

Brussels, 16th February 2021

*To the attention of Mr. Gianni Infantino, President of FIFA*

Dear President Infantino,

In our capacity of Members of the European Parliament, we are writing to ask you to provide us with explanations on the facts occurred during the Club World Cup medal ceremony in Doha, on the 12th February 2021.

Images of the award ceremony show an unacceptable difference in treatment between women and men. During the ceremony, Sheik Joaan bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Qatari Prince and also president of the Qatar Olympic Committee, greets the male referees with his fist, while the two female officials, Edina Alves Batista and Neuza Back, are not acknowledged with the same gesture.

In football, there must be no place for any form of discrimination and FIFA should strongly condemn any difference in treatment between women and men. We ask you to take urgent action to tackle gender discrimination in football and further promote gender equality.

In light of the upcoming 2022 World Cup, to be held in Qatar from the 21st November to the 18th December, we would like to express our strong concern on women's rights restrictions applied in this country, due to the male guardianship law, and we kindly ask you to provide us with explanations on how FIFA will ensure that gender equality will be protected and promoted during this sports event.

We look forward to receiving your reply and learning how you will take action.

Yours sincerely,

Irène Tolleret MEP  
Marc Angel MEP  
Carmen Avram MEP  
François-Xavier Bellamy MEP  
Brando Benifei MEP  
Segio Berlato MEP  
Izaskun Bilbao Barandica MEP  
Sylvie Brunet MEP  
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Olivier Chastel MEP  
Antoni Comín i Oliveres MEP  
Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield MEP  
Laurence Farreng MEP  
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Marie-Pierre Vedrenne MEP  
Guy Verhofstadt MEP  
Salima Yenbou MEP  
Stéphanie Yon-Courtin MEP  
Chrysoula Zacharopoulou MEP

Erwan Balanant, Member of the French National Assembly  
Bérangère Couillard, Member of the French National Assembly  
Nadège Havet, Member of the French Senate  
Danièle Héryn, Member of the French National Assembly  
Gael Le Bohec, Member of the French National Assembly  
Corinne Vignon, Member of the French National Assembly