 2013 the Gulf Cooperative Countries discussed some form of, undisclosed, test on foreign visitors in order to ban foreign gay people.

The World Cup should be enjoyed by all football fans. Fans should not fear for their liberty or lives when attending World Cup matches. FIFA is a hugely influential body and the signal sent by condoning anti-gay behaviour is very damaging to LGBT people worldwide.

We ask that FIFA :

1. Seeks clear and firm assurances from the governments of Russia and Quata about the safety of visiting LGBT fans.
2. Considers removing the 2022 World Cup from Quata.
3. Follows the recommendations of your advisor, Professor John Ruggie, to ensure that all future World Cup bids include a human rights requirement.

I am happy to discuss this in more detail with you.

Best wishes

Carlos Kytka
Executive Director

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