

Creating a Sport Culture Free of Sexual Harassment and Abuse

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MAIN ISSUES IDENTIFIED/DISCUSSED

1. Different definitions of sexual harassment and abuse (SHAB). Some countries have no definition in law but recognise that these problems exist both inside and outside sport.
2. Examples of programmes and policy work to prevent and deal with harassment and abuse in sport. This included recent Mexican and Czech research and a review of ten years of work in The Netherlands.
3. The importance of:
 - a) raising awareness through education of different groups such as athletes, coaches and parents;
 - b) networking with agencies outside sport who have experience that can help us e.g. sexual and domestic violence agencies, child protection, social work, the media, and the police.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION/COMMITMENTS (WHO? WHAT? WHEN? HOW?)

1. Women's sport groups should lobby international sporting organisations to agree that there should be no place for violence of any kind in sport – sexual, physical or emotional – and that the existing resolutions relating to women's and girls' safety should be implemented in sport i.e. UN Declaration on Violence Against Women (1993), IOC Paris Conference (2000), Beijing Platform for Action (1995), UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
2. Each national sport organisation should adopt an anti-harassment framework within the next two years that includes: a policy, procedures for reporting and investigations complaints, a telephone helpline, education courses/workshops for athletes, coaches and parents, support systems for victims and the accused, monitoring and research with confidential data collection systems.
3. The international policy agendas to prevent sexual exploitation in all its forms should include 'sports trafficking' and prostitution at major sporting events as well as SHAB of athletes.