

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 27, 2025

Mr. Gianni Infantino  
President  
FIFA  
11 Hitziweg,  
8030 Zurich,  
Switzerland

Mr. Heimo Schirgi  
FIFA World Cup Chief Operating Officer  
FIFA  
11 Hitziweg,  
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Mr. Manolo Zubiria  
Chief Tournament Officer - USA  
FIFA World Cup 2026  
11 Hitzigweg,  
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Mrs. Amy Hopfinger  
Chief Strategy & Planning Officer  
FIFA World Cup 2026  
161 NW 6th Street,  
Miami, Florida, 33136

Mr. G.B. Jones  
Chief of Safety & Security  
FIFA World Cup 2026  
161 NW 6th Street,  
Miami, Florida, 33136

Dear Mr. Infantino and executives of FIFA and the FIFA World Cup 2026,

Between June 11th and July 19th, 2026, Canada, Mexico, and the United States will host the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup 2026. This event is an opportunity to showcase to the world, the United States' ability to coordinate an exceptional experience for fans and visitors gathering to cheer on their countries and teams. From the United States' state-of-the-art stadiums to our vibrant and culturally rich cities, the United States is equipped to elevate this global celebration of soccer to new heights. With that said, we are writing to ensure that safety and security are a consideration and partnership you're considering within our communities.

The United States' strength will especially be demonstrated through U.S. hospitality, innovation, and infrastructure, which will only add to the unforgettable experience we hope every player and fan will have. The democratic values of openness and freedom that define the United States are and will be reflected in our contribution to the 2026 tournament and everything the sport at its best represents: competition and exceptionalism.

This World Cup will be the largest ever held, hosted across 16 cities in the three countries and featuring 104 matches from 48 teams. The United States is excited to be at the center of this premier international soccer competition, hosting 78 matches across 11 of our nation's host cities. The World Cup is estimated to have a \$90 million to \$480 million economic impact per host city.<sup>1</sup>

Host cities for this event are committed to taking the requisite steps for this event to be safe and successful. However, large-scale events like the World Cup bring certain challenges that affect local communities and vulnerable individuals. As conversations are ongoing between Congress and Host City Committees regarding Federal support for vital security funding needs, one critical issue that FIFA should not overlook is the need to prevent and respond to any human trafficking. However, in the past, FIFA has faced criticism for its poor track record in addressing human rights violations, as evidenced during the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, it is imperative that FIFA support host cities for the 2026 World Cup to ensure better outcomes.

As you are likely aware, human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit a person for illegal labor or commercial sex. This modern-day slavery occurs every day across our country, as well as around the world, and often targets children. In the United States alone, thousands of cases of human trafficking are reported every year, with children and adults being exploited across every state and territory, and in urban, rural and tribal areas.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, human trafficking is not confined within a city, state, or country, as many victims are frequently transported across U.S. state lines and international borders to different areas of exploitation.<sup>4,5</sup> Efforts to combat human trafficking during the World Cup have begun in some host states, including requiring public awareness campaigns and signage to be distributed before and during the World Cup and directing law enforcement and prosecuting agencies to identify and respond to the increased risk of human trafficking.<sup>6</sup>

We know that FIFA developed the FIFA World Cup 2026 Human Rights Framework, a guidance document developed for the 16 FIFA World Cup Host City Committees, the local entities responsible for organizing and delivering the FIFA World Cup 2026 in each city.<sup>7</sup> This Framework will be used as a guide by Host City Committees to develop tailored human rights

<sup>1</sup> Grady Trimble, February 14, 2024, "World Cup 2026 expected to bring economic boost to American host cities," *FOXBusiness*, <https://www.foxbusiness.com/sports/world-cup-2026-expected-bring-economic-boost-american-host-cities>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State, *2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Qatar*, <https://state.gov/reports/2021-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/qatar>

<sup>3</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, October 2023, "Human Trafficking Data Collection Activities, 2023," <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/human-trafficking-data-collection-activities-2023#:~:text=NCJ%20Number,male%20and%2058%25%20were%20black>, and U.S. Department of Transportation, September 3, 2024, "Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign," <https://www.transportation.gov/TLAHT/campaign>

<sup>4</sup> Nicole Bambas and Maha Alkhateeb, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 2020, "Combating Human Trafficking," [https://highways.dot.gov/public-roads/autumn-2020/combating-human-trafficking#:~:text=Nearly%2025%20million%20people%20globally,cruise%20ships%20\(3%20percent\)](https://highways.dot.gov/public-roads/autumn-2020/combating-human-trafficking#:~:text=Nearly%2025%20million%20people%20globally,cruise%20ships%20(3%20percent))

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Human Trafficking, <https://www.cbp.gov/border-security/human-trafficking>

<sup>6</sup> Assembly, No. 4432, State of Jersey, 221st Legislature, May 20, 2024, [https://pub.njleg.gov/Bills/2024/A4500/4432\\_11.HTM#:~:text=The%20bill%20also%20requires%20the,the%202026%20FIFA%20World%20Cup](https://pub.njleg.gov/Bills/2024/A4500/4432_11.HTM#:~:text=The%20bill%20also%20requires%20the,the%202026%20FIFA%20World%20Cup) and FIFA Dallas, "Human Rights Plan," <https://www.dallasfwc26.com/dallas-2026/human-rights-plan/#:~:text=Our%20Human%20Rights%20Plan%20for,the%20local%20and%20global%20levels>

<sup>7</sup> FIFA, June 2024, "FWC26 Human Rights Framework," [https://digitalhub.fifa.com/m/494d934f7de1bad/original/FWC26-Human-Rights-Framework\\_Final\\_EN\\_24-July-2024.pdf](https://digitalhub.fifa.com/m/494d934f7de1bad/original/FWC26-Human-Rights-Framework_Final_EN_24-July-2024.pdf)

action plans in consultation with FIFA, local governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, and community groups. The Framework specifically asks Host City Committees to focus on survivor-informed approaches to identifying, combatting, and remedying human trafficking in connection with the hosting and staging of the World Cup and access to existing support networks for survivors of human trafficking, child sexual abuse, and sexual assault. However, combatting human trafficking around this major and wide-reaching event will require a comprehensive approach beyond the Host Cities themselves.

The FIFA World Cup is considered the world's largest sporting event and is expected to bring millions of fans to the United States. FIFA has already been in contact with federal, state and local governments to ensure that this event happens smoothly and efficiently.<sup>8</sup> We want to make sure that FIFA is considering how to combat human trafficking not just in host cities, but throughout North America. This collaboration should include robust preventative measures, partnerships with law enforcement, and engagement with community organizations to ensure that this World Cup serves as a model for future events. By setting a new standard in 2026, FIFA can build a foundation for continued progress and accountability as preparations begin for the 2030 World Cup, reinforcing your organization's commitment to human rights.

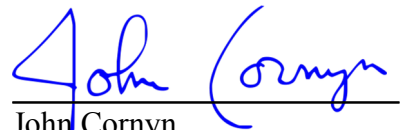
We respectfully request information about the comprehensive efforts FIFA is taking to support the Host City Committees in combatting human trafficking in host cities, states and across the continent, in addition to any financial commitments you are providing to Host Cities, local or national organizations and any education and training you are providing to your teams, players, and staff on the issue. We also request information about any efforts you are making with local and federal law enforcement and non-profits in advance of, during, and after the World Cup to support anti-trafficking and survivor assistance initiatives.

We want to work with you to make sure the United States and FIFA are prepared to prevent and reduce human trafficking, as well as support survivors, ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 but your organization needs to do better than it has in the past in this area.<sup>9</sup> If we can make connections to help you coordinate with any stakeholders, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



John Cornyn  
United States Senator

<sup>8</sup> May 17, 2024, "FIFA Must Publish Robust Human Rights Framework for 2026 World Cup," *Global Labor Justice*, <https://laborrights.org/releases/fifa-must-publish-robust-human-rights-framework-2026-world-cup>

<sup>9</sup> Human Rights Watch, FIFA Broke Own Human Rights Rules for World Cup Hosts, Human Rights Watch (Oct. 27, 2023), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/10/27/fifa-broke-own-human-rights-rules-world-cup-hosts>



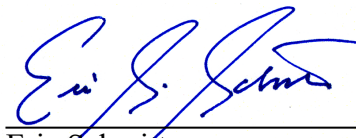
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Josh Hawley  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Eric Schmitt  
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



James C. Justice  
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



James Lankford  
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff  
United States Senator



Katie Boyd Britt  
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator



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Gary Peters  
United States Senator



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Ted Cruz  
United States Senator



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Alex Padilla  
United States Senator

CC:

Peter Montopoli, Chief Tournament Officer of FIFA World Cup 2026 Canada  
Jurgen Mainka, Chief Tournament Officer of FIFA World Cup 2026 Mexico  
Pam Kramer, CEO of FIFA World Cup 2026 Kansas City Host Committee  
Peter Tomozawa, CEO of FIFA World Cup 2026 Seattle Host Committee  
Lisa Lutoff-Perlo, CEO of FIFA World Cup 2026 Miami Host Committee  
Dan Hunt, President of FIFA World Cup 2026 Dallas Host Committee  
Chris Canetti, President of FIFA World Cup 2026 Houston Host Committee  
Brian Bilello, President of FIFA World Cup 2026 Boston Host Committee  
Dan Corso, President of FIFA World Cup 2026 Atlanta Host Committee  
Kathryn Schloessman, President & CEO, Los Angeles Sports & Entertainment Commission and  
Los Angeles World Cup 2026 Host City Manager  
Zaileen Janmohamed, CEO of FIFA World Cup 2026 Bay Area Host Committee  
Bruce Revman, CEO of FIFA World Cup 2026 New York/New Jersey Host Committee Daniel  
Hilferty, Chairman of FIFA World Cup 2026 Philadelphia Host Committee  
Pedro Esquivel, Head of FIFA World Cup 2026 Monterrey Host Committee  
FIFA World Cup 2026 Mexico Host Committee  
Ainara Zatarain, Global Sustainability Manager of FIFA World Cup 2026 Guadalajara Host  
Committee Sharon  
Bollenbach, Executive Director of FIFA World Cup 2026 Toronto Host Committee  
Jesse Adcock, Secretariat Lead of FIFA World Cup 2026 Vancouver Host Committee