CALL FOR PROPOSALS

RESEARCH OVERVIEW OF SPORT AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA

BACKGROUND

The Centre for Sport and Human Rights (the Centre) seeks to align the world of sport with the fundamental principles of human rights. Among its commitments is to have a reach in the Global South, including Africa.

The Centre’s work in Africa will take into account human rights enshrined in international treaties, covenants, conventions and general principles as well as those further articulated in the African context. Key human right instruments for the continent include, among others, the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, and the Declaration on the Right to Development.

To initiate its work in Africa, the Centre hosted a roundtable discussion in Rabat, Morocco on 26 March 2019, which included the participation of a select group of National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) from across the African continent. Roundtable participants discussed the current state of sport and human rights in Africa and exchanged ideas on how to apply a human rights approach to sport and sporting events on the continent.

As a follow-up to the roundtable, the Centre committed to raise awareness and encourage exchanges between and amongst NHRIs and NOCs in Africa on the engagement of sport and human rights in a manner that is endorsed by the respective stakeholder groups. Through these exchanges and awareness raising, NHRIs and NOCs will identify, from their perspectives, issues that are most salient to the continent and possibly to specific regions and sub-regions. In the medium term, the Centre will seek to address these issues through knowledge sharing, capacity building and strengthening accountability amongst actors.

PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW

Significant work has been done related to sport and human rights in Africa. The African Union’s Policy Framework for the Sustainable Development of Sport in Africa (2008-2018) is rooted in commitments to human dignity, human rights and the continent’s
shared ethical and traditional values, and places an emphasis on sport for all, economic and social development, youth, peace and gender equality. Furthermore, in some of their annual meetings, African Ministers of Sports have addressed ethical and human rights issues. Regional Economic Communities such as SADC and ECOWAS have also invested resources and prepared documentation on this issue. Finally, there are references in country periodic reports to the ACHPR on sport in the context of youth development, integration of persons with disabilities and female empowerment.

Many of the resources and instruments mentioned above position human rights in sport in relation to youth, gender, or disabilities. In some cases, sport is viewed as a vehicle to achieve the rights related to development, wellbeing or education. However, there appears to be little reference to human rights holistically in the context of sport.

Notwithstanding the efforts of the African Union and the many good initiatives that have been taken, or are currently under implementation, there are a myriad of concerns related to the violation of rights within African sports, some of which have been documented by UN agencies, civil society, researchers and others. However what is available tends to be scattered and not systematically documented and analysed.

The Centre recognises that a comprehensive overview of sport and human rights in Africa that involves key stakeholders from the outset is a prerequisite for its work on the continent. It is therefore commissioning a review to form the “evidence base” of key human rights risks related to sport in Africa. This review will assist the Centre in identifying areas where it can best support relevant stakeholders in Africa to adopt a human rights based approach to working in sport.

**THE REVIEW WILL:**

- Identify, analyse and summarise reports, initiatives, research and efforts that have been undertaken on the continent that address the intersection of sport and human rights
- Identify key actors at continental, regional and subregional levels, and in some cases national level
- Summarise major themes, concerns, patterns and issues at continental, regional, and subregional levels, and in some cases national level
- Provide a document that can be used as a basis to engage critical stakeholders for discussion and consultation on how to advance the alignment of human rights and sports in Africa

**SCOPE OF REVIEW**

The potential scope of this review is significant. Below is a list of resources that should be included and those that should be excluded. Given that this is a fast moving area of work, it is preferred that sources be quite recent (within the last 10 years). The exception to this is where there are relevant charters or policy documents of the African Union that pre-date this timeline. Furthermore, there are a significant number of initiatives within the sport for development and peace sector. Reference to these should only be made in cases where there is an explicit connection to human rights or the integration of human rights standards.
**RESOURCES IN SCOPE:**

- **Policy documents:** These should include related human rights charters and declarations of the African Union, including their associated mechanisms for monitoring;
- **Periodic country reports:** Including the periodic reports of State Parties to the ACHPR (with reference to sport);
- **Government reports:** Including meetings, reports and initiatives of the African Union with particular focus on those of its Department for Social Affairs and the African Ministers of Sports, as well as declarations, meetings, reports and initiatives of Regional Economic Communities;
- **Initiatives by sports federations:** Related work in the past or currently underway by relevant sporting federations on the continent including the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa, the Confederation of African Football, and the Confederation of African Athletics including research done by NOCs or national sports federations on human rights or social impacts (excluding sport for development and peace initiatives that do not explicitly reference human rights)
- **National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs):** Related outcomes of meetings and consultations of the Network of African NHRIs (NANHRI) or of individual NHRIs, any research undertaken by NHRIs in Africa looking at sports, the sporting sector or the business of sport
- **Intergovernmental documents:** Documents and initiatives of UN agencies including OHCHR, UNESCO, ILO and UNICEF that explicitly reference sport and human rights on the continent
- **Civil society reports:** Country reports produced by NGOs who have operational staff in the region (ex. Human Rights Watch) and which reference sport or sporting events
- **General research:** Any other research of African institutions that explicitly focuses on the intersection of sport and human rights

**RESOURCES NOT IN SCOPE:**

- **Civil society reports:** NGOs or civil society organisations who do not have expertise and operations on the ground should not be included
- **SDP initiatives:** With the exception of initiatives that have an explicit focus on human rights or the integration of human rights standards
- **Country missions** of the OHCHR Working Group on Business and Human Rights
- **Reports** from the Centre for Sport and Human Rights

**TIMELINE**

- **Early July:** Selection of consultant/consultancy group/research institution
- **Early July:** Contracting and orientation of consultant/consultancy group/institution
- **By July 31:** Submission by Consultant to the Centre of the detailed plan, methodology for the review and an initial list of sources to be reviewed. To be followed by a discussion with the Centre
- **Mid-July/end August:** Desk research, interviews with African Union, ANOCA, NANHRI, CSHR, and others
- **End August:** Submission to the Centre of written progress report
• 3-8 September: Attend the CGF General Assembly in Kigali, Rwanda to conduct interviews of African CGAs and NHRIs on issues they identify as salient
• Throughout September: Skype / phone interviews with Francophone NOCs and NHRIs
• Mid September: The Centre submits its written comments to first progress report
• Mid-September-October: Finalise research taking into account comments from the Centre and input obtained during CGF Assembly
• October 17: Submission to the Centre of draft final report
• By October 31: The Centre submits comments to draft final report;
• November 14: Submission of final report and Executive Summary (Final Report will be a maximum of 50 pages, excluding annexes. Executive Summary will be a maximum of 5 pages.)
• November 20-21: Presentation of Report at the Sporting Chance Forum in Geneva, Switzerland

QUALIFICATIONS

• Significant experience and knowledge of Africa, with strong preference given to nationals of African countries
• Masters degree or equivalent in human rights, sports, international law, or relevant field
• Demonstrable knowledge and experience in the areas of sport and human rights
• Positive track record of preparing high quality reports in a timely manner
• Excellent communications skills in English and French
• Ideally first hand experiences with the Olympics, NHRIs and/or African Union mechanisms and institution
• Ability to commit between 20-25 days work to this project between early July and mid November

HOW TO APPLY

Those interested in applying should send no more than a 2-page overview that includes:

• Details of their organisation and any relevant experience working in sport and/or human rights in Africa
• An overview of the research plan and methodology to be used for this project as well as a timeline (if different to that suggested above)
• Links to any relevant research they have done on this topic or similar topics in the past
• Day rate for the research team and how many days work is envisioned

Please send any submissions to alison.biscoe@ihrb.org no later than 5pm GMT on Friday 5th July 2019.