



Joseph S. Blatter, President FIFA
FIFA-Strasse 20, P.O. Box
Zurich 8044, Switzerland

c/o: FIFA MEDIA OFFICER, COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIVISION

Dear President Blatter,

I am writing you today to ask FIFA to take a strong stand against homophobic language. Myself and many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender advocates around the world are deeply concerned that LGBT fans are often put in danger by the homophobic attitudes present at many matches. We think this is particularly important as World Cup commences.

While Article 3 of your statutes includes sexual orientation in its list of groups protected from discrimination, we believe more action is necessary to ensure LGBT fans feel safe during World Cup.

Unfortunately anti-gay insults are commonly heard during games in many parts of the world. Other activities like the sale of t-shirts in Brazil with slogans like "Maradona Maricón" and "C. Ronaldo Is Gay" are also very worrisome.

As you can imagine, hearing this type of anti-LGBT language makes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and our families and friends not only feel insulted but unsafe. As the world converges on Brazil, we want to ensure World Cup is a safe and celebratory event for everyone. We've identified several ways FIFA can ensure this is the case.

- 1) Issue a statement with GLAAD and You Can Play, an LGBT sports organization, about the way that anti-LGBT language damages fans, teams and the sport and that it will not be tolerated during World Cup.
- 2) State that FIFA will enforce Article 3 of its discrimination policy and that anyone expressing anti-gay epithets either verbally or on their clothing will be barred from entering/ejected from a sports venue.
- 3) Create announcements to be shown on screen in the Brazilian stadiums where World Cup matches will take place. The announcements should express that a) anti-gay epithets are harmful to LGBT fans and their families and b) anyone wearing or expressing anti-gay epithets will be barred from entering/ejected from a sports venue.
- 4) Join us by co-producing and funding a public service announcement on homophobic language.



GLAAD has been in existence since 1985 and we work in the United States as well as internationally with media. As such, we are working with networks in the United States such as ESPN, ABC and Univision on World Cup coverage as well as reaching out to journalists around the world on their coverage. In this campaign GLAAD has the support of many sports organizations and major teams and sports professionals in the United States and internationally.

FIFA and World Cup have such an important place in so many societies. By taking a strong and visible stand you will greatly impact the lives of people around the world. I look forward to hearing from you soon and thank you for your time.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Kate Ellis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Kate Ellis
GLAAD President