

# APPENDIX A: PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN FWC 2026

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## Overview

The FIFA World Cup (FWC) 2026 bid process was the first mega-sporting event (MSE) to require extensive human rights commitments in its bidding requirements, obliging bidding countries to identify their human rights risks and propose strategies to prevent and mitigate them. The FWC 2026 presents distinct opportunities as well as risks for individuals and groups in the various host cities. This event can bring positive benefits for children, inspiring them to dream and set goals, to get active, unite communities and provide opportunities to learn about other cultures. The event may also provide economic benefits to their families.

Notwithstanding these positive opportunities, it is known that some children and young people can be especially vulnerable during the planning and delivery of MSEs. Children can experience violence, harassment, abuse, neglect, discrimination, trafficking, displacement and sexual exploitation linked to the event or its value chain. Children can also be impacted when MSE activities lead their parents/caregivers to suffer human rights abuse, e.g. by sustaining serious workplace accidents, going unpaid, being evicted or unfairly dismissed from their jobs. It is important that host cities take action to prioritize child rights and to safeguard children in the preparation and delivery of the FWC 2026 and be used further as a driver towards realizing children's rights.

There is a shared responsibility to protect and fulfil the rights of the child. International federations, governments, MSE host cities, sponsors and broadcasters all have a role to play in preventing and mitigating risks posed to children's rights in the context of the FWC 2026, and to advance opportunities to proactively advance children's rights and well-being.

Building on the foundation of Phase One of the Oak funded project, **Promoting the Rights of Children in the 2026 World Cup**, in this next phase the Centre for Sport and Human Rights (CSHR) will work with four host cities across the three nations hosting the FWC 2026. This will allow CSHR, together with partners, to lay the foundation for a FIFA World Cup that puts the child rights at the center of its success, creates sustainable legacies that will remain in place to protect children and raise the standard for the protection, respect and promotion of their rights through the hosting of an MSE. CSHR will deliver this opportunity as a child-centered and



partnership-focused model that will benefit current and future MSE host cities worldwide.

The initial outcomes identified for the project in and through sport and major event hosting, which are under development, include the following:

- Building safer cities for children
- Developing a network of individuals and agencies in leading cities that establish commitments and programmes that respect, protect and promote child rights; and
- Creating opportunities (programmatic and project based) across cities for active child citizenship, voice and agency in and through sport and major event hosting.

