



American ideals. Universal values.

December 5, 2014

Ms. Anita L. Defrantz  
International Olympic Committee  
Château de Vidy  
Case postale 356  
1001 Lausanne, Switzerland

Dear Ms. Defrantz:

As an organization that supports human rights and non-discrimination internationally, we write to offer our strong support for Proposal 14 in the [Olympic Agenda 2020](#) which would strengthen the 6<sup>th</sup> Fundamental Principle of Olympism (Principle 6) by making explicit mention of non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. We urge you to support this Proposal and to reach out to your international colleagues urging them to do the same.

We are concerned that this proposal was not drafted more broadly to include discrimination based on gender identity and we also urge you to take all possible steps to work towards that goal.

The recent move to incorporate Principle 6 into the Host City contract process is one we welcome, but we remain concerned that this change will not have a meaningful impact until Principle 6 is amended to explicitly include all types of discrimination that are incompatible with the Olympics.

Many in the international community—including United Nations' human rights experts and U.S. President Barack Obama—have spoken out in opposition to anti-LGBT laws worldwide, including the laws in Russia that are currently being used to persecute LGBT individuals and that unfortunately harmed the reputation of the Olympics in Sochi. During the 2014 Olympic Games, Russian authorities arrested dozens of LGBT activists, allies, and journalists in an attempt to silence voices of dissent.

When LGBT individuals or supporters in a host country are arrested or harassed before, during, or after the Olympics, the reputations of the Games and the IOC are damaged. Anti-gay initiatives that are underway in countries like Kazakhstan would be violations of universal human rights and infringe upon the Olympic ideals of inclusion and freedom from persecution. These proposals are not only an affront to basic principles of non-discrimination and equality that should be upheld by the IOC, but they also contradict the rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

We thank you in advance for your leadership on this issue and we look forward to working with the IOC to guarantee the safety and human rights of all athletes and spectators at future Olympic Games.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Gaylord".

Shawn Gaylord  
Advocacy Counsel, LGBT Rights

1/1