

M. Gianni Infantino  
President, FIFA  
FIFA Strasse 20, PO Box 8044  
Zurich, Switzerland

21 June 2023

Dear M. Infantino,

**Re: Afghanistan Women's National Team**

We are writing to you as Parliamentarians in the legislatures of the United Kingdom, Australia, Portugal, and Italy, inspired by the [recent call to action](#) from Khalida and Malala, in support of the Women's National team of Afghanistan.

When the Taliban regained power in the country in 2021, it immediately banned women's representation in sports, meaning that the women of the national teams, from the senior teams down to the youth teams, were denied the chance to represent their country at international level, in addition to the total abolition of women's sports at a grassroots level.

Article 3 of the FIFA statutes states:

"FIFA is committed to respecting all internationally recognised human rights and shall strive to promote the protection of these rights."

Furthermore, Article 22 of the FIFA ethics code states the following:

"Persons bound by this Code shall not offend the dignity or integrity of a country, private person or group of people through contemptuous, discriminatory or denigratory words or actions on account of race, skin colour, ethnicity, nationality, social origin, gender, disability, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, sexual orientation or any other reason."

With the Afghanistan Women's Senior Team currently in exile in Australia, and the Development side in the United Kingdom, we are writing as Parliamentarians from the respective legislatures to request that FIFA stand by their statutes and commit to supporting the preservation of the Afghan women's freedom to play football.

With this year being a World Cup year, co-hosted by Australia, the time for action is now.

Yours sincerely,



**Malala Yousafzai**



**Khalida Popal**



**Julie Elliott MP**

Debbie Abrahams MP (UK)	Rushanara Ali MP (UK)	Fleur Anderson MP (UK)
Tonia Antoniazzi MP (UK)	Hannah Bardell MP (UK)	Senator Catryna Bilyk (AUS)
The Rt Hon. Baroness Blackstone (UK)	Bernardo Blanco MP (PT)	Baroness Blower (UK)
On. Laura Boldrini (ITA)	Ben Bradshaw MP (UK)	Ian Byrne MP (UK)
Carla Castro MP (PT)	Wendy Chamberlain MP (UK)	Sarah Champion MP (UK)
Senator Claire Chandler (AUS)	Joanna Cherry KC MP (UK)	Lord Clark of Windemere (UK)
The Rt Hon. Jeremy Corbyn MP (UK)	Joana Cordeiro MP (PT)	Senator Dorinda Cox (AUS)
Tracey Crouch MP (UK)	Alex Davies-Jones MP (UK)	Dame Caroline Dinenage MP (UK)
Allan Dorans MP (UK)	Flick Drummond MP (UK)	Colum Eastwood MP (UK)
Clive Efford MP (UK)	Stephen Farry MP (UK)	João Cotrim de Figueiredo MP (PT)
Lord Foster of Bath (UK)	Vicky Foxcroft MP (UK)	Rosário Gamboa MP (PT)
Preet Gill MP (UK)	Patrícia Gilvaz MP (PT)	Mary Glindon MP (UK)
Patrick Grady MP (UK)	Sarah Green MP (UK)	Lilian Greenwood MP (UK)
Drew Hendry MP (UK)	Wera Hobhouse MP (UK)	Sharon Hodgson MP (UK)
Rachel Hopkins MP (UK)	Rupa Huq MP (UK)	Christine Jardine MP (UK)

Dame Diana Johnson MP (UK)	Kim Johnson MP (UK)	Michelle Landry MP (AUS)
Ian Lavery MP (UK)	Kim Leadbeater MP (UK)	Emma Lewell-Buck MP (UK)
Baroness Lister of Burtersett (UK)	Sir Tony Lloyd MP (UK)	Angus MacNeil MP (UK)
Seema Malhotra MP (UK)	Rachael Maskell MP (UK)	Miguel Costa Matos MP (PT)
Siobhain McDonagh MP (UK)	John McDonnell MP (UK)	Baroness Merron (UK)
Carol Monaghan MP (UK)	António Monteiro MP (PT)	Jess Morden MP (UK)
The Rt Hon. Baroness Morris of Yardley (UK)	Helen Morgan MP (UK)	Charlotte Nichols MP (UK)
Senator Deborah O'Neill (AUS)	Kate Osamor MP (UK)	Senator Matt O'Sullivan (AUS)
Taiwo Owatemi MP (UK)	Sarah Owen MP (UK)	Joana Sá Pereira MP (PT)
Graham Perrett MP (AUS)	João José Pina Prata MP (PT)	Carlos Guimarães Pinto MP (PT)
Lucy Powell MP (UK)	Anum Qaisar MP (UK)	Christina Rees MP (UK)
Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP (UK)	Baron Robertson of Port Ellen (UK)	Rui Rocha MP (PT)
Silvia Roggiani (ITA)	Miguel Santos MP (PT)	Pedro dos Santos Frazão MP (PT)
Rodrigo Saraiva MP (PT)	Liz Saville Roberts MP (UK)	Virendra Sharma MP (UK)
Tommy Sheppard MP (UK)	Senator David Shoebridge (AUS)	Jeff Smith MP (UK)

Carla Sousa MP  
(PT)

Zarah Sultana MP  
(UK)

Sam Tarry MP  
(UK)

Baroness Taylor of Bolton  
(UK)

Marta Temido MP  
(PT)

Alison Thewliss MP  
(UK)

Richard Thomson MP  
(UK)

Senator Lidia Thorpe  
(AUS)

The Rt Hon. Valerie Vaz  
(UK)

Christian Wakeford MP  
(UK)

Baroness Warwick of  
Undercliffe (UK)

Catherine West MP  
(UK)

Philippa Whitford MP  
(UK)