

## On condemning FIFA for reversing commitments to LGBTQI+ inclusion

The Council of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Bratislava, Slovakia, on 2-3 December 2022:

### Recognises:

- Hosting the World Cup in Qatar has caused major controversies across the sporting world, and highlighted the lack of human rights for LGBTQI+ people, women and migrant communities;
- Qatari authorities have now admitted 400-500 migrant workers[1] died as a result of tournament-related construction work - a higher figure than previously stated;
- The threat of “yellow cards”, minutes prior to kick-off, to Captains of nine should they wear the “OneLove” armbands was disgraceful, and a “kick in the teeth” to those players willing to openly support LGBTQI+ supporters and players.
- That such actions by FIFA, violating an earlier agreement that associations may be fined for wearing “onelove” armbands, contradicts the FIFA “no discrimination” motto;
- The promise that fans would be safe and treated with respect by Qatari police was immediately broken, through unacceptable police tactics towards fans wearing pro-LGBTQI+ messaging, and the removal of stickers from personal phones;
- That FIFA President Gianni Infantino’s language at the opening press conference highlights naivety, incompetence and lack of understanding around inclusion and respect for LGBTQI+ people;
- That the treatment of LGBTQI+ supporters and fans highlights how unsuitable this venue for the current World Cup is, and is totally at odds with the values of inclusion and diversity which we see as a core value of hosting such a major sporting event.

### Calls for:

- Qatar to respect and ensure the safety of all visitors, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender, origin or faith, and to observe the freedom of speech and press, particularly by not banning political statements or disturbing free media coverage;
- ALDE Party members to condemn FIFA for reversing commitments to LGBTQI+ inclusion, highlight the lack of human rights for LGBTQI+ people, women, and migrant communities, and ask FIFA to apologise and to take an engagement not to organise a World Cup in countries where the fundamental rights of LGBTQI+ people are systematically violated;

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- European states and their sport committees not to support any future bid of countries that do not respect the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, for hosting a major sports event, or to finance it, e.g. by purchasing broadcasting licenses;
- all world sporting bodies – including FIFA - to review their bidding processes, establishing the respect for LGBTQI+ rights and all other human rights as conditions for a successful bid;
- the establishment of a compensation fund for migrant workers killed during the construction of sporting sites, financed by Qatar and FIFA, in order to support their families;
- FIFA to make a donation to LGBTQI+ organisations.

[1] <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/11/29/football/qatar-world-cup-migrant-worker-deaths-spt-intl/index.html>

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