



Olympia

Jump in Olympia. Strong(er) Women through Sport

European Chart of Women's Right in Sports



Acknowledgement:

Doc. Daniela Conti, Doc. Francesca D'Ercole (UISP)

Prof. Gertrud Pfister (Department of Exercise and Sport Sciences, University of Copenhagen)

Doc. Heidi Thaler, Doc. Elisabeth Kotvojs (FairPlay – VIDC)

Doc. Marvin Radford (ISCA)

Doc. Carine Bloch, Doc. Arnaud Kenigsberg (LICRA)

Jacques Cortie (Interactiva)

A special thanks to all the women and men of all the associations who has actively participated at the writing of the chart and the creation of the different events.

European Charter of Women's Rights in Sports

The European Charter of Women's Rights in Sports is addressed to sports organisations and federations, sports participants, supporter groups, public authorities, EU institutions and all organisations that may have a direct or indirect impact on the promotion of "sport for all" and particularly for campaigning in favour of equal opportunities between women and men in sport.

This Charter about gender equality in sport is addressed to all people without any distinction of culture, religion, age, mental and physical capacities, sexual orientation or social standing. It is important to emphasize that this Charter embodies universal values of equity and it provides specific measures to reinforce gender equality policies for targeted groups.

Introduction

The ***White Paper on Sport*** and the recognition of sport in the Lisbon Treaty bring new life to it: "Sport is one of the areas of human activity that most concerns and brings together citizens of the European Union. Due to its capacity to reach out to everyone, regardless of age or social origin, sport can play various roles in European society" (White Paper on Sport, 2007).

The ***"Charter of Women's Rights in Sports"*** of 1985, proposed by UISP and adopted by the European Parliament in 1987 as the Resolution on Women in Sport (doc. A 2-32/87/rev), was the first step that officially acknowledged the claim of equal opportunities for women and men in sport within the context of the European Union.

The Charter highlighted the very high inequality between women and men in the field of sport and stressed the importance of overcoming the numerous cultural barriers that prevent women's involvement.

In spite of some progress and the increase in the number of women practising sport, discrepancies still exist in terms of equal opportunities in some areas of sport.

The expansion of the European Union requires a review and update of the Charter (1985 version).

The basis of this Charter and subsequent initiatives was the awareness that the quality of society depends on equal rights of its entire population, including equal opportunities in sport, namely elite sport as well as sport for all. "All" in this context implies women and men, boys and girls, people of all ages, migrants and people with disadvantages and impairments.

Many variables must be considered: there are those who wish to compete and are interested in performance, while others practise sport just for fun or personal pleasure; some people prefer practising alone, others take part in organised sports activities. In all cases, each individual should have equal access to the activity of his/her choice and be equally represented in decision-making groups and committees.

Participation in sport

Everyone has the right to participate in sport in a safe environment that preserves human dignity. Women and men of all ages coming from a different social and ethnic background must have the same opportunities to practise sport.

Sports organisations and institutions must be responsible for implementing gender equality and find means of governance to promote women's participation in sport at all levels.

Recommendations for sports clubs

- Time: Very high flexibility in the scheduling of sports venues and focus on the requirements and desires of all groups, in particular girls and women.
- Location: Allocation of sports facilities on an equal basis to all groups. More attention should be given to “women friendly” sports areas: dressing rooms, common areas, sports halls and gym facilities should meet the expectations of women.
- Allocation of available financial resources on an equal basis to all groups in the organisation.
- Development of sport opportunities, in particular for girls and women from underprivileged backgrounds.

Recommendations for sports federations and associations

- Work for an organisational transformation of the federation/association to accommodate women in various areas and roles.
- Organise activities in different educational environments such as schools, youth centres and sports centres, which should encourage girls and women to participate in sport.
- Foster a women-friendly environment in elite sport that allows women to combine sport with motherhood.
- Develop programs for the growth of women's sport participation and seek co-operation with political stakeholders in similar areas (Ministry of Health, Social Affairs, etc).
- Allocate available financial resources for sport participation on an equal basis.
- Allocate sports facilities to all relevant groups on an equal basis.

- Include explicit anti-sexist clauses in the federations' statutes and regulations.

Recommendations for the EU

- Support the promotion of sport activities among girls and women.
- Support and encourage European research that investigates the reasons why girls abandon sports.
- Support and encourage national and international federations and associations to promote special programmes that increase women's participation in sport.
- Support and empower European bodies to promote and implement the Charter's recommendations.

Leadership

Women and men must have the same opportunities to participate in decision-making at all levels as well as in all areas of sport. They must be equally represented on boards, committees and in managerial positions.

The EC and Member States must take concrete measures to ensure equal representation of women and men in decision-making positions in sports organisations and institutions, as well as in administrations and agencies dealing with sport.

A quota system and additional pro-active action are needed to attain this goal.

Recommendations for sports federations and associations

- Sports associations and authorities should adopt regulations in their statutes that make equal representation of women and men in all decision-making positions mandatory.
- Sports organisations should develop mentoring programs, leadership training and counselling for women and men, as well as support networks for female leaders to improve the gender balance in sport leadership.
- Sports organisations and authorities should enhance awareness of gender inequality (and its negative impact on the organisation, on the sports environment and on society as a whole), implement gender mainstreaming programs and provide gender education to members and staff at all levels.
- A quota of managerial positions for women and men at all decision-making levels (national federations, regional organisations, clubs, etc.) should be assigned. The number of positions allocated to both genders must be related to the percentage of female and male members.
- Educational and training programmes should be organised that encourage and enable women to work at various echelons of leadership, e.g. as administrators or referees.
- Establish a women's committee with the task of promoting and supporting women's participation on boards.

- Detect structural discrimination and spread knowledge about this form of discrimination, e.g. via seminars.
- Support the education and employment of female trainers and use successful women trainers as role models.
- Train and promote women to managerial positions (including the management of men and top level male athletes), so that they can become leaders and educators (of women and men) or referees/umpires (also for male sports).
- Organise seminars dealing with structural discrimination.

Recommendations for the EU

- Recognition and financial support of sports associations and institutions should depend on compliance with gender equality in all areas and at all levels of sport.
- The EC, member states and sports organisations should collect and disseminate data on the persistence of gender inequalities.
- The EC and member states should promote networking between key persons and groups and the exchange of experiences and good practises.
- The EC should encourage and support studies on gender inequality in various sports areas and on the effects of the measures mentioned above. The results of these studies will provide information on the impact of the interventions.
- Set up formal or informal meetings and encourage networking among women.
- Acknowledge the contribution of women who occupy leadership positions.

Education and sport / Physical Education

Girls and women, as well as boys and men, must have the same right to learn various sports and skills and to develop physical literacy and fitness.

Both genders should be given the chance to develop a life-long commitment to sport and to the physical activities of their choice.

Physical education teachers, coaches, health professionals and other groups working in educational environments should be made aware of gender discrimination in sport and should adopt and implement the principles of gender equality.

Recommendations for Ministries of Education, school administrations, teachers of sports organisations, sports organisations and federations

- Physical Education (PE) should promote and encourage male and female students to a life-long commitment to physical activities and sport.
- Enhance physical education for boys and girls in all schools and provide extracurricular activities in various sports and at various levels.
- Inform teachers and coaches about the principles and practises of gender equality in sports.
- Inform students' parents on the benefits of sport, in particular for girls.

- Invite sports clubs to present their programmes and activities and encourage female students, in particular, to join a club.
- Invite elite female athletes to schools to share their experiences with students and to encourage them to become active.
- Give lectures to inform girls about women in sport and about opportunities available, e.g. as managers, coaches, referees and related jobs (management, educators, referees/umpires, etc.).

Recommendations for the EU

- Support the implementation of the principles mentioned above in educational institutions.
- Encourage exchange of principles and best practises with reference to gender equality issues in an educational context in EU countries.
- Encourage the collection of gender segregated statistics of contents and participation in PE and research about the effects of various forms of PE.
- Encourage the exchange of knowledge with regard to sport curricula, teaching experiences and physical education teacher training.

Research and scientific communities

Women and men should have the same opportunities to become members of sports scientific communities and to influence theories, methods and research topics.

Equal participation and equal treatment of women and men at all levels and in all fields of sports sciences should be promoted.

Recommendations for University and Scientific Committees within sports organisations

- Women's "sport cultures", e.g. abilities, sensitivities and practises, should be a topic of research studies.
- Develop education and training programmes that take women's attitudes into account in all training agencies, schools and universities.
- Enhance the awareness of gender inequality in sports sciences.
- Make female scholars and their work visible, e.g. through awards for female scholars.
- Encourage networks of women in sports sciences.
- Guarantee transparency of selection criteria in recruitment processes for academic positions, promotion and in fundraising.
- There should be opportunities for women and men to strike a balance between a scientific career and private life.
- Reconciliation of private and professional life should not be considered a problem but an asset that enriches the lives of both female and male scholars.

- The care of children must be considered as a task of both women and men, and family needs must be taken into account in various ways, e.g. research abroad, parental leave, etc.
- Change the sports science workplace culture based on hierarchy, competition and self-exploitation (detrimental for both genders).
- Introduce a ban on harassment (including sexual harassment) in the scientific community.
- Promote research and exchange of knowledge about gender issues in the academic community.

Recommendations for the EU

- Support the training of women in technical roles, as well as in organisational management and leadership roles, in sports sciences.
- Develop, implement and monitor goals and action plans to improve gender equality in sports sciences.
- Develop guidelines for the scientific community and policy makers that target the promotion of women.
- Assign quotas for women members of decision-making committees and related bodies in the area of sports sciences.
- Set up grants and special funding for female sports researchers.

Women, sport and the media

Mass media has an enormous impact on the development of culture in the EU and must be the first to embrace the principles and values of gender mainstreaming, not least the priorities and recommendations established by this Charter.

Female athletes must have the same opportunities as men to be represented in mass media.

Media coverage should respect the dignity of the individual.

Women should be equally represented in media-related positions, such as journalists, photographers or editors.

Recommendations for sports organisations and federations

- Organisation of gender mainstreaming training workshops with journalists and media workers.
- Increase space dedicated to women's sports in the publications of sports organisations.
- Create a digital platform where it is possible to download high-quality reports, stories and portraits of athletes with particular emphasis on sportswomen.
- Encourage women, in particular female athletes, to address mass media and demand coverage.

- Encourage female athletes to convey success stories and share best practises with audiences/readers.

Recommendations for the EU

- Establish an annual European night of women in sport where female athletes get attention and coverage.
- Support the publication of a magazine on women's sports at all levels (from the top echelons to grassroots), in order to give them more visibility.

Audiences and fans

Women should have the same opportunity as men to express their love of sport by being fans and through their participation as members of fan communities.

Female fans should be respected as experts, given access to the core activities of supporters groups and not be considered as merely uninformed spectators or consumers who don't share the group's core ideals.

Recommendations for fan groups

- Speak up against sexist abuse in the stands.
- Do not take part in sexist chanting.
- Design a banner, a two-pole banner, a pin or a sticker with a strong message objecting to sexism.
- Write an article in a fanzine, dedicate a fanzine to sexism in sport.
- Make sure that the statutes and regulations of sports clubs and federations include explicit "anti-sexism" clauses.
- Change fan rituals, chants or fan clubs' names that exclude women.

Recommendations for clubs and federations

- Encourage the presence of women at major football events by creating a welcoming, women-friendly atmosphere.
- Statutes and regulations of sports federations and clubs should explicitly include a ban on sexism and should contain concrete measures to react to sexist incidents.
- Sports federations and clubs should make the fight against sexism a priority.
- Sports federations and clubs shall include in their statutes clauses that explicitly mention the rejection of sexism.

New rules for a new Europe

Europe is continuously evolving and has to face the changes and challenges of different cultures that live within its borders on a daily basis. In order to be an open and democratic

society, it is fundamental that all rights established become applicable for all without any form of discrimination.

These final paragraphs are suggestions for further thinking, research and a close examination of topics regarding gender and equal opportunities.

- Sexual orientation and transgender athletes

Discrimination against individuals because of their sexual orientation is unacceptable at all levels and in all areas of sport.

Special attention must be given to the rights and opportunities of transgendered persons in sports clubs, federations and associations.

The opportunities for transgendered persons to participate in sports competitions must be explored.

Potential solutions for the inclusion of these athletes in competitive sport must respect their dignity and needs.

- Sexual harassment and abuse

Sexual harassment and abuse remain a problem in sport for both women and men alike. It is important that this issue is discussed in Europe, providing a common basis for enhancing awareness and training of trainers, teachers and coaches, as well as athletes and sports participants. Sports clubs and federations must not only ban perpetrators, but also develop strategies and measures to prevent or even eradicate sexual harassment.

- Prostitution

Sport is an important cultural reality, and even if it cannot solve alone all the problems of discrimination and abuse in society, raising awareness of these issues is vital. Major sports events often bring about issues of prostitution and procuring. On these occasions, women are physically and psychologically affected. The European Parliament discussed the problem on the occasion of the 2006 Football World Cup in Germany with a statement on the "resolution on strategies to prevent the trafficking of women and children who are vulnerable to sexual exploitation" ([2004/2216\(INI\)](#)). In order to help governments and Institutions to tackle this phenomenon, it is also important for the sports world to speak up through an information and awareness campaign.

Annex

Participation in sport

Eurobarometer statistics show that the participation of women in sport has been growing considerably since the 1980's. More women regularly practise sport or are athletes at a high level. There is also an increase in the number and variety of sports practised. These changes are positive and reflect the continuing evolution of European culture.

Nevertheless, problems remain for women practicing sport both at the amateur and professional levels.

Eurobarometer statistics indicate a high abandon rate among women from age 25 to 50. The main reason given is lack of time. This reflects the wide array of roles that women must play in their lives and the difficulty they have in conciliating them (being wife, mother, daughter, worker, etc.). Sports clubs are still structured according to a "man mentality" (in terms of structure and time), and flexibility is insufficient.

Women athletes at high level have different problems mainly linked to motherhood. As a matter of fact, there are very few maternity services at the federal level. Consequently, women are faced with difficult choices.

Men's and women's awards in most national and international competitions are very different.

The growing presence of women from different countries, cultures and religions is forcing the sports world to rethink the practices and customs of sports and adapt facilities to the new needs demanded by this specific target group.

Good Practices

ITALY: UISP Turin's "Lo Sport delle ragazze" (Girls' Sport) is a project targeting the city's female Muslim community that envisages the opening of two facilities dedicated to women and girls and operated by UISP Turin. The venue is open to women of any nationality and cultural background and offers courses as well as free-time and children's activities. Its goal is to bring people together and provide opportunities to socialize while promoting body culture.

ITALY: UISP Genoa offers a mediation initiative called "Maghreb Olympic Centre", set up in 1993 as part of another project. It has now become a full-fledged centre for second- and third-generation children of migrants. The association is mainly active in Genoa's city centre and has about 200 members. Its primary role is to offer welcoming activities, provide a place where migrants (especially women) can enjoy themselves and have a shower, wash their clothes and have easy access to basic services. Along with these initiatives, sports initiatives are promoted, in addition to recreational, artistic and musical workshops for young people.

Leadership

At present, women in Europe and worldwide are largely underrepresented in decision-making positions in sports organisations and institutions in all areas and at all levels. Various initiatives, e.g. by the IOC and by sports federations, have not eradicated the barriers that prevent women from gaining access to leadership roles.

Currently, 17% of IOC members are women, and the average percentage of women on the boards of over 70 international sports federations is less than 10%. Of these bodies, 29% do not have a woman on their executive boards. Only 5 federations are headed by a female president.

A similar under-representation of female leaders can be found among European organisations: the percentage of women on the boards of the 52 European sports federations is 11%, and more than one-third of the federations do not have a woman on their board. The ENGSO (European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation) has 80% male and 20% female members on its executive committee; the EOC (European Olympic Committees) has an executive committee composed only of men.

The gender proportion of the executive boards of umbrella sports organisations in 11 selected countries is 79% to 21% in favour of men. Only 3 of the 18 umbrella federations have a female president: the British Olympic Association (BOA), the British Sport and Recreation Alliance (former CCPR) and the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sport (NIF). NIF complies with the Norwegian gender equality law, which demands positive discrimination to increase the proportion of women in decision-making processes.

A similar gender imbalance characterises the decision-making committees of sports federations in all European countries.

In addition, men dominate in sports administrations in European governments and in governmental agencies such as UK Sport and Sport England, responsible for the funding of elite sport and sport for all. The board of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) consists of 19 members, including one woman, HRH Princess Anne of England.

The low number of female leaders in sports institutions and organisations is astonishing given the fact that more than 50% of women in Europe participate in sport and physical activity. In countries such as Denmark or Germany, around 40% of sports clubs members are female. These numbers testify to women's interest in sport.

The imbalanced participation between women and men in decision-making in sport violates the fundamental tenets of democracy and human rights, as well as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979. It damages the credibility of sports institutions and calls for reform with the aim of equal participation for women and men at all levels and in all areas of sport.

Good Practices

FRANCE: Setting aside positions for women in sports management is something that has been tried successfully before. For example, judo is organised this way in France. The proportion rule is written into the by-laws of the Federation for each level of the sport (federation, local league, club). At the national level, the number of women in the executive board of the Federation must be proportionate to the number of women members. Thus, in this Federation, 27% of members are women. One can also find approximately the same proportion on its Executive Board: 5 women out of 21, which counts for 23%. The same proportion rules apply at league (League Executive Board) and club (club boards) level.

NORWAY: According to gender equality regulations in Norway, each gender shall be represented with at least 40% of members when a public institution appoints or elects committees, governing boards, councils, etc. with 4 members or more. Both genders shall be represented on committees, etc. with 2 or 3 members.

ITALY: In order to enable the participation of managers with babies or young children at all meetings, the UISP National Board has decided to pay the expenses for a person to assist managers in taking care of their babies (partner, baby sitter, etc.). This measure, adopted in 2009, has enabled women to accept managerial positions (especially on the National Board or Council) more easily, and has eliminated the need to choose between their role as mother and their role as top leader.

Physical Education and scientific communities

The role of education is to promote the individual growth of all persons at all stages of life, without discrimination of origin.

School curricula have a specific function: they must provide the means to expand cultural knowledge and provide technical and interpersonal skills, physical mobility and social relationships that are necessary for one's "self" and for the body to promote a "healthy and active lifestyle". This attention for the "individual" should result in the adoption of processes and educational programmes that integrate all differences of cultural approach.

Formal education at every level should centre on teaching people to care for the body, allowing the expression of one's "self" within relational contexts. It should use verbal and non-verbal language to eliminate the risk of cultural stereotypes, exclusionary prejudices and discriminatory attitudes.

Constant training for teachers is important because it can intervene in the delicate stages of personality development on behaviour, language and skills.

Physical education hours in school must be strengthened in all age target groups. They should undergo a gradual transition, from the budding recreational activities and psychomotor skills learning to being increasingly directed at a number of choices, without forcing one particular discipline, while always ensuring an environment that grants opportunities for all.

Likewise, in the world of sports associations, the powers of sports operators must increasingly be guided by the use of mainstreaming approaches, respectful and gender-inclusive language and knowledge of gender differences. In such manner, pedagogical, methodological and practical proposals respect differences among people.

Educators should always receive high-quality training: this ensures an high-quality offer, adapted to all ages, skills, competences and interests – as the word “all” implies.

Good practices:

ITALY: The UISP project "Friendly body, education and respect of feelings", from September 2010 to August 2011, got underway during the current school year in 9 Italian cities: Florence, Turin, Sassari, Trieste, Pesaro, Varese, Imola (Bologna), Lamezia Terme (Catanzaro) and Orvieto (Terni). The objective of the project "Friendly body" is to foster consciousness about gender differences in a target group made up of boys and girls from age 13 to 18.

Women, sport and the media

Female athletes and women’s sports/events are largely underrepresented in media coverage of all kinds (press, TV).

Despite substantial evidence, lengthy debates and some improvements, particularly in the “yellow press”, female athletes are presented differently from males, focusing on appearance, femininity and sex appeal, so that their performance and sport endeavours may not be taken seriously.

Women are largely underrepresented among sports journalists (less than 10% of sports journalists are women).

The lack of media interest has a negative influence on the engagement of sponsors and contributes to the lack of funding of women’s sports.

In proposing news, the image of women in sport is still dominated by a “male mentality”: sportswomen have difficulty in reaching the first page even when they achieve a record or win an important competition, while the description of female athletes contains terms linked to their external appearance – such as beauty, elegant clothes, expressiveness.

Once again, in sport women are considered marginal and are only used to fill newspapers pages. Neither are women’s competitions given much time on TV, underestimating the growth of the phenomenon.

The number of female journalists is still very low and they do not hold very influential positions. Women have little influence on editorial policy or newspaper headlines.

Audiences and fans

Many sports are still considered the exclusive domain of “men performing for men”. It is considered that women do not have a place in these sports by nature and, consequently, that they don’t concern them – either as active athletes or as interested spectators or fans. When they express interest in a sport, women often face the following stereotype: “what do you know about it – you are only after the handsome guys!”. When it comes to being an active supporter, for example, women who go to football stadiums are often confronted with blatant sexist abuse, rude attacks, fan rituals that are discriminating, clubs that “scent” a new group of customers and, in general, football stakeholders that entrust female fans with peacekeeping missions among the stands.

Football, in particular, but also other sports, are quite commonly surrounded with the halo of a male-dominated domain[1] – allegedly because men have always been the ones who practise the game and who follow it. This has led to the claim that some sports are a shelter for masculinity, that “by nature they are not meant for women” and therefore not open to women, either as active athletes or as interested and/or active spectators or fans.

In football, this is only a half-truth. The history of female fans is closely interrelated with the history of women’s football, as, in both cases, female involvement, engagement and enthusiasm were ignored and oppressed.

From the very beginning of the development of modern football, women have played and have watched football. With the current popularization and institutionalization of the sport and the development of the notion that football should be an exercise in discipline for young men and soldiers, women were banned from the game. Women’s teams throughout Europe were banned from playing in stadiums and were not included in the subsequent institutionalisation – for example in Germany, by the DFB, until 1970, and in England, by the FA, until 1971. It was considered as unwomanly, indecorous and rude for women to play football. However, although banned from FA structures, women played, and women have been watching and regularly attending stadiums – also a fact that has been ignored.

Considering football fans as only male and football fan culture as solely a male domain simply means to deny the fact that there have always been women watching matches in stadiums as active and interested fans, an aspect which contributes to curtail their access to this “holy sphere of football”.

The continuous and conscious re-construction of football and its stadiums as “grails of masculinity” dissuades many girls and women to enter this “foreign territory”. Those who do (approximately 25-27% of female spectators in German stadiums, for example) are confronted with many different faces of sexism at different levels – from blatant sexist abuse to bizarre expectations on the “function of femininity in this sport”:

- Clubs see women increasingly as consumers. Under the heading “pink merchandising” T-shirts, scarves and jackets are produced: a) in a cliché-ridden manner (do clubs produce light blue gadgets for men?) and b) ignoring clubs’ traditional colours, insinuating that female fans do not care about identifying with their club.

- Clubs often offer women low-priced admission: gaining privileges is not the problem, being treated equally is.
- Incentives to attract women to sport events are often included under the heading “family friendly packages”.
- “Women on peace-keeping missions”. Football stakeholders consider women as the ones who are able to “pacify” the stands, because they are by nature calm, less aggressive and peace-loving.
- Television broadcasts of sports events often display pictures of scantily dressed female fans as fillers.
- FAs publicly promote women’s football with clichés of emotion, softness, elegance: these clichés are also transferred to how women behave in the stands.
- Fan clubs that exclude women by statutes.
- Fan clubs that have the term “boys” in their name.
- Chants that express openly sexist attitudes.
- Women who are involved and active in their fan scenes are often abused personally.
- Statements and comments that describe players or their performance on the pitch as girl-like or girlish.
- More humiliating stadium entry procedures for women compared to those for men. Although men often only need to lift their T-shirts, special tents are erected where women must undress in front of the police.

Good Practices

EUROPE: F_in – Network (Women in Football). F_in is an international network of women affiliated with football either as fans, fan workers (social work), researchers, players or referees. F_in publishes articles, books, organises anti-discriminatory activities around the FARE Action Week, reports sexist incidents in football and meets once a year in order to exchange know-how and expertise and to develop new projects.

EUROPE: LGBT Fan clubs. The first German fan club of the LGBT community was established in Berlin and others soon followed. In the meantime these clubs are affiliated to the QFF – the Queer Football Fans. There are also LGBT fan clubs in France and Spain.

GERMANY: BAFF exhibition on racism, sexism and homophobia. BAFF (Alliance of active Football Fans) is a German grouping of different fan groups, fanzines and individual football fans who promote a pro-active fan culture that fights against racism, sexism and homophobia. BAFF’s aim is basically to live and preserve a critical fan culture. Amongst other activities BAFF held an exhibition on discrimination in stadiums called “Tatort Stadion” (Crime scene Stadium) that tours throughout Germany.

GERMANY: The “Stopp Rosa!” (“Stop pink!”) campaign protests against pink merchandising and is organised by supporters of Eintracht Frankfurt in Germany. Aside from the fact that pink is not a colour of the club, this protest also targets the ongoing commercialisation in football, which goes hand in hand with attempts to silence critical fans. Several supporters clubs of German football clubs, like the Schickeria of Bayern München or fans from Darmstadt, designed and organised anti-sexist choreographies and banners.

AUSTRIA: During the OLYMPIA-project, FairPlay publishes a fanzine that is not about female fans but is written by female fans. The articles deal with different fan-relevant issues like police repression, football commercialisation or club ownership.

ITALY: UISP organises the Mondiali Antirazzisti (Anti-Racist World Cup), an annual football fans non-competitive tournament. Over the last few years, the organisers have also targeted sexism with a female tournament, self-defence courses for women and banners that help spread the message.

[1] There are also some sports that are perceived as solely female sports, such as synchronised swimming. Men who practise this sport are often considered gay, proving the strong connections between sexism and homophobia.
