



## Ethical Issues for Women and Sport

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### MAIN ISSUES IDENTIFIED/DISCUSSED

1. Discrimination and tolerance

2. Homophobia in sport.

Lesbian and gay youth are stigmatised or experience violence at the hand of their peers. The sport experience occurs in a 'chilly climate' that occurs when homophobic, sexist and racist attitudes are permitted to prevail. Leaders in sport need to speak out against homophobic, sexist or racist remarks. By not speaking out, we are merely sustaining the prejudice associated with such harmful language.

3. Problems arising from different legal system and different moral codes.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION ( WHO? WHAT? WHEN ? HOW ?)

1. Return to the core values of equal treatment for all. Develop education programs which encourage tolerance and respect and which come from a moderate base. Encourage positive relationships and genuine communication. Be open to different interpretations of the socially-constructed relationship between sport/physical activity and sexuality. Respect human dignity.

2. There are different legal frameworks in different countries, some of which prohibit inclusive actions regarding sexual diversity. Whilst being realistic about what can be achieved, however, we must commit to living and acting inclusively. Support the CAAWS statement on homophobia – where culturally possible. Where it can't be openly discussed, raise the level of the discourse, and the network to support lesbian and bisexual people.

3. We should develop an international code of ethics and conduct an 'ethics audit' of the countries attending this conference (against a set of key criteria, such as tolerance of sexual diversity, connections to the sexual violence community outside sport, women's leadership/representation and so on). Then use this audit as an awareness-raising tool and to set an agenda for addressing these issues.