



# ENGAGED ORGANISATIONS



One of the key roles of the Centre for Sport and Human Rights (CSHR) is to bring together stakeholders throughout the sports ecosystem to foster collective action towards a world of Responsible Sport. That is, a world of sport that protects, respects and promotes human rights across its policies, practices, and business relations.

As the idea of Responsible Sport gains momentum, CSHR decided to expand its network beyond its Advisory Council and launch a new form of engagement with institutions across the sports ecosystem: Engaged Organisations.

## What is an Engaged Organisation?

An Engaged Organisation is any organisation within the sports ecosystem - sports bodies, event organisers, leagues, investors, supply chain providers, broadcasters, sponsors, agencies, standard bodies, integrity and dispute bodies, etc. - willing to engage with CSHR to help advance their respect for human rights in sport and play their part to create a world of Responsible Sport.

## What are the benefits of being an Engaged Organisation?

There are many benefits of becoming an Engaged Organisation. Not only do they have access to our extensive network, but they are able to build and strengthen strategic connections with peers on specific topics of interest, and with members from other areas of the sport ecosystem. Throughout the year, there are many opportunities to participate in meetings, events, sectoral groups, and thematic working groups organised by CSHR.

Additionally, CSHR invites Engaged Organisations to contribute to the publications, tools, guides, and standards we develop. This means that they are consulted as part of the process and are ahead of the game when these materials are disseminated and mainstreamed in the market.

Finally, Engaged Organisations have access to CSHR's expertise in sport and human rights, can participate in first hand discussion around hot topics in the field, and contribute to thought-leadership pieces, which helps them position themselves at the cutting edge of Responsible Sport.

## **What would be examples of opportunities to engage?**

See here some examples of projects CSHR has been working on:

### **Sporting Chance Forum:**

Convened by CSHR, the Sporting Chance Forum is the biennial global gathering of the Sport and Human Rights movement. It seeks to: (i) take stock of the progress made towards a world of responsible sport; (ii) outline key activities, insights, and milestones of CSHR and other actors of the sport ecosystem; (iii) examine challenges that remain and plan collective action to address them. Previous editions of the Sporting Chance Forum have been hosted in Washington, Paris and Geneva. In 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was hosted fully online. In 2023, the Forum is an official event of the United Nations Human Rights 75 Initiative to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and will be hosted at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva.

### **Tools Development:**

Over the years, CSHR, in collaboration with its partners, has created a number of tools and guides looking to improve practice and build capacity across common issues faced by those in the sport ecosystem. Some examples of existing guides include outlining how human rights are embedded into sport governance, defining what best practice looks like across the different phases of a Mega Sporting Event, and outlining due diligence considerations for corporate partners, including sponsors and broadcasters.

Engaged Organisations can work with CSHR to define those areas in need of further guidance and support, and collaborate on developing relevant tools and standards before they are mainstreamed across the sport ecosystem.

### **Global Sports and Human Rights Academy:**

The Global Sports and Human Rights Academy is a groundbreaking initiative from CSHR in collaboration with the World Academy of Sport. It brings human rights training and knowledge to those involved in everyday sports and Mega Sporting Events, through online and offline education. Engaged Organisations will be notified of new courses and can work with CSHR to define new modules and learning pathways.



## **Human Rights Sports Leadership Challenge:**

The Human Rights Sports Leadership Challenge is a joint initiative between CSHR and ThinkSport that fosters Leadership and Management Excellence across the global sports ecosystem.

The Challenge promotes the adherence of sport-related organisations to human rights principles, in alignment with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). In particular, it identifies and promotes leadership behaviours, decision-making processes, inspirational qualities, and influential tactics that are conducive to embedding internationally recognised human rights standards across their policies, practices, operations, and business relations.

## **Human Rights Volunteers:**

Human Rights Volunteers (HRVs) is an innovative initiative that had demonstrable impact at the FIFA World Cup 2022 and is now rolled out by CSHR for global use by event owners and organisers. CSHR works with organisers to recruit, select and train a diverse group of Human Rights Volunteers that will be at the Mega Sporting Event to observe, document, refer and escalate a wide range of human rights impacts arising during games time, from accessibility, to safety and security, to forms of discrimination. HRVs support inclusive stakeholder engagement, comprehensive risk management, compliance, accountability and lasting legacy. CSHR offers an end-to-end service and covers project management, support on duty of care to HRVs, and external analytical reporting.

## **Child Rights and the FIFA World Cup 2026:**

CSHR is working with partners in North America and in four of the sixteen 2026 host cities (Los Angeles, New York / New Jersey, Toronto, and Guadalajara) to advance child rights, including child safeguarding and safe child participation in sport, and to influence city-level decisions that impact children's lives in relation to sport. This includes building capacity for individuals in key positions, including city government, sport organisations, and other partners. This project includes 2026 Athlete Ambassadors, a Youth Journalism Initiative, the production of resources for cities on Child Safeguarding in Sport, and more.

## **Routledge Handbook on Mega Sporting Events and Human Rights:**

This handbook edited by CSHR is the first book to explore in depth the topic of Mega Sporting Events (MSEs) and human rights, offering accounts of adverse human rights impacts linked to MSEs while considering the potential for promoting human rights in and through the framework of these events. It draws on the contributions of an international and diverse group of leading researchers, practitioners and advocates and provides practical recommendations for those involved in organising and delivering a responsible MSE.



## Style Guidance for Responsible Sport Communication

CSHR is consulting with diverse and interested stakeholders from the worlds of sport and human rights to foster a convergence of language and shared understanding when it comes to terms and phrases widely used across the sport ecosystem. The resulting Guidance aims to raise awareness and encourage dialogue and the usage of appropriate and human rights-informed language, terminology and other means of visual communication.

### What are the steps to become an Engaged Organisation?

The most important criterion for an institution to become an Engaged Organisation is to have a public commitment to human rights. This must be demonstrated, for example, through a policy, or a statement on their website. If the institution doesn't have a human rights policy in place yet, but is truly committed to begin this journey immediately, this should be clearly stated in the letter and this might be considered as the first step the new Engaged Organisation will take to support the advancement of the Responsible Sport world. Any interested institution can reach out to CSHR at [info@sporthumanrights.org](mailto:info@sporthumanrights.org) to discuss and align expectations. Once the parties reach an agreement around their ways of collaborating, the institution sends a letter to CSHR's CEO stating its willingness to become an Engaged Organisation. Its human rights commitment must be explicitly referenced in the letter.

### What is expected from an Engaged Organisation?

As soon as a body becomes an Engaged Organisation, they are invited to participate in our meetings, events, and activities and to contribute to the group with its knowledge and expertise. A financial contribution to CSHR will be discussed.

### Can an Engaged Organisation request CSHR to support the design and/or development of its human rights strategy and implementation?

CSHR is available to provide bilateral advisory services to its Engaged Organisations upon request and at an additional cost.

### Once an Engaged Organisation, always an Engaged Organisation?

Every three years, Engaged Organisations will be assessed on progress in their commitment to human rights and engagement in CSHR's network and activities. An Engaged Organisation will remain as such, as long as there is a common understanding that this is a meaningful relationship for both parties.

