**The Social Forum of the Human Rights Council**

Side event

2 October 2018, 13:35-15:00 Room XXV

Geneva, Palais des Nations

**‘‘Is a meaningful social legacy and social engagement for human rights with sports mega events possible?’**

Moderated by Piara Powar, Fare network executive director.

Speakers:

* Kelly Sotherton, former GB Olympic athlete, United Kingdom
* Patrick Gasser, Head of Football and Social Responsibility, UEFA, Switzerland
* Natalie Gedra, Sports correspondent, ESPN, Brazil
* Vitaliy Gorokhov, Associate professor, Comparative Political Studies, RANEPA, Russia
* Alexander Agapov, Russian LGBT Sport Federation, Russia

The side event, organised by the Fare network, will feature athletes, civil society and minority groups to debate whether a meaningful social legacy of sporting mega events for human rights is possible.

Sporting mega events generate opportunities to raise human rights issues in countries where they are hosted, putting them in the spotlight of world attention. The population of host countries can be affected in a number of negative ways by way of people displacement, environmental impact, economic costs, labour rights violations and discrimination of ethnic and other minorities. At the same time, the international spotlight can generate pressure to improve the human rights situation and offer a compelling human narrative from the achievements of athletes.

But how far can the positive social change go during and, especially, after sporting mega events? What is the social legacy for the affected populations and minority communities and how sustainable can it potentially be?

Referring specifically to the examples of recent events, including the FIFA World Cup Russia 2018, participants will discuss the limits and opportunities mega events present for human rights in the host countries.