

**Human rights must be a  
condition for the  
2036 Olympics**

**#NoSportsWashing**

 **Peter Tatchell Foundation**  
Speaking out for Human Rights

*“The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Olympic Charter shall be secured without discrimination of any kind” – Olympic Charter*

2036 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1936 Nazi Olympics. Let’s make sure the 2036 Olympics is not hosted by another tyrant regime.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is moving towards the formal bidding process for the 2036 Olympic Games.

**IOC Strategic Framework on Human Rights 2022 2.2** states that the IOC will advance “respect for human rights across its operations” and drive “human rights best practices in the selection of Future Hosts, and in the organisation and delivery of the Olympic Games.”

But most 2036 bidding nations have a poor track record on the human rights of LGBTs, women, migrant workers, refugees and ethnic and religious minorities, who often suffer discrimination and persecution.

Leading contenders for the 2036 Olympics include China, Turkey, Indonesia, Egypt and Qatar, where consensual same-sex behaviour can be punishable by death under Sharia law.

Recent history shows us the 2036 games are likely to be used again to sportswash human rights abuses and police state laws.

Nearly all the countries in contention view sport and its fans as pawns in their public relations campaigns.

The 2036 Olympics is an opportunity to leverage human rights protections from would-be host nations. It is a chance to ensure that all athletes and fans are welcome, regardless of gender, sexuality, gender identity, ethnicity, religion or belief.

The IOC must guarantee that they can enjoy the Olympics, without worrying whether they will be arrested for wearing a rainbow ribbon or expressing views about the host nation's human rights record.

The IOC should prioritise human rights over profits, glitz and showmanship. If it colludes with China, Qatar and other contending dictatorships, its reputation will be further marred.

Hosting the Olympics is a privilege, not a right. It comes with obligations and these must include adherence to international human rights standards. No country should be rewarded for tyrannical, inhuman behaviour.

This IOC congress must ensure that the governing body lives up to its human rights commitments by excluding applications for 2036 from countries that abuse human rights.

“Faster, Higher, Stronger - Together” is the motto of the Olympics. It should also be “**Diverse, Free, Equal – Together**”



*October 2022: Peter Tatchell staging first ever LGBT+ protest in a Gulf State ahead of the football world cup in Qatar.*

Peter Tatchell

**Peter Tatchell, Director of Peter Tatchell Foundation, London, UK**

# HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THE 2036 BID NATIONS

## Confirmed or reported bids:

### Doha, Qatar

Qatar's labour reforms have proven woefully inadequate in protecting workers' rights. They are poorly enforced. Migrant workers continue to face the withholding of wages, exorbitant recruitment fees and difficulty in changing jobs to escape abusive employers. 6,500 have died since 2010. Their deaths are rarely investigated and their families rarely receive compensation. Women usually have to get permission from a male guardian to marry, study, travel and take certain jobs. LGBT+ Qataris suffer police harassment, imprisonment and so-called 'honour' killing, as well as abusive state-backed conversion treatments.



### Chengdu-Chongqing, China

China's authoritarian government is notorious for human rights abuses. It has arbitrarily detained human rights defenders and lawyers, and tightened control over the media and the internet using invasive total surveillance technology. Free trade unions and strikes are banned. Exiled critics are threatened and their families harassed. Repression is increasing against the LGBT+ community, with the forced closure of LGBT+ centres and WeChat groups. The new gender law requires women to "respect and obey ... family values" and online feminist groups have been shut down. Since 2017, a million Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang have been interned without trial and subjected to 're-education'. In Hong Kong, the government imposed draconian national security legislation in 2020 and has since systematically dismantled the city's freedoms. Dozens of democracy activists are jailed or on trial.



### New Administrative Capital, Egypt

President al-Sisi's government has jailed thousands of critics, including journalists, democracy activists and human rights defenders. There is no right to protest. Civil society campaigners face police intimidation, travel bans



and asset freezes. Authorities harass and detain relatives of dissidents abroad. They use vague “morality” charges to prosecute LGBT+ people, female social media influencers and even rape survivors who speak out. Police use dating apps to lure gay men to rendezvous and then arrest them. Torture and enforced disappearances are committed with impunity.

### **Istanbul, Turkey**

The authoritarian government of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan harasses government critics and jails political opponents. It has undermined the independence of the judiciary and hollowed out democratic institutions. Pride parades are regularly banned and violently attacked by the police. In a blow to women’s rights, Turkey has withdrawn from the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention). It has failed to implement a judgment of the European Court of Human Rights ordering the release of jailed human rights defender Osman Kavala. He’s just one of thousands of political prisoners. Turkey is terrorising the Kurdish minority with armed raids on Kurdish villages, the suspension of elected Kurdish mayors and the imprisonment of Kurdish political leaders. It is bombing Kurdish regions in northern Syria.



### **Nusantara, Indonesia**

Indonesia enacted a new criminal code in 2022 that violates international human rights standards. Marginalised groups - including women, LGBTs and religious and ethnic minorities - are ill-treated. Gay venues are raided by police and in Aceh province LGBTs can be publicly caned. Authorities have done little to stop mobs targeting religious minorities with intimidation and threats. They’ve used discriminatory regulations, including blasphemy laws, to suppress dissent. Military and police units continue to abuse human rights with impunity. The government bans media and human rights defenders from occupied West Papua, where the military is accused of a slow genocide. The region has seen the murder of tens of thousands of indigenous peoples in the last six decades of annexation. Indonesia bombs villages, destroys crops and livestock, tortures and executes nationalists and even jails people for displaying the West Papua flag.



### Ahmedabad/Mumbai, India

The Indian government led by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has escalated its crackdown on civil society and the media. Authorities prosecute critics, activists, journalists and peaceful protesters on fabricated terrorism and hate speech charges. They have shut down rights groups using regulations against foreign funding or on the pretext of financial irregularities. The government has adopted laws and policies that discriminate against religious minorities, especially Muslims, including arbitrarily removing the constitutional autonomy of the predominantly Muslim state of Jammu and Kashmir. The vilification of Muslims and other minorities by some BJP leaders, and the police failure to act against government supporters who commit violence, has given Hindu extremists free reign. There is widespread discrimination and hate crime, including violence, against Dalits and Adivasis – and against LGBTs.



### Guadalajara–Mexico City–Tijuana, Mexico

Hundreds of LGBTs have been murdered in the last decade, some by right-wing death squads. President Obrador has failed to address skyrocketing rates of homicide, cartel crime and abductions. He's expanded the role of the military in public life, including by deploying nearly 150,000 troops to undertake civilian law enforcement. He's also cracked on irregular migration, sometimes leading to violent clashes in which soldiers have killed or injured refugees fleeing persecution. Police, soldiers and criminal gangs commit widespread human rights violations, including arbitrary detention, torture, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and violent attacks on journalists and human rights defenders. These crimes are rarely, if ever, investigated or punished.



### Seoul, South Korea

The Republic of Korea (South Korea) maintains a democratic system of governance in which most civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights are generally respected and upheld. But there remains widespread discrimination and sexual harassment of women, as well as against LGBT+ people, racial and ethnic minorities and foreign migrants and refugees. The government also retains draconian criminal defamation laws. Sweeping intelligence and national security legislation has been used to suppress critics of government and business interests.



## Budapest, Hungary

The government continues its attack on the rule of law and democratic institutions. It replaced a previous Covid-19-related state of danger with a state of danger due to the war in Ukraine, giving the government extraordinary powers to rule by decree and sidestep the parliamentary process. Independent journalists, media outlets and civil society organisations are vilified by high-ranking public officials and in pro-government media. Discrimination persists against LGBT+ people, women and Roma. Unlawful pushbacks against migrants and asylum seekers continue and refugee access to asylum is close to impossible.



## Warsaw (unconfirmed) Poland

Government attacks on judicial independence remain a serious concern. Women's sexual and reproductive rights are under attack, with the conviction in 2023 of a rights activist for helping a woman access abortion pills. Government officials openly promote anti-LGBT rhetoric and many municipalities have established so-called "LGBT Ideology-Free" zones. Independent media outlets and journalists face threats and obstacles in their reporting. While Poland admitted many people fleeing the war in Ukraine, punitive restrictions on migrants and asylum seekers from other parts of the world remain in force.



**Sources: Human Rights Watch - HRW.org**

## Further information:

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**Our website has updates:**

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The Peter Tatchell Foundation has long been campaigning for an Olympics that respects human rights