

## **Expression of commitment to combating hate speech in sport**

### **Preamble:**

Recognising the transformative power of sport as a universal language of peace and inclusion, as well as its potential to promote human rights and the rule of law, we are conscious of the urgent need to combat hate speech and discrimination within the sport community. Despite the unifying potential of sport, incidents of racism, intolerance and hate as well as other related human rights infringements persist, undermining the spirit of athletic competition and the cohesion of society at large.

By confronting these challenges head-on, we aim to restore and enhance the values that make sport a powerful catalyst for human rights impact in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and their respective deployment at European and national level, such as the Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)3 on human rights and business. This commitment extends beyond high-profile events like the Olympic and Paralympic games and World Cups and includes amateur and youth sport: it is essential that everyone can enjoy the benefits of sports, regardless of their origin, identity, sexual orientation, beliefs, social or any other status. All individuals should have the right and the opportunity to participate fully, freely, and in recognition of all their rights in sport.

In the pursuit of our common goal, we aspire to gather unanimous support from all levels of the sporting community. To solidify this commitment, we seek a written pledge from each Government, federation, international organisation, affirming their dedication to combating hate speech in sport and promote respect.

This initiative, endorsed at this high-level conference and available for global support on the Council of Europe's website, provides a framework for concerted action and accountability.

In solidarity, we pledge to create a more supportive environment of respect among humans in and through sport, ensuring that sport can live up to its potential and show how respect for human dignity and human rights are put into practice. Because: #SportISRespect.

### **Core Values:**

1. Respect: We uphold the dignity and rights of every individual, fostering an environment of mutual respect and the respect of human rights in and through sport.
2. Inclusion: Everyone, regardless of identity or background, is welcomed and valued in the sport community.
3. Equality: We commit to providing equal opportunities and fair treatment for all participants and stakeholders in sport.

4. Diversity: We embrace and celebrate the diverse identities and experiences that enrich the sport world.
5. Fair Play: We commit to fair play and do not use hate speech as a manipulative tactic to hinder others' performance and growth. We prevent the use of hate speech to negatively impact athletes' careers and create an unfair competitive advantage.

### **General Commitments:**

1. Restraining Hate Speech and Discrimination: We commit to actively restrain any engagement in or condoning hate speech and discriminatory practices in a pre-emptive approach.
2. Monitoring, action and legal enforcement: We will actively monitor signs of hate speech and discrimination, calling out, preventing, and combating these behaviours with effective tools within our spheres of influence.
3. Support for Educational Programs: We pledge to support and implement educational programs that promote the values of respect, inclusion, equality, and diversity as well as all other principles of human rights.
4. Collaboration with Stakeholders: We commit to cooperate and support all stakeholders, including sports organizations, legal institutions, law enforcement agencies, public and private institutions, NGOs, governmental bodies, and the media, to amplify our impact and reach.
5. Support Services for Victims: Provide access to counselling and support services for individuals who have been affected by hate speech and discrimination in sport. This can include psychological support, legal advice, and peer support groups.

### **Implementation:**

- The Council of Europe will facilitate the ongoing collection of signatures and endorsements of this Expression of commitment through its digital platforms.
- Signatories agree to integrate these commitments into their policies and practices, ensuring active participation and regular feedback on progress and challenges in their implementation.

### **JOIN US:**

This Expression of commitment invites all members of the global sport community to join in our commitment to make sport a beacon of respect, inclusion, human dignity and human rights. Only together we can we harness the power of sport to change society, creating a more equitable and supportive environment in and through sport for all.

Signatures:

Date and Place:

[Home - Combating Hate Speech in Sport \(coe.int\)](https://www.coe.int)