



International Human
Rights Committee



HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC
THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS SCHOOL of LAW

Human Rights at Play

A toolkit for Monitoring Human Rights at the FIFA
World Cup 2026 in Houston and Dallas.



Disclaimer: This report does not represent the official position of the University of Texas at Austin School of Law or the University of Texas at Austin. The views presented here reflect only the opinions of the individual authors and of the Human Rights Clinic.

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INTRODUCTION

For the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the global landscape of sports and human rights entered a new chapter. Unlike previous tournaments, FIFA introduced in direct response to calls for transparency, accountability, and international best practice, a reformed bidding process that required prospective host cities not only to compete for selection, but also to submit comprehensive human rights plans as a core part of their proposals.

This landmark shift meant that, for the first time, cities vying to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup, including Dallas and Houston, were evaluated on their concrete commitments to protect human rights alongside traditional concerns like infrastructure and logistics. As part of this new process, FIFA's technical criteria demanded plans for sustainable event management, environmental protection, and effective human rights safeguards, making the World Cup a stage for potential social progress and responsibility at an unprecedented global scale.

The 2026 FIFA World Cup, hosting millions of fans and countless social, labor, and civic activities, serves as a microcosm of broader society: every dimension of life- housing, labor, migration, discrimination, freedom of expression- finds expression in what happens on and off the pitch. By treating the sporting event as a model for society at large, the 2026 FIFA World Cup shines a spotlight on both the risks, and the opportunities present where sport and human rights meet. As host cities, Dallas and Houston now bear both the privilege and the responsibility to transform these commitments into real protections, accountability, and inclusion for everyone impacted by the games.

To support these commitments in practice, the International Human Rights Committee (IHRC) of the State Bar of Texas International Law Section, together with the clinic, developed this toolkit as a resource for lawyers, city officials, and other stakeholders in Dallas and Houston. The toolkit is intended to provide clear, practical methods for monitoring and ensuring compliance with human rights standards throughout the World Cup. The draft was prepared by clinic members Jesse Holwerda and Hagar Gesthalter, under the supervision of Professor Ariel Dulitzky, as a collaborative effort to turn high-level commitments into meaningful action for all those impacted by the games.

MONITORING TOOLKIT

This toolkit arises directly from this new era. It is designed to be practical and accessible for monitoring human rights before, during, and after the World Cup. It is suitable for lawyers, civil society organizations, government officials, academics, and volunteers at any level of experience. Users do not have to read the toolkit cover to cover. Each section stands alone, so the user can go directly to the human rights area that is needed, use checklists for fieldwork, rely on guiding questions for interviews and documentation, or draw on the reporting tools to escalate issues or advocate for solutions.

It is organized so that users can:

- Identify areas where human rights risks may arise
- Monitor and document incidents or gaps in protection
- Assess whether host-city commitments and human rights standards are being met
- Act by referring cases, reporting concerns, and advocating for solutions

WHAT IS HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING?

In this toolkit, human rights monitoring refers to the deliberate, ongoing, and methodologically rigorous process of observing, gathering, verifying, and analyzing information about the state of human rights as they relate to the World Cup context. The principal aim of this process is to detect and document both positive practices and emerging risks or actual violations, facilitating early intervention and the promotion of accountability when rights are not upheld.

An effective monitoring approach incorporates a combination of direct observation of relevant events, services, or facilities; engagement with individuals and groups who are directly or indirectly affected; and critical review of official documents, legal frameworks, policies, and public records. This process also involves accurately recording and securely

maintaining information and reporting substantiated concerns to appropriate authorities or designated support structures for follow-up or redress.

Importantly, monitoring is not limited to the identification of problems or shortcomings. It plays a key role in recognizing and highlighting exemplary practices that can be supported and replicated across contexts. Professional and sensitive monitoring demands attention to the full spectrum of actors and stakeholder populations, with a particular focus on the diversity and vulnerability of those impacted during an event of this magnitude. Such a comprehensive and systematic process is essential to ensure that all findings are meaningful, reliable, and facilitate practical improvements in the enjoyment and protection of human rights.

METHODOLOGY AND KEY COMMITMENTS

Each section of this toolkit is structured to help users keep focus and flexibility:

- **Legal Framework:** The legal framework referenced in the beginning of each section complements the International Human Rights legal standards by highlighting the relevant international human rights instruments for each right. While this framework outlines the specific rights involved, it is not exhaustive; for detailed legal research, resources such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) provide case law and interpretative documents. Monitors should supplement this framework with applicable local, state, and federal legislation to ensure a comprehensive view.

Additionally, while the framework identifies the rights themselves, it does not explicitly address the obligation to guarantee effective remedies, and the obligation that all the rights will be guaranteed with equality and non-discrimination. These obligations are enshrined in Article XVIII of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, which affirms the right to an effective remedy, and Articles IX, XI, XIII.

- **City Commitments:** This toolkit includes the specific, FIFA-approved commitments that Dallas and Houston made in their submissions. These are contractual commitments and are binding, but they should be understood as the minimum required by law, not the full extent of all human rights obligations for authorities and organizers. This is the floor, not the ceiling.
- **Monitoring Questions:** Each section includes illustrative questions- different for every right, that help the monitoring process begin monitoring the basic requirements and realities. These commitments are simply a starting point and should be adapted or expanded depending on the circumstances. For example, when monitoring housing, the user may want to assess the impact of Airbnb on the housing market- do those providers have human rights policies, and are they held to international standards? Or, for workers' rights, you might ask: Are staff in hospitals specially trained for sports injuries common to the World Cup? These examples are meant to demonstrate an approach, not exhaust the full field of monitoring possibilities.

The questions included in this toolkit represent the fundamental minimum obligations for each human right. However, effective monitoring requires a more comprehensive and context-sensitive approach. Monitors should expand beyond these baseline queries to address the full spectrum of legal obligations, including those enshrined in applicable Texas state and federal legislation. Additionally, monitoring efforts must not be confined solely to the actions and omissions of the host cities of Dallas and Houston. Instead, they should encompass all relevant stakeholders involved in the 2026 FIFA World Cup, including federal and state agencies, FIFA itself, sponsors, contractors, and subcontractors. This broader scope ensures a holistic assessment of compliance and accountability, reflecting the complex, multi-actor environment that shapes human rights outcomes during the event.

HUMAN RIGHTS ACCOUNTABILITY AND PRINCIPLES

Accountability during the World Cup is shared by multiple actors. Sport's governing bodies like FIFA, host cities, local governments, businesses, and civil society all play a role. The commitments described are contractual and binding, but host cities, FIFA, and all partners retain broader human rights responsibilities under American and international law.

To ensure a principled and effective approach, we ground this toolkit in the FREDA principles and the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA), in which individuals are rights-holders and institutions are duty-bearers.

FREDA principles:

- **Fairness:** Fairness means acting justly and making decisions in a way that is impartial and free from bias. It requires that everyone is given an equal opportunity to have their voice heard and their rights considered.
- **Respect:** Respect involves acknowledging the inherent value and dignity of every individual, regardless of their background or beliefs. It means treating others courteously, listening actively, and honoring their preferences and perspectives.
- **Equality:** Equality emphasizes that everyone should have equal rights, opportunities, and access to protections without discrimination. This principle requires challenging any unfair treatment based on factors like race, gender, or status.
- **Dignity:** Dignity is about ensuring that all individuals are protected from treatment that is degrading or humiliating. It promotes a culture where every person's worth is recognized and upheld in every situation.
- **Autonomy:** Autonomy supports each individual's right to make their own choices and control their own lives. It involves providing people with information and options so they can participate meaningfully in decisions that affect them.

Human Rights Based Approach

The HRBA is a framework that integrates universal human rights principles into all policies and practices, centering on non-discrimination, participation, and a commitment to equality. It emphasizes transparency, accountability, and empowering both rights-holders and duty-bearers, ensuring that everyone can claim their rights and that institutions fulfill their responsibilities.

These frameworks move us beyond simple acknowledgment to active implementation, monitoring, and accountability in the real world. Consider, throughout your monitoring, the multiplicity of groups involved, and the goal of not just identifying gaps but modeling what it means to be both effective and sensitive in human rights work.

MONITORING HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITMENTS

Human rights monitoring is the systematic practice of collecting, verifying, and analyzing information to assess whether rights are being protected and fulfilled in the context of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Effective monitoring relies on unbiased observation, engagement with affected communities, and careful review of relevant documents and policies to uncover both positive practices and risks. By applying rigorous standards, monitors can document not only violations but also successes, ensuring findings are substantiated and actionable. The purpose is to provide early warning, promote accountability, and support practical improvements, so that commitments translate into meaningful protections for everyone involved in the event.

This section of the toolkit presents sample questions for monitoring each of the 11 human rights commitments made by Houston and Dallas as part of their 2026 FIFA World Cup bids. It is systematically organized by specific rights, and for each right, there are three key components: an overview of the relevant legal framework, a summary of the commitments made by the cities, and a set of practical monitoring questions at the end.

The questions serve as prompts to guide users' thinking and support fieldwork; they illustrate possible approaches but do not cover every scenario or obligation. Users are encouraged to use these examples as starting points and to consider a broader range of relevant issues and actors when applying the toolkit in practice.

ADEQUATE HOUSING

Legal Framework

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): Art. 25 right to adequate standard of living (housing).

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR): Art. 17. protection against unlawful interference with home.

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD): Art. 5(e)(iii). right to housing without discrimination.

UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs)

OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises on responsible business conduct.

American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man: Art. II equality & non-discrimination.

FIFA Human Rights Policy

Cities Commitments

Houston

- Fair housing enforcement & multilingual access to complaint services. (Title VI enforcement, Fair Housing hotline; multilingual immigrant info)
- Eviction prevention & rental assistance programs during the event period (incl a \$75M fund and court-based mediation)
- Coordinated outreach with shelters and housing placement partners (so there's "no wrong front door.")
- Short-term lodging coordination to prevent displacement of vulnerable residents in Houston (working together with the lodging sector)

Dallas

- Enforcement of Fair Housing Ordinance via the Fair Housing Office.
- Training for landlords & tenants: clear routes to file complaints.

- Comprehensive Housing Policy tools: affordability, anti-displacement, accessibility (plus tenant-based rental assistance)
- Short-term rental (STRs) host education and monitoring in event areas during the World Cup

Monitoring questions

1. Are legally enforceable and accessible remedy mechanisms established or adopted for during and after the World Cup across all housing sectors (including rental, short-term rental, and shelter systems)?
2. Is there a designated agency responsible for housing complaints and enforcement?
3. Are response times for filed complaints tracked and publicly reported?
4. Are legal aid or pro bono services available to support the complainants? And how are these services available for them?
5. Do these kinds of mechanisms include the right to appeal or the right to review?
6. Is this remedy process accessible for people with disabilities and non-English speakers as well? And if so, how is this process accessible to them?
7. Are instructions on how to file a fair housing complaint easy to find in the main community languages?
8. Are these instructions visibly posted in public offices, shelters, and community centers?
9. Are there online instructions available and mobile friendly?
10. Are translations verified by community-based organizations for accuracy?
11. Are hotline operators trained to communicate in these languages?
 - If so, what kind of training did this hotline operators receive?
12. Have alternative solutions other than eviction been considered in targeted areas?
Are there alternatives provided?
13. Are mediation services between landlords and tenants documented?
14. Are tenants informed of their right to mediation before eviction notices are filed?
15. How is this right to mediation being enforced?
16. Are rent assistance or deferred payment options clearly communicated?
17. Are eviction prevention services also available during evenings and weekends?
18. What compensation is paid to evicted residents?
19. Is this kind of compensation proportional to local median rent prices? How will this be proportional?

- Are these payments disbursed before or after eviction? For what reason?
 - Are vulnerable groups prioritized for faster compensation?
 - Is there an appeal process for denied compensation claims?
 - How does this appeal process work in practice and who are all of the parties involved?
20. How are the cities coordinating with shelters and housing placement partners during the 2026 FIFA World Cup to ensure that individuals in need are not turned away and are connected to long-term housing pathways?
21. Is there a joint coordination protocol for them? And how does this joint coordination protocol work?
- Do these protocols reflect the ILO standards?
22. Are meetings with the shelters and the housing placement partners held monthly?
23. Are service gaps tracked and resolved? In what way are they tracked and resolved?
24. Are there safeguards in place to prevent the displacement of low-income residents, including those living near event zones, and how are displacement risks being tracked and addressed?
25. Are “no-eviction zones” designated? And if so, where are they designated?
26. Are extended notice periods enforced? How long are these notice periods?
27. Are evictions monitored independently? In what way are they monitored? Who is carrying out this kind of monitoring?
28. How is the lodging and short-term rental industry being monitored to prevent price spikes, discrimination, or displacement during the event, and are data on complaints, pricing, and occupancy being tracked and publicly reported?
29. Are discriminatory practices tracked? What kind of statistics are known?
30. Is pricing data shared in real time? And how does this work in practice?
31. Are guest complaints handled and monitored independently?

WORKERS' RIGHTS

Legal Framework

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): Art. 23: Right to just and favorable conditions of work.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR): Art. 22: protects freedom of association, including the right to join trade unions.

International Labor Organization (ILO) Core Conventions: Freedom from forced labor, child labor, minimum age.

UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs)

OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises on responsible business conduct.

Inter-American System. American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man: Art. 14 (Div.) : Right to work under just conditions.

FIFA Human Rights Policy

Cities Commitments

Houston

- Ensuring fair and living wages for all workers during the World Cup (including protecting migrant workers and female workers and workers of color)
- Enforcing safe and healthy working conditions through strengthened oversight of the contractors and also the service providers (including compliance with labor standards and these standards are referring to OSHA requirements, federal and state wage laws, and fair recruitment principles)
- Establishing accessible grievance mechanisms for workers to report unsafe conditions (using the 311 hotlines to handle complaints)
- Exploring ordinances that forbid recruitment fees and support the creation of a worker registry (this ensures transparency, and the protection for migrant workers during their employment).

Dallas

- Promoting fair wages and job opportunities for all workers that are engaged in the World Cup (including construction, hospitality, transportation, and event services)
- Enforcing safe and healthy working conditions through existing labor protections and collaboration with the Texas Workforce Commission (this ensures that there is compliance with wage laws)
- Safeguarding the workers' rights to organize, and report abuses which should remove the fear to seek remedies (the city introduces grievance channels such as the Texas Payday Law)
- Advance inclusive employment through supplier-diversity programs (this prioritizes fair recruitment)

Monitoring questions

1. Are all workers (including contractors/subcontractors) receiving at least the city wage floor?
 - Is there a written wage floor policy that covers subcontractors and temporary staff, so it is possible to measure?
2. Do the contracts between the city and vendors include clauses requiring compliance with this wage floor to measure if they receive enough?
3. Are random payroll audits conducted to verify if actual wages are paid? And if so, how are these audits conducted?
4. Are workers informed in writing and in multiple languages of the legal minimum and city wage floor? What kind of documents are provided to the workers, so they understand that they are being paid enough?
5. Are penalties or contract terminations applied when violations are found? And if so, how big are these penalties?
6. Are wage data (e.g., average hourly pay by sector) publicly reported during the event period? Where is this data published, compared and reviewed?
7. Are migrant and undocumented workers explicitly included in enforcement protections? How did they get involved in the process?
8. Are safe and healthy working conditions being enforced?
9. Is there a protocol defining what constitutes "safe and healthy" conditions?

- Do these protocols reflect International Labor Organization (ILO) standards?
 - Were these protocols developed with participation from workers' associations or unions?
10. Who is responsible for monitoring compliance (city inspectors, OSHA officers, third-party auditors)?
- What monitoring tools or checklists are used?
11. Are safety inspections conducted regularly and documented? How is this documented for the workers?
12. Are inspection findings made public or shared with workers? Where are these documents published, compared and reviewed?
13. Are accessible grievance mechanisms for workers established and effectively protected?
14. Is there a clear, confidential process for workers to report grievances without retaliation? How easily can the workers report it?
15. Are grievance channels available in multiple languages and formats (phone, online, in-person)? Who is the available contact?
16. Are workers informed of these mechanisms during onboarding or training? In what ways are they informed?
17. Are complaints tracked, with timelines for response and resolution? How does this tracking work and how long are these timelines?
18. Are whistle-blower human rights protections in place and enforced?
19. Are workers unions or worker centers allowed to assist in filing grievances? And in what ways can they assist?
20. How and where are fair wages and job opportunities being promoted for all World Cup related workers (e.g., job fairs, supplier diversity outreach, public postings, partnerships with unions or worker centers)?
21. Are job opportunities publicly posted and free to access (online and in physical community spaces)?
22. Are job fairs or recruitment drives conducted in partnership with unions or worker centers? How are these unions getting involved?
23. Are recruitment processes transparent and non-discriminatory (no recruitment fees, clear wage info)?
24. Is inclusive employment through supplier diversity programs being enrolled during the 2026 FIFA World Cup?
25. Are supplier-diversity goals (for women-, minority-, LGBTQI+-, disability-, or veteran-owned businesses) formally adopted? How are they adopted?

26. Are procurement guidelines aligned with these inclusion goals? In what ways are they aligned to protect human rights?
27. Are contractors required to report workforce diversity metrics? How can they report this?
28. Are small (or historically marginalized) businesses supported to meet bidding requirements? How are these businesses getting involved during the 2026 FIFA World Cup?

LGBTQ+ RIGHTS

Legal Framework

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): Art. 2: Right to all rights and freedoms in this Declaration without distinction or discrimination of any kind.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR): Art. 26: Equal protection before the law.

American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man: Art. 2. equality and non-discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Yogyakarta Principles: Rights of LGBTQ+ persons.

FIFA Human Rights Policy

Cities Commitments

Houston

- Preventing discrimination against LGBTQ+ visitors and residents across venues
- Addressing housing discrimination risks for LGBTQ+ people during short-term stays
- Advocating for comprehensive non-discrimination protections at the state level (Texas lacks statewide protections at the moment)
- Monitoring and preventing hate motivated incidents (hate crimes) during World Cup activities against LGBTQ+ people

Dallas

- Enforcing its inclusive non-discrimination ordinance for LGBTQ+ people
- Maintaining high equality standards and visible accountability
- Culturally competent public safety through an LGBTQ+ police liaison and first responder training
- Supporting LGBTQ+ community wellbeing including the youth that are experiencing homelessness

Monitoring questions

1. Are Anti-LGBTQ+ discriminatory incidents being tracked, and are there visible prevention measures in place in venues, hospitality services, and public spaces?
2. Is there a centralized system or hotline for reporting these anti-LGBTQ+ incidents? Where can this system be found and used?
3. Who collects, verifies, and classifies these incidents (e.g., police, city human rights office, NGOs)? And why was this entity chosen for that cause?
4. Are incident categories standardized (verbal harassment, physical assault, denial of service, etc.)? And how will they be documented during the events?
5. Are frequency, location, and response times documented? And how will this be documented?
6. Are data disaggregated by type of incident, location, and identity group (gender, sexual orientation, nationality)?
7. Is housing discrimination against LGBTQ+ people being prevented during short-term stays?
8. Who is responsible for enforcing anti-discrimination protections in short-term rentals and hotels?
9. Are booking platforms and hotels required to adopt non-discrimination clauses and display them publicly? Think here of Airbnb. Where will this be published?
10. Are staff trained to recognize and prevent the human right housing discrimination? How is the staff trained in this?
11. Are there penalties or loss of license for hosts found to discriminate?
12. Are travelers able to report discrimination anonymously?
13. Is there non-discrimination protection at the State level?
 - If not, have the host cities publicly advocated for such protection?
14. Are local ordinances or policies compensating for the absence of state-level protection? How will they make sure that the LGBTQ+ Rights will still be respected?
15. Are partnerships with advocacy organizations supporting this legal change? And if so, how are they supporting it?
16. Are public officials trained on their obligations under these laws or policies? How and when was this training conducted in order to support LGBTQ+ persons?
17. Are hate crimes being monitored and prevented during the World Cup?
18. Who records and classifies these crimes- police, prosecutor, or human rights office?
19. Are hate crime statistics disaggregated by motive, gender, and sexual orientation?

20. Are officers trained to identify hate motives and collect victim statements respectfully? How were these officers trained and how will they effectively collect the victim statements?
21. Are there community safety partnerships (with LGBTQ+ centers) to report or mediate cases?
22. Are victims provided with psychosocial and legal support? How will this support be given to them?
23. Are there clear public benchmarks or actions showing how equality and accountability standards for LGBTQ+ inclusion are being met and reviewed during the 2026 FIFA World Cup?
24. Have measurable indicators (e.g., number of trainings, inclusive hiring rates, complaints resolved) been published? Where have they been published?
25. Who is responsible for collecting and verifying these indicators?
26. Are data disaggregated to show progress for specific groups (trans people, youth, migrants)?
27. Are mid-event reviews planned during the 2026 FIFA World Cup to assess performance?
 - Are findings publicly communicated and followed by corrective actions?
28. Is there a dedicated LGBTQ+ police role and training?
29. Where within the police structure is this role established (unit, liaison, task force)? And why was this choice made?
30. Are written protocols defining the liaison's duties and accountability?
31. Are officers trained specifically on LGBTQ+ rights, hate-crime identification, and trauma-informed response? How was this training conducted?
32. How is the effectiveness of this training evaluated (tests, community feedback, external audit)? Are there already results available?
33. Are reports of police misconduct toward LGBTQ+ people tracked and addressed? Where can these reports be found?

IMMIGRATION & ASYLUM

Legal Framework

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): Art. 14 : Right to seek asylum.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR): Art. 13: Protection from arbitrary expulsion.

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD): Art. 5: Equal treatment regardless of national origin.

1951 Refugee Convention & 1967 Protocol : Protection of refugees and asylum seekers.

American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man: Art. XXVII (Article 27): the right to seek and receive asylum.

FIFA Human Rights Policy

Cities Commitments

Houston

- Reduce deportation risks during the World Cup (by prioritizing cite-and release for minor offenses)
- A central, multilingual help line for migrants (the city wants to use the 311 line to hear the complaints)
- Pre-arrival and airport rights information through a local legal help line

Dallas

- Immigrant inclusion through its Welcoming Communities and Immigrant Affairs Office (WCIA)
- Accessible legal aid and due process protections via a publicly funded legal defense program for immigrants
- Language access and trusted communication channels through a Language Access Center

- Proactive outreach and consular coordination (think of DPD UNIDOS and Asian American Unit) to inform visitors how to report violations during the World Cup

Monitoring questions

1. Are policies and practices in place that reduce the risk of detention or deportation for immigrants during the 2026 FIFA World Cup?
2. Do local police use “cite-and-release” for minor offenses instead of detention? How are they incorporating this during the events to respect human rights?
3. Are local agencies limiting cooperation with ICE during the event? And where are these statistics?
4. Are safeguards in place to prevent profiling based on nationality or language? What kind of safeguards are these?
5. Are training programs provided to officers on non-discrimination and migrant rights? What kind of training programs are these and how are they being implemented?
6. Is there a central multilingual help line for migrants?
7. Does this help line operate 24/7 and cover emergencies, legal, and shelter referrals?
8. Are calls confidential and free? How will this be incorporated?
 - Is data on call volume and resolution tracked and reported? Where will this report be published?
9. Are federal immigration policies, including ICE enforcement activity or travel restrictions for nationals of specific countries, being monitored for potential discriminatory impacts during the 2026 FIFA World Cup?
10. Who monitors enforcement actions (city, state, or civil society)?
 - Are findings reported publicly and escalated when rights are violated?
11. Are legal aid and due-process protections accessible for immigrants in detention or deportation proceedings?
12. Is there a directory of free or low-cost immigration lawyers? And how can immigrants utilize this directory?
13. Are interpreters provided during hearings? How many interpreters will there be and how will they be accessible for immigrants in detention or deportation proceedings?
14. Are families informed of detainee location and legal status? How are they informed? Which institution will take care of this?

15. Are multilingual “Know Your Rights” materials and consular coordination mechanisms in place?

- Are printed and digital materials available at airports, fan zones, hotels, and stations? How will they be distributed to the fans?
- Are these materials reviewed by consulates of Mexico and Canada for accuracy?

16. Are visitors informed how to report violations or contact their consulate?

17. Are city officials meeting regularly with consular representatives? And will these meetings be held publicly?

DISABILITY ACCESS

Legal Framework

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): Art. 25: Right to adequate standard of living, including accessibility.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR): Art. 26: non-discrimination, including for persons with disabilities.

American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man: Art. II : Right to equality and dignity for persons with disabilities.

FIFA Human Rights Policy

Cities Commitments

Houston

- The city commits to ensuring accessible venues (the city wants to do this by identifying and modifying low-barrier seating by avoiding segregation and also by training staff to assist the guests with disabilities and with service animals)
- The city commits to accessible communication tools and visual assistance (through captioning, audio-description and assistive-hearing devices and also the use of the AIRA app for blind attendees)
- The city commits to improving sidewalks, ramps, elevators, and signage, to ensure safe and barrier free access to all the event zones and public spaces (particularly around high-traffic event areas and parking zones)

Dallas

- The city commits to full ADA compliance and also to continuous evaluation of accessibility barriers through its ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (this was updated in 2020 and addresses public buildings, curb ramps and sidewalks)
- The city commits to improving public transportation accessibility in partnership with DART (this ensures paratransit services, accessible buses and also accessible rail platforms for people with disabilities)

- The city commits to inclusive event design and to safety planning by requiring accessible parking and accessible entrances, and finally by having quiet rooms for guests with sensory disabilities
- The city commits to promoting disability inclusion through supplier diversity and awareness programs by including Disability Owned Business Enterprises (DOBE)

Monitoring questions

1. Are all 2026 FIFA World Cup venues physically and communicatively accessible for people with disabilities?
2. Are ramps, elevators, seating, signage, and toilets ADA-compliant so it is measurable?
3. Are staff trained to assist guests with service animals and mobility devices? How was this training conducted and by whom?
4. Are accessibility audits conducted before and during the event? Will these audits be published, and if so, where?
5. Are deficiencies for the disabled people corrected within fixed deadlines?
6. Are accessible communication and visual-assistance tools available?
7. Are real-time captioning, sign-language interpreters, and assistive-listening systems in use? How can the disabled people make use of these tools?
8. Are the AIRA or similar apps available for blind attendees? And if not, when will it be available for them?
9. Are digital tools tested with users before launch? When will this testing take place and will these results be published online?
10. Are sidewalks, ramps, and transport systems barrier-free and safe?
11. Are pedestrian routes near venues compliant with ADA slope and surface standards so it can be measured?
12. Are DART and paratransit services expanded and monitored for on-time performance? How will this monitoring take place and who is responsible for executing it?
13. Are temporary event structures (bridges, fan zones) fully accessible? Which paratransit usage data will be used to document this during the events?
14. Are inclusive event design and safety measures implemented?
15. Are quiet rooms and sensory-friendly zones available? How many?
16. Are evacuation and emergency plans inclusive of persons with disabilities? In what way are they included?

17. Are staff drills conducted with disabled participants? And if so, how many times do they practice?
18. Are people with disabilities included in staffing, volunteering, and decision-making?
19. Do hiring and volunteer policies include accessibility requirements and reasonable accommodation? What do these policies say and how will it help the disabled participants?
20. Are recruitment materials accessible and inclusive? Will these HR policies be published online?
21. Are staff trained in disability rights and inclusive communication? How did this training take place and who conducted it?
22. Are persons with disabilities represented in planning committees? How are they included here?
23. Are accessible grievance and complaint mechanisms available for persons with different type of disabilities (such as deaf, blind, accessible for wheelchair, simplified language, etc.) to report barriers, discrimination, or accessibility failures during the 2026 FIFA World Cup?
24. Are multiple formats offered phone, sign-language video, Braille, easy-read online forms? Which institutions created these formats and where did they collect their data from?
25. Are complaints tracked and resolved transparently? How are these complaints being handled? Will there be a division who tracks this and also resolves these issues transparently and will these results be published online?
26. Are outcomes reviewed with disability organizations to ensure accountability? Which disability organizations were contacted to be compliant with the inclusion of the persons with different types of disabilities?

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Legal Framework

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) Art. 25: Right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Art. 17: Protection from arbitrary or unlawful interference with one's privacy, family, home, or correspondence.

UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs)

OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises on responsible business conduct.

FIFA Human Rights Policy

Cities Commitments

Houston

- Pioneered Special Advisor on Human Trafficking; developed first comprehensive municipal strategy in the US.
- Enforces Mayoral Executive Order for zero tolerance in city services and contracts.
- Requires city hotels to train all staff on sex and labor trafficking and maintain certification.
- Forms a dedicated police Human Trafficking Unit with strong federal/NGO collaboration.
- Sets up shelter collaboratives and provides both emergency and ongoing housing/support for trafficking victims.
- Employs intensive awareness work, screens for risk in homelessness and public health sectors, and responds to increased risks at major events.
- Prioritizes enforcement, education, victim-centered investigations, and constant capacity-building for large events like the World Cup.

Dallas

- Implements state and local anti-trafficking programs targeting multiple forms of exploitation.
- Partners with BEST to provide free prevention training for hospitality management and staff.
- Relaunches Dallas Police vice unit in partnership with NGOs and agencies for trafficking intervention.
- Designates DART as a Safe Place; creates human trafficking transport partnerships.

- Maintains legislative support: training mandates for hotel and lodging employees on trafficking indicators.
- Leads multi-agency anti-trafficking campaigns (“That’s a Red Card”) and victim assistance strategies.
- Runs 24/7 hotline: coordinates NGO/state/federal support to expand victim services and law enforcement.
- Engages in sustained media outreach, stakeholder engagement, and survivor support programs, especially before and after large events.

Monitoring questions

1. Are all hotel, hospitality, and venue staff trained on trafficking risks, signs, and reporting protocols before the 2026 FIFA World Cup?
 - Is this training mandatory, tailored to both sex and labor trafficking, and independently verified?
 - How many staff have completed refresher training before and during the 2026 FIFA World Cup?
2. Are training records and certifications for new hires audited within 90 days of their employment?
3. Do hotels, hostels, and Airbnb's display clear, multilingual anti-trafficking information for guests and staff?
4. Are there rapid-response protocols and dedicated units for trafficking, with assigned leads from police, federal agencies, and NGOs for the 2026 FIFA World Cup period?
 - Are protocols updated for large events- how and by whom are they monitored?
5. Is there a formal process for survivor rescue, referral, and protection, operational 24/7, with all partners trained on procedures?
 - a. Are evidence chains and information-sharing evaluated for gaps after an incident has occurred?
6. Are shelters accessible, safe, and able to surge capacity during the 2026 FIFA World Cup?
 - Is access nondiscriminatory (regardless of nationality, gender, exploitation type)?
7. Are trauma-informed, culturally competent services available in multiple languages at all survivor support hubs?
8. Do support programs include long-term housing, medical care, legal assistance, and reintegration, with feedback from survivors on adequacy?

9. Is public transportation staff trained to detect and report trafficking, including targeted awareness for event periods?
10. Are transportation hubs and routes mapped for trafficking risks, and are incident hotlines and safe spaces promoted visibly?
11. Are annual anti-trafficking assessments conducted, published, and publicly reviewed prior to and after the 2026 FIFA World Cup?
 - Are event-specific risk assessments and mitigations documented?
12. Are awareness campaigns visible at 2026 FIFA World Cup venues, hotels, airports, public transit, and fan zones, in multiple languages?
13. Are awareness and reporting campaigns tailored to both sexual and labor trafficking, youth, and vulnerable groups?
14. Are renters, unhoused populations, migrant workers, and minors screened for vulnerabilities or indicators of trafficking during the 2026 FIFA World Cup period?
 - a. Is there follow-up with those flagged as at-risk, and what agencies are involved?
15. Are city hotlines, online, and SMS reporting available 24/7 in multiple languages - are they tested for functionality and response?
16. Are complaints tracked for response time, victim satisfaction, and case outcome; is there external oversight?
17. Is disaggregated data (by form of trafficking, perpetrator/victim demographics, incident location, referral pathway) collected and published monthly during the 2026 FIFA World Cup operations?
18. Are city policies and reporting practices reviewed for alignment with the Palermo Protocol at the start and end of the event?
19. Are policy updates based on lessons learned/feedback (from survivors, staff, or advocates) mandated and published?
20. Are child-focused protocols (targeting both labor and sexual exploitation) in effect at all zones near stadiums, schools, and fan gathering sites?
 - Are partnerships with child welfare bodies audited for results?
21. Are there surge prevention and outreach plans for high-risk match days and after-hours periods?
 - Do they include mobile teams and on-site NGO presence?
22. Are all procurement, hiring, and volunteer policies for the 2026 FIFA World Cup updated to prohibit any form of exploitation or recruitment abuse?
22. Is every new policy or contract reviewed for explicit commitments to the Palermo Protocol, TIP laws, and FIFA requirements, with compliance checks before and after the event?
23. How are partners (including security, vendors, and sponsors) assessed for trafficking risk and trained in prevention and reporting?

25. Are survivors engaged as advisors in the monitoring, evaluation, and adaptation of anti-trafficking strategies?
26. Are monitoring and audits independently reviewed and publicized, with actionable recommendations and timelines?
27. Is community engagement- especially with vulnerable and minority groups, worker organizations, and survivors- documented and factored into prevention planning?
28. Is there an independent evaluation of trafficking prevention outcomes and lessons learned, prompting updated action plans for future large events?
29. Are affected persons and community stakeholders invited to comment on gaps and achievements, especially regarding criminal proceedings and victim aftercare?
30. Are findings from post-event reviews communicated publicly, and are future commitments- funding, training, capacity- adjusted in response?

CHILD & DOMESTIC ABUSE

Legal Framework

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) Art. 5 & 16: Right to protection of the family by society and the State, and freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Art. 23 & 24: The family is entitled to protection; every child has the right to such measures of protection as required by their status as a minor.

UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs)

OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises on responsible business conduct.

ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work: Effective abolition of child labor; protection from workplace exploitation.

American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, Art. VI & VII: Right to establish a family and receive protection; right to special protection for women and children.

FIFA human rights Policy

Cities Commitments

Houston

- Maintains a dedicated division for anti-trafficking and domestic violence in the Mayor's Office.
- Coordinates risk screenings for abuse among homeless and at-risk groups.
- Provides comprehensive services: case management, shelter, and mental health resources for abused children and survivors.
- Aligns with UNICEF Child Friendly Cities, with focus on safety, services, participation, and protection.
- Runs early childhood programs to reinforce resilience against abuse.

Dallas

- Partners with organizations to provide resources for child abuse, domestic and intimate partner violence.

- Invests in Child Poverty Action Lab (CPAL) to reduce childhood poverty.
- Prioritizes coordinated family reunification and integrated safety for child welfare during events.
- Collaborates with public, private, and faith organizations to address all forms of violence against children.

Monitoring questions

1. Is there a designated safeguarding or child protection officer at every stadium and fan zone each day?
2. Is child protection signage (with contact info) visible at all event entrances, exits, restrooms, and children's areas?
3. Are all event and venue staff wearing visible badges after completing mandatory child safeguarding training?
4. Are there secure, child-safe waiting rooms or spaces staffed at every venue during public hours?
5. Are supervisors checking that supervision ratios for all organized children's activities meet FIFA/local guidelines?
6. Are lost child and missing child protocols rehearsed and posted at all entrances, with logs of any incidents kept daily?
7. Have background checks for all volunteers, stewards, and security with child contact been completed and verified?
8. Are daily risk assessments for child safety completed and logged for each stadium, hotel, public transport route, and fan celebration area?
9. Are on-site incident/concern reporting forms available in at least three languages at all locations where children participate?
10. Are real-time logs of reported child abuse/neglect cases reviewed by event management within 24 hours?
11. Are there clear domestic violence (DV) reporting posters or referral info in all restrooms and family/medical spaces at venues and official hotels?
12. Is a DV-trained staff member or crisis response officer present or designated at every major venue daily?
13. Are domestic abuse hotline contacts up-to-date and distributed at hotels, hostels, and event-affiliated accommodations?
14. Are security, hospitality, and transport staff trained and able to explain how to confidentially refer a DV case at any time?
15. Are records of DV support requests and referrals reviewed weekly by city or partner leads, and response times tracked?

16. Are emergency shelter bed availability and waiting lists for DV and family abuse survivors updated and accessible daily?
17. Are police and first responder units briefed daily on risks and trends in both DV and child abuse in connection with the 2026 FIFA World Cup?
18. Is translation/interpretation available for every abuse-related call or report in the top languages spoken by fans and residents?
19. Are support and reporting services accessible to those without local ID, insurance, or proof of residency?
20. Are specialized outreach teams visiting neighborhoods, informal settlements, or known high-risk sites before and after each game?
21. Are medical and mental health professionals on-call or available on-site each game day to respond to abuse cases?
22. Is there a system to ensure all survivor cases (children, adults, families) are tracked for follow-up within 48 hours?
23. Are survivor support and aftercare options (housing, legal, counseling) printed and distributed to all intervention points?
24. Are anonymized incident-response statistics for child and DV cases posted daily/weekly in public reports or summaries?
25. Are regular “hotspot” maps of incident locations shared with monitoring teams and community partners in real-time?
26. Are incident audits performed by independent monitors at least weekly during the tournament?
27. Are complaints about service delays, refusals, or discrimination logged, investigated, and resolved with documentation?
28. Are multidisciplinary briefings held daily among police, city officials, NGOs, and venue managers for case coordination?
29. Are learnings from daily monitoring debriefed to all staff before each new event day, with documented changes in plans?
30. Is there a public feedback/complaint channel for community members, fans, or staff to raise new risks, with responses tracked?

HATE CRIMES & GENOCIDE

Legal Framework

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Arts. 2, 3: Right to all rights and freedoms in this Declaration, without discrimination of any kind, and to life, liberty, and security of person.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Arts. 6, 20(2): inherent right to life, protected by law and free from arbitrary deprivation, with strict limits on the death penalty and a prohibition on incitement to discrimination, hostility, or violence.

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), Arts. 2-5: Obligation to prevent, outlaw, and punish racial hate, violence, and propaganda.

UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs)

OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises on responsible business conduct.

American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, Art. II: Legal equality and protection from prejudice or discrimination.

FIFA Human Rights Policy

Cities Commitments

Houston

- Centers anti-discrimination enforcement through Title VI and Fair Housing.
- Partners with advocacy bodies to monitor and respond to hate crimes.
- Expands community representation on advisory boards and commissions.
- Runs robust police training on bias and includes community forums against hate.

Dallas

- Uses the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum as a center for anti-hate and genocide education.
- Engages with local academic institutions for ongoing research and programming.
- Enforces inclusive community and workplace anti-discrimination policies and ordinances covering hate crimes.

- Implements diverse outreach events and education campaigns focused on hate crime prevention.

Monitoring questions

1. Has each police, stadium, and event staff member completed recent, documented hate crime and genocide prevention training covering bias, hate speech, incitement, and reporting?
2. Are there on-site, named staff (by shift/venue) with responsibility for hate crimes/genocide prevention at all major venues?
3. Are anti-discrimination commitments displayed at every stadium and fan event?
4. Do police/venue security receive daily briefings that include specific risks of hate crimes and genocidal incitement related to scheduled matches?
5. Are protocols for immediate hate crime/genocide threat response tested and reviewed each match day?
6. Are hate crime victims provided with multidisciplinary emergency support (medical, legal, psychosocial) in each incident (track time to support)?
7. Is a confidential reporting mechanism (hotline/app/onsite desk) with trauma-informed, multilingual staff publicized at all venues, hotels, and transit zones?
8. Are complaints by victims tracked for time to resolution, satisfaction, and follow-up?
9. Is data on hate incident reports, response actions, and outcomes published at least weekly and disaggregated by type, group, and location?
10. Are audits of city and event responses to hate crimes/genocide risks conducted by independent NGOs or advisory boards weekly?
11. Are findings, gaps, and action steps from each audit shared with the public and event management in under 48 hours?
12. Are advisory boards and commissions in Houston and Dallas (including immigrant, LGBTQ+, faith, and minority groups) staffed and meeting as scheduled during the event?
13. Do advocacy/anti-hate partners have direct lines to city managers and real-time access to incident data for rapid response?
15. Is anti-hate/anti-genocide messaging on display (signage, announcements, digital) at all entrances, restrooms, and main gathering zones at every venue?
16. Are fan code-of-conduct documents (covering hate and incitement) signed/acknowledged by both local and international fans and volunteers?
17. Are pre-game talks and post-game reviews conducted at all venues to reinforce standards and announce incident stats or lessons learned?
18. Are social media and venue online channels monitored live for hate speech spikes?

- is coordination with platform partners in place to take prompt action?
- 19. Are prompt bans/ejections implemented for any fan or staff who incite, threaten, or participate in hate crime/propaganda onsite?
- 20. Are hate crime and genocide-related detentions during the 2026 FIFA World Cup logged, reviewed daily, and monitored for compliance with legal and international standards?
- 21. Is legal aid access guaranteed for any detainee making hate crime or prison condition complaints, regardless of nationality/status?
- 22. Are post-release support and protection offered to victims or witnesses of hate crime/genocide who have experienced police/prison procedures during the event?
- 23. Are targeted efforts made (outreach, visiting teams, monitors) to ensure hate crime/genocide reporting and support reaches migrants, racial/religious minorities, LGBTQ+, and disabled fans?
- 24. Are field monitors recording and mapping patterns of hate incidents by group and location for daily review?
- 25. Are translation, access, and disability accommodations checked in practice at every fan zone and reporting desk?
- 26. Are school, youth, and community events scheduled alongside 2026 FIFA World Cup matches to deliver anti-hate and genocide prevention messages, led by sports or city partners?
- 27. Are local/national media briefed daily by the city and event team on recent incidents, city responses, and survivor support pathways?
- 28. Do local sports figures, players, and celebrities regularly participate in media campaigns and public service announcements against hate and genocide?
- 29. Is rapid feedback solicited each day from survivors, fans, monitors, and advocacy groups, and is policy/practice visibly adapted before the next event?
- 30. Are post-event debriefing, recommendations, and city-wide reviews of hate crime/genocide prevention outcomes published and discussed in public forums for future improvement?

GENDER EQUALITY

Legal Framework

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) Arts. 1, 2, 7, 16, 23: Right to equality, dignity, equal protection of the law, and non-discrimination including on grounds of sex or gender—and equal rights in marriage and work.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Arts. 2, 3, 26: States must ensure gender equality in enjoying all rights; women and men have equal civil and political rights; law prohibits all gender-based discrimination.

UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs)

OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises on responsible business conduct.

ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work: Elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation, including gender equality in pay and opportunity.

American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man Art., 6: Legal equality and equal right to form and protect a family, without discrimination of sex or gender.

FIFA Human Rights Policy

Cities Commitments

Houston

- Delivers worker protections, especially for marginalized and female populations.
- Champions worker rights: fair pay, safety, and workplace grievance handling.
- Outlaws' predatory recruitment fees and broadens awareness of gender-based violence.
- Provides legal clinics and support for women and gender minorities, with community engagement and leadership focus.

Dallas

- Maintains a broad nondiscrimination ordinance (since 2002) covering gender identity and sexual orientation.
- Achieved perfect Human Rights Campaign MEI score; police/fire have LGBTQI liaison officers.
- Runs sensitivity training and inclusive benefits for city employees.
- Supports programs like Outlast Youth for LGBTQI youth experiencing homelessness.
- Promotes policy and community leadership for gender equity.

Monitoring questions

1. Are all city contracts, vendor agreements, and event service contracts reviewed and enforced for both men's and women's equal opportunity and workplace protections?
2. Do hiring procedures for all 2026 FIFA World Cup staff, security, stadium, and hospitality roles track and proactively address disparities in hiring men and women? Who is responsible for verifying this?
3. Are wage, benefits, and promotion statistics tracked and published by gender for all city and contract employees during the event?
4. Do city grievance, complaint, and whistleblower policies guarantee protection from retaliation for both men and women reporting gender-based discrimination?
5. Are event-specific leadership roles, advisory boards, and management teams composed with gender balance and public transparency?
 - Are women's leadership/participation rates publicized?
6. Is gender sensitivity, diversity, and anti-discrimination training delivered to every police, first responder, and event staff member, with attendance tracked by gender and role?
7. Are public-facing city and event staff- across genders- required to complete regular anti-harassment, inclusion, and workforce equity training?
 - How often, and is this monitored independently?
8. Is anti-discrimination enforcement monitored during the event, with public reports on cases and outcomes disaggregated by gender?
9. Are men's and women's changing rooms, restrooms, and family spaces (e.g. nursing and parenting lounges) available, accessible, and of equal quality in every stadium and major venue?

10. Do all city and FIFA-linked employee benefit programs (including health, pension, and leave) guarantee full and equal coverage for men and women, as well as partners/spouses of any gender?
11. Are city and contractor pay gap/bonus/benefit audits conducted and published annually by gender during the event cycle?
12. Are swift, confidential mechanisms in place at every stadium and hotel to file and investigate all forms of gender-based discrimination or abuse- for both men and women?
13. Do workplace and event sites visibly communicate to all genders about rights to fair pay, fair treatment, and safety resources?
14. Are support systems (legal aid, counseling, shelters) for victims of gender-based violence open to men, women, and nonbinary people, with outreach and supervision?
15. Are city-run or city-funded public events, outreach, and fan engagement programs inclusive of both men and women as organizers and participants?
16. Are programs, services, and public-facing materials for youth gender minorities (including boys and girls at risk, not only LGBTQI+) readily available and promoted at event sites?
17. Is there direct outreach (not just digital) to both men and women in at-risk groups (homeless, migrants, etc.) regarding workplace and violence protections during the 2026 FIFA World Cup?
18. Do media, communications, and promotional campaigns during the events feature men and women equally, with fair representation of diverse backgrounds in leadership and staff roles?
19. Is disaggregated data on hiring, pay, promotion, overtime, and harassment/complaint outcomes collected, regularly analyzed, and shared with stakeholders by gender?
20. Are periodic (daily/weekly) gender audits of event sites, city services, and hotels carried out, with a process for immediate redress of gaps in gender equality?
21. Are both men's and women's organizations and advocates regularly consulted in policymaking, incident reviews, and event wrap-up evaluations?
22. Are city gender equity advisory boards- including representatives of men's and women's groups - operated transparently and their findings made public?
23. Are male and female police/fire/LGBTQI+ liaison officers assigned and available for consultation at high-attendance 2026 FIFA World Cup sites?
24. Are awareness campaigns on all forms of gender-based and family violence, including against men, running in visible, multilingual formats at all event locations?
25. Is gender-based violence reporting tracked for timeliness, access, and victim satisfaction, specifying both male and female victims?

26. Is there a documented zero-tolerance policy for predatory recruitment or exploitation of men, women, and migrants in event employment?
27. Are amenities, health services, and practical supports (e.g. childcare, safe transit, mental health) visibly promoted and equally available for male, female, and nonbinary staff/volunteers/fans?
28. Is external, independent review of gender equality and treatment systematically conducted throughout the tournament, with action points addressed before the next match?
29. Are post-event gender equity findings, lessons, and updates presented to city councils, partner groups, and the public, with a commitment to strengthen areas of weakness for all genders before the next event?

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Legal Framework

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Arts. 3, 25: Right to life and a standard of living that supports health and well-being—including housing, food, medical care, and a healthy environment.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Art. 6: Right to life, requiring protection from environmental harm that endangers health or life.

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), Art. 5(e)(i): Equal access to public health and environmental protection without discrimination.

UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs)

OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises on responsible business conduct.

American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, Art. 1: Right to life liberty and security.

FIFA Human Rights Policy

Cities Commitments

Houston

- Focuses city development on resilience, community health, and environmental justice.
- Collaborates with coalitions to reduce harm from housing costs and ecosystem/climate risk.
- Integrates public health, homelessness prevention, and urban greening in development policy.

Dallas

- Bases all major development and safety planning on sustainability principles for the World Cup.
- Runs Living Lab/Smart Cities innovation for resource efficiency and minimizing harmful impacts.
- Partners with firms committed to sustainable and equitable practices.
- Emphasizes fair contractor policies and responsible sourcing for human rights.

Monitoring questions

1. Is neighborhood-level air quality monitored daily at/before each major event site with public dashboard updates?
2. Are water testing results from stadiums, fan zones, and neighborhoods posted at least weekly during the 2026 FIFA World Cup?
3. Are real-time reports of illegal dumping or waste overflow at venues or transit hubs followed up and resolved within 24 hours?
4. Are environmental hazard alerts (e.g. excessive heat, poor air quality) displayed in multiple languages at all official gathering areas on event days?
5. Do pop-up or mobile monitoring stations (air/water/noise) operate during and after matches in high-risk zones?
6. Are public consultations documented and accessible before each large event-related development or infrastructure project?
7. Are all major event-related projects required to publish an environmental impact summary prior to approval?
8. Do event development sites display contact info for anonymous environmental complaints in visible, accessible places?
9. Are all new parking, transit, or stadium expansions screened for fair environmental impact on marginalized or low-income communities?
10. Are construction and demolition waste streams from 2026 FIFA World Cup projects monitored and publicly reported?
11. Is city outreach (fliers, events, canvassing) documented in each at-risk or underserved neighborhood during the 2026 FIFA World Cup buildup?
12. Are temporary medical stations at venues equipped with materials on pollution-related symptoms and reporting processes?
13. Are cooling centers and green spaces mapped and open, with wayfinding, in heat-vulnerable areas for all event periods?

14. Is environmental health information broken down (maps, data) by race, ethnicity, income, and neighborhood and shared in public briefings?
15. Are new or temporary green job programs accessible to women, minorities, and local youth- and tracked for reach/outcomes during the 2026 FIFA World Cup?
16. Do marginalized communities receive proportional benefit from event-linked park, transit, or air quality investments?
17. Are green infrastructure upgrades (trees, shade, water systems) sited in ways that close gaps in past city resource disparities?
18. Is resource distribution (water, shade, shelter) at events and fan/visitor sites monitored for equity and sufficiency each day?
19. Are waste reduction, recycling, and composting stations visibly marked and staffed at every stadium and 2026 FIFA World Cup gathering?
20. Do city transit and shuttle operations report on fleet fuel use and emissions, and post reductions/mitigations in real time?
21. Are urban greening or pollution-reduction projects newly initiated or expanded for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, and are their locations public?
22. Are all environmental complaints logged (app/phone/onsite) and response times reviewed daily?
23. Are resolution rates and follow-ups for complaints publicized post-match or event, and are any outstanding issues communicated back to communities?
24. Is there a clear, published procedure for community compensation or project remediation when environmental harm occurs (e.g. noise, dust, transit interruptions)?
25. Are independent audits published at least twice during the 2026 FIFA World Cup on environmental performance in both host cities?
26. Are data on environmental health and resource distribution shared with international partners and compared to established Sustainable Development Goals?
27. Do city partnerships for sustainable operations involve at least one independent verification partner for responsible sourcing and fair labor?
28. Are ongoing environmental awareness campaigns visible in schools, transit, and all event venues before and during the 2026 FIFA World Cup?
29. Are multi-lingual educational resources on environmental and climate justice distributed at fan zones and to event volunteers?
30. Are new public projects or community science initiatives piloted and open for local participation during the 2026 FIFA World Cup, with impact reports shared after closing?

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Legal Framework

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Art. 21: Right to take part in government directly or through freely chosen representatives; equal access to public service; periodic, genuine elections with universal and equal suffrage by secret ballot

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Art. 25: Right to participate in public affairs without discrimination; to vote and be elected in genuine elections; equal access to public service positions.

American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, Arts. XX, XXIV: Right to participate in government directly or via representatives; right to submit petitions and receive prompt decisions.

FIFA Human Rights Policy

Cities Commitments

Houston

- Upholds fair, open procurement processes with oversight and regular audits.
- Sustains inclusive, representative city boards and commissions for oversight/decision-making.
- Centralizes public bidding platforms for equal opportunity and fairness.
- Runs public forums, multi-stakeholder advisory groups, and promotes civic education for all.
- Conducts major outreach and participation drives for migrant/immigrant residents.

Dallas

- Facilitates engagement with immigrants via the Office of Welcoming Communities and Immigrant Affairs; offers broad, multilingual outreach.
- Supports mayoral advisory boards covering a range of community interests and marginalized populations.
- Provides civic/voter educational programming and naturalization support.
- Includes diverse leadership in commissions and task forces.

- Maintains inclusive complaint and participation mechanisms.
- Promotes transparency through equity-focused governance and budget planning.

Monitoring questions

1. How many open public forums or town halls are held prior to each major municipal decision about 2026 FIFA World Cup planning and delivery, and are attendance lists and participation data recorded and published?
2. Are forums scheduled at times and in locations accessible to various working schedules and neighborhoods, including at-risk, immigrant, and low-income communities?
3. Do the city and event partners provide live, remote, or multilingual participation options at all major forums?
4. Are advisory boards for youth, immigrants, persons with disabilities, and seniors convened at least quarterly, and do published meeting minutes show their direct influence on public policy/decisions?
5. Is the makeup of all city boards, commissions, and task forces during the 2026 FIFA World Cup publicly reported by gender, race/ethnicity, age, and other relevant criteria to demonstrate representation?
6. Are complaint, engagement, and participation channels (online, phone, in-person) accessible in all major city languages and for people with disabilities (e.g., accessible digital formats)?
7. Is there a documented process for timely analysis, escalation, and response to complaints- are logs of cases, outcomes, and satisfaction shared at least monthly?
8. Are public engagement surveys and citizen input forms (digital and paper) available at all stadiums, transit hubs, and city offices, and are results systematically reviewed and published?
9. Do civil society and affinity groups (religious, migrant, disability, youth, advocacy) receive regular invitations and opportunities for feedback in key city/public project meetings?
10. Are community organizations and affinity groups resourced (e.g., travel stipends, digital access, translation) to allow full participation in city and 2026 FIFA World Cup-related decision-making processes?
11. Is all up-to-date information on key city and political decisions, procurement, audits, and public policy published online in multiple languages and available in print at public sites?

12. After each major public engagement activity (forum, consultation, online survey), is a summary report published online and in accessible formats for community members?
13. Are major financial and policy decisions (e.g., budget, procurement, contracts) explained in public, trackable formats that show who participated, which options were presented, and why decisions were made?
14. Are obstacles to participation- such as event cost, travel, language, or disability- tracked with a public log, and are mitigation actions and follow-up outcomes documented?
15. Is there a visible, accessible process for individuals to report discrimination, exclusion, or bias in access to public forums, services, and contracts specifically during the 2026 FIFA World Cup event period?
16. Are findings from obstacles tracking used to adapt and improve policies, with examples of changes communicated before the next public or event-related decision?
17. Is election representation, public meeting participation, and advisory board inclusivity independently and publicly monitored, and are results posted before and after the 2026 FIFA World Cup?
18. Are the appointment and conduct of city oversight boards and commissions (for both Houston and Dallas) routinely looked at for transparency and compliance with national and international standards (e.g., ICCPR, ICERD)?
19. Are regular "inclusive practice" reviews held, including site visits and interviews at event venues, to assess real-time accessibility and openness for marginalized populations?
20. Are public reviews of equity, diversity, and inclusion commitments hosted annually, with open community comment sessions, and are summaries made widely accessible?
21. Are civic education programs and materials on political participation, public rights, and complaint procedures actively circulated in schools, community centers, and online before and during 2026 World Cup events?
22. Are lessons from community and stakeholder feedback incorporated into updated city policies, and are these changes tested with further outreach?
23. Do city agencies showcase evidence that community/stakeholder engagement influenced major decisions- such as altered routes, policies, program priorities, or contract awards- and are these impacts clearly communicated?
25. Are procurement and event contracts screened and published to ensure inclusion, non-discrimination, and stakeholder engagement clauses?

26. Are public reporting and audit schedules for 2026 FIFA World Cup procurement and public bidding met and communicated to residents, stakeholders, and civil society?
27. Are face-to-face and virtual engagement options provided for all major 2026 FIFA World Cup and city infrastructure projects, and are participation rates tracked by demographic?
28. Are there clearly publicized, user-friendly mechanisms for individuals or groups feeling excluded to lodge grievances, seek redress, and confirm outcomes during and after the 2026 FIFA World Cup?
29. Are findings from grievances and oversight reviews made publicly available and used to inform corrective actions and future procedures before the tournament concludes?

