



Tuesday 17 November
16:40 to 18:00
Room XX (Building E)

Identifying solutions to key human rights challenges associated with Mega Sporting Events

Mega Sporting Events (MSEs) like the Olympics and FIFA World Cup have enormous potential to generate human rights good on and off the field of play, including through job creation and skills opportunities, new social housing and urban leisure spaces, and shifting public attitudes for example towards people with disability or women's participation in sport. Yet in recent years MSEs have come under intense scrutiny over adverse human rights impacts. Forced evictions and housing rights issues have been a recurring theme for example in South Africa and Brazil. During venue construction and infrastructure development workplace rights abuses, and migrant worker exploitation have been a major concern, including in Beijing, Sochi and Qatar. Allegations of sweatshop labour in the manufacture of sporting goods and event-merchandise arises often including ahead of the London Games. During the event itself homophobic and racial chanting, reports of constraints on homeless people and the livelihoods of street-vendors, and clampdowns on the right to protest are also commonplace. These events shine a spotlight on existing human rights challenges in host countries, and on the sponsors, broadcasters and other companies active in their staging and delivery.

This session will highlight some of the specific human rights challenges confronting sports governing bodies, host governments and delivery bodies, the sponsors, broadcasters and companies that enable these events to take place. The discussion will highlight instances of emerging good practice from a variety of actors and geographies. The session also offers a chance to raise awareness around the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and other international human rights standards that offer a roadmap to minimizing negative human rights impacts. In particular, the session will focus the need for collective action and greater engagement with affected groups, to ensure MSEs retain their social legitimacy and moral authority.

Moderator:

John Morrison - Executive Director, Institute for Human Rights and Business

Panel:

- *Federico Addiechi - Head of Sustainability, Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)*
- *Tania Braga - Committee Head of Sustainability, Accessibility and Legacy, Rio 2016 Olympic Committee*
- *Sharan Burrow - General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)*
- *Hiroshi Ishida - Executive Director, Caux Round Table Japan*
- *Puvan Selvanathan - Member, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights*
- *Hisahiro Sugiura, Executive Director Games Operations, Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games*
- *Brent Wilton - Global Director, Workplace Rights and Human Rights, Coca-Cola*

Forum Twitter hashtag: [#bizhumanrights](https://twitter.com/bizhumanrights)

Watch live: <http://webtv.un.org/>