



REVIVE THE ROAR!

ALL COLOURS
ARE BEAUTIFUL!

How Football Fans
Tackle Discrimination

Football fans against
OMOPHO
ALL GENDER ARE BEAUTIFUL!

REVIVE THE ROAR 05

All colours are beautiful!

Homophobia

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Hi fellow EURO travellers,

And welcome to Revive the Roar the fanzine of Football Supporters Europe (FSE). In this special edition we're focussing on challenging discrimination. Now we know that sounds like a heavy topic and we can already hear you sighing. But please do keep reading. Because this isn't all doom and gloom. Many, if not all in football - the authorities, the police and security services - always seem to blame us, the fans, for all of society's problems. Now don't get me wrong of course every football fan has a fair share of issues on this topic and not everything is quite as rosy as we would like it to be. But there is ground for optimism and most football fans are engaged in rewarding activities to tackle the issues head on.

So what are the issues? Well we all want to change the world but we need to focus our energies on distinct topics- where we think we can achieve tangible results. For first, and in line with FSE's vision- we abhor all forms of discriminatory activity on and off the terraces and stand up against racism. Second, we are committed to using the social responsibility of football to welcome refugees and those seeking asylum from war zones. Thirdly, we all want to embrace the growing number of LGBTIQ fan groups and make homophobia a thing of the past and last but not least, we want to promote the participation and involvement of women football fans.

So that's what this fanzine is about and what makes it special. It's a positive look at what fans all over Europe - from Croatia to England from Russia to Germany - have done to promote football as a sport for diversity. We don't believe that the right way to challenge discrimination is to continue the negative stereotypes of supporters and blame all fans for the actions of a few. We believe that by working in the grounds, on the terraces and on and off the pitch we can make football the beautiful game. So read through these examples of how fans are welcoming refugees and integrating them into our communities; how women are standing up to sexism; how the number of visible out LGBTIQ fan groups are increasing and how you can join in tackling racism and fascism. Also there are one or two exclusives as we talk to footballers who are also standing up against discrimination.

Hey and after reading, contact us to get involved. The Anti-Discrimination Division (ADD) within FSE is an integral part of the organisation. You can join us, we're always willing to listen and learn, and you'll be part of a network of fellow football supporters from all over the continent that are all over discrimination! We meet at least twice a year to share good practice and develop new activities.

Have fun at the EURO!

Football Supporters Europe

Europe

Football Fans Against Homophobia – Solidarity against homophobia worldwide

by Martin Endemann

“Fußballfans gegen Homophobie” („Footballfans against homophobia“ or FFGH) is a German wide network of football fans from all types of clubs, initially founded as an initiative of the fans department of football club Tennis Borussia Berlin (TeBe), in cooperation with the lesbian and gay association Berlin-Brandenburg. Angry with regular homophobic abuse against our beloved club and also other stadiums, we made a big purple banner with the inscription „Fußballfans gegen Homophobie“ and a picture of two kissing players (Paul Scholes und Gary Neville), to take a stand against homophobia. Originally it was only thought to be displayed at a couples of TeBe’s games and some befriended clubs, we were quite amazed that all sorts of other fan groups approached us immediately and asked if they could hang it up at one

of their games as well. Since 2011 the banner has been at nearly 100 grounds, from the Bundesliga to the lowest league.

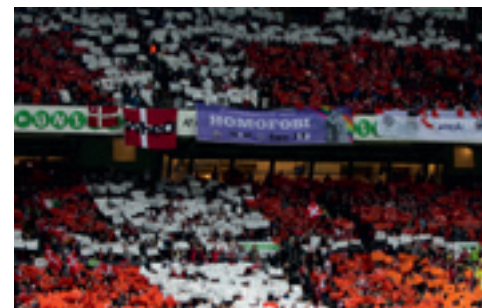
At the first network meeting of the initiative in October 2012 in Aachen, which was supported also by FSE, more than 70 supporters from 20 clubs turned up and since 2013 FFGH is also a membership organization with ever-growing membership. But it’s not only a banner which is shown during games, members also are organising panels about the topic, writing articles for their fanzines or matchday programmes, and therefore trying to inform and educate the supporters of their respective clubs. Some clubs and groups even took the design and layout to produce their own tailor-made versions of the initiative and produced banners and even permanent advertising boards in their own grounds. After we got approached by fans outside Germany, an English version of the banner was painted and has been hung up in stadiums all over Europe from the UK to Croatia and Greece. Also, several country-specific off springs of the campaign have been funded by fans of several clubs in Austria, Switzerland, Norway and Denmark (see articles below), who became part of the Football Fans against Homophobia family and we all made some great friends in these countries. Supporters from other countries were inspired by the logo and produced their own version of the campaign for

their club. You can only imagine how surprised we were, when we got sent a picture of an even bigger flag with our logo, proudly raised by Portland Timbers Ultra group “Timbers Army” at an MLS game! And I was just amazed when I checked out the fans stall during a game of Hapoel Katamon in Israel by then 3rd Division, to buy some merchandise: They had

produced a fridge-magnet with our logo. In Hebrew there was “Katamon fans against homophobia” written on it. A must have!

.....

Martin Endemann works for Football Supporters Europe, loves Tennis Borussia (yes, a football club) and sits on the board of “Fussballfans gegen Homophobie”.





Norway

Norway tackles homophobia

by Gjert Moldestad

In Norway, as in almost every other country, there isn't any openly gay footballer in the top divisions. Football has always been an arena for "white heterosexual men". When I started going to matches, I remember one particularly song, which went like this: "The referee is homosexual. He doesn't know it himself, his wife's name is Kjell"

Kjell is a typically Norwegian male name, and I remember this song from even before I knew I was gay myself. Hearing songs like this when I grew up, was of course difficult, and it really annoyed me. Singing songs about people who are gay, was common before, but I am glad it isn't any more!

Why have things changed in Norway? There might be many reasons for this; one of them is the society outside of football. It is no longer accepted to use gay slurs in work, public places, or in schools. Society has changed in a positive direction and they have forced changes on the football environment. But football is still and always has been, many years behind society on this subject. And that is why action had to be taken. Many different actions have happened in Norway, and also in all of Scandinavia in the past few years. Campaigns, news articles, debates, pressure from the supporters, are some of them. I think last year was a highlight.

2015: a year against homophobia

One of the campaigns last year was #tacklehomophobia, which was a campaign that started with the Rafto Foundation to help LGBTIQ people in Uganda, but also a campaign to tackle homophobia in football:

- Players from more than 40 Scandinavian clubs gave the campaign support
- International support from players from UK, Ireland, Sweden, Germany, Denmark, Uganda
- #tacklehomophobia was a trending topic on Twitter in Norway three times in May
- More than 30 news articles have been written about the campaign including features in the German and English press.

That campaign also brought forward other great happenings. Some football supporters wanted to show their support by changing the corner flag to a rainbow coloured flag. One of Norway's biggest clubs, SK Brann said yes, but the Norwegian FA said no. FA said: "We cannot allow this, due to FIFA rules" But we didn't take no for an answer, so we contacted FSE, and asked them if it's true, that FIFA doesn't allow a change in the colour on a corner flag? Along the way, this had reached the media. And when people heard the Norwegian FAs answer, social media was on fire. Everybody was angry with



the FA to stop this positive and harmless event. We had our answer from FIFA - they do allow it. No rules against it. We went back to the Norwegian FA, and also talked to a journalist. And the match afterwards, Brann had a rainbow coloured corner flag. But it didn't stop there. Many other clubs in both Norway and Sweden changed their corner flag. So instead of having one match with changed corner flags, we had many, and a lot of focus and discussions in the media, it even reached British newspapers.

Also in the same year "Fotballsupportere mot homofobi" started in Norway - a member of the Football supporters against homophobia family. The banner was at Brann Stadium for many matches, and it will be there for many more. It wouldn't be possible to do this without the help from the supporters club in Brann (Bataljonen). They have been a strong aid when it comes to campaigning and making other actions possible. I remember the leader (Roger) of the Bataljonen once said: 'I never have a player number on the back of my shirt, because I support the team. But the day a player comes out as gay, I will have his number on my shirt, to show my support.'

I think that's a wonderful thing to say, and it shows the support Bataljonen gives this important issue.

For the first time in Norway, just when the campaign was rolling, a football player got a red card for using homophobia in a match. That's the first time it's happened. And it's a strong signal from the referees and the FA that homophobia is not accepted on the field.

So there isn't any doubt! The day a gay football player wants to be open about his sexuality, he will be supported by the supporters, the clubs and the players. And there isn't any doubt; We do not accept any homophobia in football. Football is for everyone!

.....
Gjert Moldestad is a supporter of Brann, and an editor for the fanzine D12m. He is 34 years old and from Bergen. For many years he has adressed the issue about homophobia in football in Norway. He is part of the #tacklehomophobia campaign and a part of Footballsupporters against homophobia in Norway. But first and foremost, he loves Brann.

Denmark

AGF and AGF Fanclub Aarhus directs focus towards diversity *by Josephine Gretlund and Lisa Kildsgaard*

AGF and the official AGF Fanclub Aarhus will in the future focus on several aspects of diversity in the community. Cooperation kicked off to the year's first home game in Ceres Park on March 6th 2016, where the traditional corner flags were replaced with Rainbow flags.

We believe that as a company, the Club has a social and civic responsibility, which we as fans want to support and actively participate in. There are challenges everywhere in our society, that can be solved with dialogue, debate and an increased focus.

As fans, we know better than anyone else, that football plays a huge role in a local community, and that there is generally lots of awareness around football. In Denmark, we do not have the same tradition as abroad to use the community around the Club in the name of good causes. However if we look back, we've used our community to mark e.g. opposition to racism with the campaign 'Give racism the red card', so it's not a new idea, we've got here. We just want to start working a little more conscious with the topics locally in Aarhus and with the major international campaigns, where they are appropriate. The Club have fortunately backed us in this.

So why Rainbow corner flags against FC Copenhagen? Simply because we would like to pay tribute to the diversity, there is in



football. Look at our stands. It's all sorts of different people who love this game and are passionate about it! The love of football, we can all share, and we found that message enormously strong to mark our and the Club's joint initiative. Within AGF they are looking forward to lifting different social responsible tasks together with the Club's fans: "We already have a good dialogue and close cooperation with our fans, and that is why it is only natural that we also work together on this front. We want in all respects to be a diverse Club, and we would like to see that the fans, we have at our matches, reflect the surrounding society. We want to be a community which can accommodate all, and where all feel welcome regardless of background," said Jacob Nielsen, the CEO of AGF in an press release for the match against Copenhagen.

Switzerland

Football and Ice hockey fans unite against homophobia in Switzerland *by Simon Weber*

While in Central European countries for years a social process can be observed, which means that gay people are more and more accepted and don't have to hide their sexuality, nevertheless parts of society seem to remain largely unaffected. The prime example of this are both in football and in ice hockey, where the fan clubs, as well as the club-, association- or federation-structure appear regardless of the emancipatory achievements of the society that surrounds it, by continuing to represent a reserve of obsolete notions of masculinity.

Being gay is also in Swiss sport often used as a synonym for weakness. The result is shown in the stands, where collective noise provides an anonymity of mass space for discrimination in an undisguised form. To tackle these problems, we founded the initiative "Gemeinsam gegen Homophobie" (Together against homophobia), which is aimed equally at fans, fan clubs/fan

organizations, and associations in Swiss football, ice hockey and other sports. We're aiming across sports to stand up against homophobia. The initiative was established to foster the existing organizations and aspirations which campaign against homophobia in sport, especially the three gay and lesbian fan clubs of FC Basel, FC Zurich and Young Boys Bern, broad support and dedicated fans who do not want to join a fan club, a vessel in which they can make a stand against homophobia. The aim is to make a stand against homophobia in the Swiss stadiums and achieve awareness on the subject. So far not only fans of clubs from the Super League such as FC Zürich, Young Boys Bern and the first League of Swiss Ice Hockey as SC Bern, but also dedicated fans from lower league clubs as FC Winterthur, FC Wohlen and FC Solothurn joined our campaign.

Simon Weber is a life-long supporter of Young Boys Bern, president of the LGBTIQ fan club Wankdorf Junxx and co-founder of "Gemeinsam gegen Homophobie".



Austria

Football Fans Against homophobia – in football and elsewhere

by Fussballfans gegen Homophobie Österreich

Since the mid-90s, people have been taking action against racism in football grounds. Homophobia, on the other hand, seems to be of less concern. While homosexuality has been more or less accepted and respected in some European society, at least in law, there are parts of society that remain untouched by that progression. Football is one of those areas. Although emancipatory achievements have been made, fan clubs and teams seem to play a role in preserving obsolete ideas of masculinity. 'Toughness', 'assertiveness' and 'fighting spirit' are being ascribed exclusively to heterosexual players. They are also rigidly, in terms of gender, ascribed the terms 'male' or 'female'. That is where stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination start: Why should 'women' or homosexuals not be able to play in a tough and fierce manner? Homophobia is expressed in different ways –

through slurs, rituals and banners inside the grounds, which are meant to mock or defame the opposing team and its supporters.

Football fan culture is linked to social responsibility. We respect every form of sexuality and fight discrimination - in everyday life as well as inside the grounds. It is necessary to finally tackle this topic and raise public awareness to make homophobic expressions and discrimination on the football pitch as well as in the stands a matter of the past.

A lot of teams and fan clubs have shown that respect inside the ground doesn't have to be a utopian goal. Through a colourful choreography during the 'Derby of Love' on March 27th 2015 in Hernals, fans took an active stand against homophobia in football. This was also the first public appearance of the organisation Fußballfans gegen Homophobie Österreich (Football fans against homophobia Austria). The whole choreography was made possible by supporters, organisations and teams that back us in our fight against homophobia and discrimination in general, such as FairPlay, the Ballerinas and the Gaynialen. The campaign, which was reviewed positively by the ORF (Austrian Broadcasting Corporation) or Augustin (newspaper) will neither be the first nor the last. This evening should be seen as a starting point to



collectively tackle homophobia in all its forms – in football and anywhere else. In January 2015, FFAH held an inaugural event to officially establish the organisation, including the election of a managing committee. 30 to 40 people of our group participated in the Regenbogenparade (Vienna Pride) with a banner, flyers and stickers. This was followed by interviews with BlaukrautFM, KroneTV and finally FM4 in August. In the course of the FARE-action weeks, the banner was used by fanclubs of First Vienna Football Club, SKN

St. Pölten and Wiener Sportklub. In October, an international football fans against homophobia meeting was held which gave us the opportunity to build a network and link up with organisations from Germany, Switzerland, Austria, the Netherlands, Serbia, Sweden and Norway. 5 people from FFGHÖ participated in Queer Connection's pilot-workshop and will continue to work with that organisation. Furthermore, we were present at the Ballerinas tournament and the Ute Bock Cup – with T-Shirts, flyers, stickers and much more.





Germany

Queer Football Fanclubs

by Sven Kistner

Queer Football Fanclubs (QFF) is the association of LGBTIQ football supporters' clubs with more than 30 member organizations from Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Spain.

Starting in the early years of the last decade, LGBTIQ football supporters began to found their own supporters' clubs as they were no longer willing to accept homophobic chants on the stands and they wanted to watch games together with likeminded people.



In 2007 the first QFF conference was held in Dortmund, Germany where about 50 people from different cities met for the first time on an informal basis. Conferences in Mainz in Germany and Basel in Switzerland followed, before the official foundation of the association was carried out in Mariaspring, Germany in January 2009 when a constitution was adopted.

Our Aims

- The main aim of QFF is to **challenge homophobia** and other forms of discrimination and violence from the stands.
- In addition to that QFF is also working on other **supporter-related issues** such as stadium bans, ticket pricing or match scheduling.
- **Networking** on a national and international basis in order to plan and carry out joint actions against discrimination in sport and to exchange best practices, with at least two conferences per year.
- **Visibility:** we want to encourage all LGBTIQ people to show that they are there and that they also support the club with full enthusiasm. For this we support them in trying to establish new supporters' clubs
- We also try to **achieve integration** into the local fan structures of the clubs to sensitize people to our issues.

In addition to the two annual conferences, we used to meet once a year at Cologne Pride where we actively participated in the parade. We have changed this to a rotating principle as of 2015 when we participated in Nuremberg Pride. These participations are about visibility to show the LGBTIQ community that we are football fans and the football community that there are LGBTIQ supporters.

One of our largest actions in terms of visibility was the display of banners in different football stadiums in Germany during October 2014. These banners were in different colours saying "Football has no gender".

In Switzerland QFF.ch works in close cooperation with the national Football Association SFV, together they have implemented a concept to teach trainers especially of youth teams about inclusion and anti-homophobia work.

During the last 3 years many new LGBTIQ fan organizations have been founded in England. We have supported them right from the beginning, and we want to expand our network in order to implement joint actions in the future. For example, QFF plans to join the British Football v Homophobia month of action in February 2017, which is organized by Pride Sports UK.

In the context of the next two FIFA World Cups being held in Russia and Qatar – 2 countries where 'homophobia is law' – QFF will work together with other fans, groups and organizations to fight for inclusive tournaments where the LGBTIQ communi-



ties aren't silenced. QFF has already called upon FIFA to take action and to support our campaign for inclusion. However with FIFA preoccupied with other considerations, we won't wait for their approval...



For further information please visit our website queerfootballfanclubs.org or feel free to contact QFF on info@queerfootballfanclubs.org. You may also simply drop us some lines on our **Facebook accounts** or follow us on Twitter [@QFForg](https://twitter.com/QFForg), [@QFFch](https://twitter.com/QFFch) and [@QFFde](https://twitter.com/QFFde)

Sven Kistner is a massive Bayern fan, active in the LGBTIQ fanclub "Queerpass" Bayern and sits in the board of QFF.

England

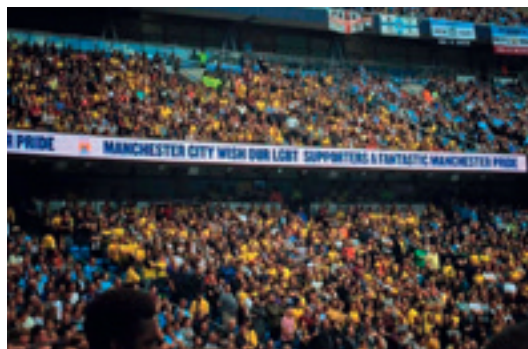
Pride in Football

by Darryl Telles

"Does your boyfriend know your here?" "We can see you holding hands." These comments may seem as banter in the context of a football match. However imagine that your a teenager growing up as lesbian, gay or just questioning your sexuality or gender identity. How would this make you feel especially if it was sung by your own fans? Well this is the reality for thousands of LGBTIQ supporters especially if your team plays against Brighton and Hove Albion. In the English game, Brighton have to endure homophobic chanting as the seaside city has a large LGBTIQ population, of which I'm one.

I'm also a Spurs fan and had to sit through a torrent of such abuse when Tottenham Hotspur played the Seagulls as Brighton are called, when their brand new stadium was christened with an opening friendly match. To disagree with your own side can be disheartening to say the least and it spoilt for me, as a gay man, what should have been a great day. By singing these songs, your own fans are making you feel unworthy and isolated, not an experience supporters would want to feel.

So when I became one of the Chairs of the Proud Lilywhites, the LGBTIQ fan group for Spurs, I was determined to do something about it. And as fate would have it, we drew Brighton in an early round of the League Cup. This presented



us with a challenge, to work with our own supporters to avoid a repetition of that behaviour. What really helped was that since our birth as a supporter group, we had invested in a visible presence by flying our own version of the Rainbow flag at all home matches. This became a positive talking point as fans began to realise by our presence that there were a sizeable number of LGBTIQ supporters and their allies i.e. you may have a LGBTIQ sibling that would be offended by comments. Also we had, through social media, put out gentle reminders that homophobia wasn't fair. On the night there wasn't one homophobic chant, no arrests or reports of anything offensive said against the LGBTIQ community. In fact if people were thinking of saying or singing something, the flag acted as a visible deterrent.

I think this example shows how a visible LGBTIQ fan group working constructively with fellow supporters can avoid offensive

chanting. Much better than fan bans that affect all, or the heavy hand of arrests, or even stadium bans, all of which affects all fans regardless of what they do.

The Proud Lilywhites is one of a growing number of LGBTIQ supporters groups that have emerged in England during the past two seasons. There are now more than a dozen LGBTIQ Groups in the Premiership alone, with all top four clubs having an active LGBTIQ supporters group. and these can be found at Arsenal (Gay Gooners); Everton (Rainbow Toffees); Norwich City (Proud Canaries); West Ham (Pride of Irons); Leicester City (Foxes Pride); Crystal Palace (Proud and Palace); Liverpool (LGBTIQ Liverpool). The latest group has been established at Chelsea. Outside of the Premiership - the top tier of English football - there are also LGBTIQ fan groups at Wigan, Portsmouth (Fratton Fever); Charlton (Proud Valiants); Notts County (LGBTIQ Pies); Ipswich Town and Bristol Rovers.

They vary in size of membership, some allow allies who don't identify as LGBTIQ to join and some are recognised officially by their club as a supporters club. By far and away the most successful group in terms of visibility is Canal Street Blues, the Manchester City group. They have representation on their club's supporters trust. Recently during Manchester Pride weekend, the group were successful in getting the club to display a banner around the Etihad stadium, the players wore Football v Homophobia t-shirts when warming up, there was a full page feature in the match programme and the Rainbow flag flew over the pitch. They also participate fully in wider campaigns such as the Football Supporters Federation 'Twenty is Plenty' campaign to reduce ticket prices for visiting fans.

All the groups came together at the Pride in Football Conference in November 2014, which was organized jointly by Kick it out- the national campaigning group against discrimination in football and Football v Homophobia, which sprang out of the Justin Fashanu campaign. Justin was and still is the only top flight footballer to come out whilst playing. Since his death by suicide in 1991, the campaign works against homophobia in football with activities on the day of his death in February and for the past few months throughout the whole of the month, coinciding with LGBTIQ History Month in the UK. The Conference was held in the National Football Museum in Manchester and also marked the 25th anniversary of the UK's Gay Football Supporters Network.

Darryl Telles is a Tottenham supporter, has campaigned for LGBTIQ equality in football for the past 25 years and was a founding member of the Gay Football Supporters Network in 1989. Last season, he became the first co-chair of the Proud Lilywhites, the LGBTIQ fan group of Tottenham Hotspur FC. He works as a project manager for FSE.

Interview

RALPH GUNESCH

Ralph, you kindly spoke at our anti-discrimination workshop at the Fans Congress last year, why do you think it's important that players take a stand against discrimination and especially homophobia?

In general I think that it's very important to take a clear stand. We as players have a big reputation and popularity. Statements from our side can reach very many people and as a person which is in the public domain, you have a social responsibility to speak out and also influence others.



Have you come across any comments of homophobic abuse or hatred against the LGBTIQ community whilst being a professional?

We've had the case once, at a game against a lower-league club, that one of our players got terribly insulted because of his Turkish heritage. Then he scored the winning goal and we as a team told the idiot what we thought of him (he was placed near the bench) and he got kicked out by security.

Why do you think so few players have "come out" as gay or bisexual in the men's game?

I think there isn't one single reason. In my opinion the common denominator is the fear of the consequences - in whatever shape that this might come from (on the sporting side, from sponsors, from fans).

What do you think the impact would be if someone, while still playing in the Bundesliga, would "come out"?

It's difficult to tell. It should be someone who has the power and courage to be brave, that doesn't care about anything what follows and who takes the (potential) negative aftermath into account and would be able to handle it.

How do you think supporters, clubs and players would react to an out gay player

in their team or on the opposition? It's often said that fans would be the main problem, as a fans organization we obviously doubt that, what do you think?

The fan environment would unfortunately only have the usual „quota of idiots“ The more serious and fatal part would be the anonymous mass, especially online and things you don't obviously notice in the stadium and at the training ground.

You played for teams such as St. Pauli and Ingolstadt, where the active fan scene take an open stand against discrimination. Did you liaise with them on these topics and are these topics discussed among the players as well?

During such a long time at the club I obviously had a close contact to the St.Pauli fan scene and we always exchanged on several topics. Also at Ingolstadt I got in contact with the active fans, at least with parts of them and was happy that topics like anti-discrimination were also on their agenda. As the club and its fan scene are still pretty young and small and still growing, these topics didn't have the highest priority back then, but it did develop over a period of time. Then there were for example, choreographies against racism and discrimination and the club itself got involved in more and more actions, which were sometimes initiated by me and supported by the club.

Have you heard of initiatives as "Football fans against Homophobia" and do you think they will be able to change the attitudes towards LGBTIQ people in the stands?

Education, prevention and building an awareness again and again are important

courses of action. So I think initiatives like these can have a big, big impact.

What do you think football should do to tackle discrimination on and off the field?

Thankfully there's a decline in incidents on the pitch and in the ground. Still I expect from fans, clubs and associations consistent action. And that doesn't mean to read out a statement once a year, just a tick box mentality. I'm talking about proper reactions to incidents happening, as well as prevention and education. This includes work, which isn't necessarily directly connected to the matchday. We're reaching so many people through football, we should take this opportunity. I'd like to add, that I'm not a fan of fining clubs for incidents if you can clearly see that they are wholeheartedly active with efforts and costs in fighting against discrimination. You should have a deeper look at what happened and process the reasons together with the club. Then you'll be a step ahead and can better fight the causes. A collective punishment should always only be the last resort.

And finally, as you're a massive gamer, who do you pick at FIFA, St.Pauli or Ingolstadt? ;)

I always play the team, which contains myself. So: for the older issues I play St.Pauli, Ingolstadt in the newer ones.

Ralph Gunesch is a professional football player who played in his career for FC St.Pauli, Mainz 05 and FC Ingolstadt in the German Bundesliga and 2. Bundesliga.

Interview

ROMAN NEUSTÄDTER

Roman, recently somebody called you a „Homo“ on your Instagram account. You made the insult public, commenting: „I’m tired of all that negative shit. It’s 2016. If you are racist or homophobe get the fuck off my insta.“ What were the reactions to that and why do you think it’s important also for straight players to make a stand against homophobia?

The feedback was mainly positive and I was really surprised of how many people reacted to that. I just made a statement, nothing special in my eyes. As a public person I think you should stand up against any form of discrimination.



Have you come across any comments of homophobic abuse whilst being a professional?

To be honest I’ve always been asked if I was gay from the very beginning of my career. People see your style of

running or your hair during the game and that’s how they define you as a person. I wouldn’t say that it always ends in hate but the last few years have been extreme when it comes to homophobic comments. There is actually no week that I haven’t been called a “faggot” for the past 3 years. I’m sure that most of these people are so frustrated and don’t think about the meaning but that definitely doesn’t make it less sad.

While the fight against racism seems to be supported by the whole “football family”, it doesn’t seem to be the case when it comes to homophobia and sexism as well, why do you think that is the case?

I think it’s because soccer is always connected to 100% masculinity and people try to avoid any topic that could challenge „the manhood“.

At your club, Schalke 04, many fans as the “Schalker Fan Ini” have been involved in the fight against discrimination for a long time now. Do you liaise with fans on these topics and are these topics discussed among the players as well?

I have to admit, that we don’t talk about it very often. I always try to have a close relationship to our fans, but we hardly talk about discrimination. If I could help and support them in their fight, I would be happy to do that.

How do you think supporters, clubs and players would react to an out gay player in their team or on the opposition? In an interview you recently said on the question what could prevent players from coming-out: “Imagine what would happen at an away game. Fans are always seeking for something to put you off.” As a fans organization we often think that fans are being seen as the only problem, preventing a coming-out, don’t you think the problem lies a bit deeper also within clubs and associations?

I have never been offended by a club or an association where as some fans seem to be more aggressive. I am totally convinced that if a player from Schalke came out, the club would support that 100%. I can’t tell how the relationship with team members or fans would change to be honest though. You don’t want to be mainly associated with your sexual orientation as a soccer player, so I think a coming out is still very difficult during your career.

In the past years more and more LGBTIQ fans groups emerged, especially in Germany, organized for example in the “Queer Football Fanclubs”; also Schalke has a LGBTIQ fanclub “Andersrum auf Schalke”. There also have been solidarity campaigns by non-LGBTIQ fans as “Football fans against Homophobia”. Have you heard of these and do you think they will be able to change the attitudes towards LGBTIQ people in the stands?

Yes I have heard of most of them. I think everything you do will help. You can’t change attitudes from one day to another. But they will definitely raise awareness and give hope and I appreciate their work, it’s so important.



Roman Neustädter is a USSR-born German professional footballer who plays as a defensive midfielder for FC Schalke 04. He has two friendlies for Germany under his belt, but has been selected for the Russian national team squad for EURO 2016.

Russia / Qatar

Mega Sport Events (MSE) and human rights - The work of the Sport and Rights Alliance (SRA)

Football Supporters Europe is one of the founding members of the Sport and Rights Alliance (SRA). The SRA is a coalition of leading NGOs, sports organisations and trade unions, which was founded in early 2015 to address decision-makers of international sports mega-events to introduce measures to ensure they are always organised in a way that respects human rights, the environment and anti-corruption requirements at all stages of the process - from bidding, through to the development and delivery phase to final reporting and monitoring.

Along with FSE, the SRA includes Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the International Trade Union Confederation, Supporters Direct Europe, Terre des Hommes, Transparency International Germany and others. The SRA initiative followed international outrage over Russia's appalling record on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights, workers' rights, forced evictions, environmental protection, and freedom of expression in the run-up to the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics.

LGBTIQ organisations such as the International Lesbian and Gay Association have raised concerns about Russia's new laws which prohibit the 'promotion of homosexuality'. This has led to LGBTIQ activists being arrested and harassed simply for being out and visible e.g. many Pride demonstrations and parades have



been violently attacked by far-right and nationalist protestors, with the police and security services often turning a blind eye.

This issue has been exacerbated by Qatar being chosen as the host for the World Cup finals after Russia, in 2022. It is illegal to be gay in the country and LGBTIQ people face arrest, detention and imprisonment simply for being who they are. It will make it impossible for LGBTIQ supporters to follow their national team. Furthermore, the hosts have been condemned for breaching workers' rights by hiring indentured labour often paying them poverty wages and making them work long hours in unsafe conditions.

Both choices - Russia and Qatar - are being investigated by police authorities and subject to allegations of corruption in the bidding process. FIFA individuals are under investigation for taking bribes in return for their votes in the selection process for the hosting of these two World Cup tournaments.

New standards and procedures must lead to clean up of global football events. According to the SRA all host countries

for major Football Championships should ensure protection of human rights, including labour and free media protections, and implement anti-corruption measures in the lead-up to and during a championship. To this end, FIFA, UEFA and IOC should adopt robust due diligence procedures to ensure that Football Championships do not cause or contribute to human rights abuses in the hosting or

staging of the event. All these standards should not be based on goodwill, but should be non-negotiable and binding for all stakeholders. In addition, all sports governing bodies should develop from the very beginning an independent monitoring mechanism to make sure promises made in the bidding phase and fixed in the host city contract are adhered to over the lifetime of the event.



Europe

Not offside – female football fans

by Nicole Selmer

When I see supporters on their way to the stadium, I see mums with their daughters, girls in groups together with boys or without them, women with their boyfriends or on their own. I send text messages to my girlfriends when their clubs win the league, get relegated or promoted, quite a lot of the women I know work in the football industry in various functions.

Women and football? – for me, it's a given. We go to football matches, support our

team, curse and celebrate. Women are fans, just like men. If you take a look at pictures from the early football years you can catch glances of long white frocks and huge hats. In the crowds of today you can see female ultras in black hoodies and maybe with a scarf over the face. Even if we are a minority – we have always been there.

Many scholars, experts, journalists and also other supporters tend to ignore that. For TV cameras female fans on the stands are still mostly interesting as sexy eye candy, not



as a regular part of the crowd. Women are hugely underrepresented when it comes to leadership in football. And the offside joke? Let me tell you, it's still out there. Female fans are often associated with specific roles: they are the wife or the girlfriend who accompany the "real" supporter, i.e. the guy; they have a crush on the new striker or are just glory hunters and will stay away when the team starts to lose. In any case it seems hard to see them as just another supporter.

One reason for this is, of course, that we live in a patriarchal society and football is a part of that. It is however a rather special part. In many European countries, football is the most important sport, the national pride and quite often a strong economic, cultural and political factor. It is also known as a hard and masculine sport that is best played by men and not by sissies. Sissies, of course, can be women, gay men or other people not fitting into the dominating idea of masculinity. And, without turning this into a gender studies course, the idea of masculinity is just that: an idea, a made-up thing. Five hundred years ago, a hundred years ago, the idea of masculinity (and thus also femininity) was different and we can even today watch it changing with cultural and political developments. The same applies to football: When the sport came to Germany at the end of the 19th century it was regarded as an effeminate thing, the "English disease", because proper German men at that time were into gymnastics.

Today, football is attractive because it offers a time-out of sorts, a step away from the discipline of work, the social demands of meetings, parties, relationship. It's a time and a place to let go, where boundaries are a bit wider, where you do things you may wouldn't, let's say at your work place

or on the tube, like screaming, shouting, swearing and singing. And that is the same for women as for men. It's a freedom that many of us enjoy as much as male fans.

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Nicole Selmer is co-editor in chief at the Austrian football-magazine „ballesterer“ and a supporter of Borussia Dortmund.

Germany / Austria / Switzerland

F_in - Women in Football

by Antje Grabenhorst



F_in – Frauen im Fußball“ can be translated as „Women in football“ and is an international German speaking network founded in 2004 by different women involved in football such as football fans and ultras, journalists, photographers, social workers, footballers and scientists. The initial idea was to connect women involved in the sport and make them visible and self-confident. At the moment there are around 130 members from more than 30 football clubs.

The network is an open space to talk about experiences with sexism or prejudices and to find counter-strategies. Every year the F_in network meets in another city and has a different agenda, including workshops, lectures and discussions. The network has created its own banner and published a book with different perspectives on sexism and women in football named 'gender kicks'. Furthermore, members of F_in offers lectures about that topic for everyone who is interested. In these lectures we point

out the diverse and rich history of woman in football and expound on the problem of sexism, specifically the exclusion and degradation of women in men's football and the marginalization of women's football.

It is important to understand for example that „Cunt“, „Slut“, „Bitch“ aren't just regular words for women and opponents. Moreover these insults and the degradation of opponent fans as „bitches“, „girls“, „gays“ are a way to create a strong, exclusive, heterosexual and masculine culture of football without women and LGBTIQ people and keep a sexist and homophobic status quo alive.

Additionally another problem which creates a male dominated focus is the sexualizing and objectification of women body's as sexy and the use of this to make football more attractive through this 'sex-sells-strategy' for men. This issue is visible in men's as

well as women's football and isn't about that women shouldn't appear attractive or sexy in generally. It is about reducing women to these characteristics and move their fan-identity into the background. This is especially a problem in national events and international competitions such as the World Cup and the EUROS. Women are not there for decoration, neither are they are just to act as groupies to players or girlfriends to male spectators. F_in is standing for women that are more than just nice faces, asses and boobs and that women should be seen as fans just as like men are. Because a woman's place is at the match, on the terraces, and behind the banners!

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Antje Grabenhorst is a fan of Werder Bremen and part of an Ultra Group, furthermore she's volunteering in the networks f_in and Football Fans against Homophobia.



Turkey

Women in Football in Turkey – On the field and in the stands! *by THD Women's Branch*

In Turkey, the first game that women participated as players, was played on 24 May 1954 in İzmir. After this mixed gender match, which included 6 women players, the first all women's football match was played on 4 July 1954 in Mithatpaşa Stadium in İstanbul (now the BJK İnönü Stadium). The match played between "İzmir women football team" vs "İstanbul women football team".

Almost at the end of the 60s, the establishment of women football teams and clubs began to be discussed in the country. "Kınalıada Women Football Team" which were founded in 1972, became the first in the country's history as being officially registered club in the

name of "Dostlukspor Women Football Club Association" (Dostluk = Friendship)

Furthermore, the second team to have been established in İzmir as "Filizspor" (Filiz = sprout). The first game that those teams played against each other in 30 October 1978 in İzmir Alsancak Stadium ended as a victory of "Dostlukspor" with the score of 14-0. In the same year in Ankara two more women football clubs have been established: "İncirlişpor Women Football Club" and "NAzendespor Women Football Club"

As a result of these efforts to organise on 2 April 1994 the first women football league started and in 1995 the women's national team was officially established.

For the women's football league, which have been organised by the Turkish Football Federation (TFF), 16 teams participated from 7 different provinces.



It is a shame that voting rights for women was passed into law in 1934 but it took another 60 years for a women's football league to be organised. It is a fact that being a woman in Turkey is difficult. Especially if you are on the pitch or on the stands as being a woman it is much harder. So as a natural result in a traditionally male dominated social structure, the use of the discriminative language and the chants on the stands reflects negatively on the perception of football.

Unfortunately, these discriminative acts were supported by another action of the football federation during the season 2011-2012. In addition to playing matches behind closed doors – the punishment given to the fans which became a weekly routine in the Turkish football - the federation started to allow women and under 12 year old children to enter in the stadiums during these matches. These are called as "matches without spectators" by the federation. As a result, In addition to the fact that there is no communication between the fans and the authorities, more than 50 matches in one season were played

behind closed doors. Allowing only women and the children to these "without spectator matches" in the stadiums is another type of discrimination. This was shown during a match in İzmir when women hung a banner saying that "If the game is free of spectators than who we are".

Because of those reasons and the poor environment of the stadiums, some women prefer to stay out of the football grounds. However a remarkable number of women prefer to define stadiums as an arena of their struggle. Of course the women fan groups are determined to show that they are the most important actors by showing their reactions on the stands and on the streets. As an example, various fan organisations, fan leagues established in different cities have mostly mixed gendered teams which have messages against the sexual discrimination in every game.

We would like to finalise with an open proposal. During the dates 14-17 July 2016, FSE Summer Network Meeting will be organised by the host of THD (Taraftar Hakları Derneği – Fans' Rights Association) in İzmir. İzmir is one of the leading cities in Turkey, which we can say that women have equal rights and status in the social life and also on the football stands. Additionally this beautiful city has a women's football team which won the last four consecutive league championships in Turkey: Konak Belediyespor. Who knows? Maybe we can watch altogether a friendly match of Konak during the event. We wait for all of you, hope to meet you in İzmir.

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THD Women's Branch
Taraftar Hakları Derneği Kadın Kolları



Europe

SECOND FAN SHIRT - Football fans united in solidarity for refugees *by Martin Endemann*

The frightening war scenarios across the world are currently leaving millions of people stranded close to the war zones or in the middle of Europe. Some are still living in a conflict region within Europe under desperate conditions, like in Ukraine, others have fled to Europe from war zones to save their lives, as those from Syria. Many of them have left with nothing more than the set of clothes they were wearing when they escaped. We believe that giving these people all possible support is one of the most pressing issues of our time. And in the past few years, many football fans all over Europe have become active in supporting refugee projects in many different ways: be it through organizing clothing collections for refugees in war zones or in the countries they had to flee to, or by providing logistical help to them or by getting them to watch or to play football and thereby integrating them in their new surroundings with host communities. Fans from Macedonia and Greece went to their borders providing refugee groups with food and clothes whilst solidarity banners have been shown in stadiums from Italy to Denmark.

In autumn 2014, members of Football Supporters Europe (FSE) started a donation campaign under the name "SECOND FAN SHIRT" to do their bit to make a contribution to improving the devastating situation of refugees. More than 100 supporter initiatives from 10 European countries have since taken action in order to do their bit to improve the



devastating situation of refugees across the globe. It is also worth highlighting that quite a few football clubs have joined the campaign alongside their supporters. All of them deserve a big round of applause for this commitment! The FSE office in Hamburg has at times literally been flooded with parcels from all over Europe. While many scarves, shirts, jackets and other fan wear and football clothes have been donated directly by FSE to local refugee projects, we have also sold (and still sell) lots of football merchandise articles on a certain internet platform to raise some money to fund refugee aid programmes. A special thanks to the committed volunteers at the Alliance of Active football fans (BAFF) in Germany, who took care of the sale. All profits which were generated from the sales are being wired straight into refugee aid projects selected by the FSE membership and committee participating in this campaign. You'll read a short description of the projects, which have already received donations on the next few pages.

PROJECTS SUPPORTED THROUGH #SECONDFANSHIRT

FSE will hand out 1000 Euros - generated through the Second Fan Shirt Campaign - each month to initiatives supporting and empowering refugees through football / sport. Here you'll find some information on which initiatives have been funded yet.

SEPTEMBER 2015: »Refugees United« & Leipzig United F.C. (both Leipzig / GERMANY)

Leipzig United F.C., founded in 2013, is a football project for children and young adults in Grünau, a suburb in Greater Leipzig. Leipzig United is open to everyone, regardless of their background or social status. They currently offer regular football training sessions for more than 30 children from ten different countries. In the past years, Leipzig United F.C. has shown that playing football boosts the kids' self-esteem, enhances their social skills and helps their inclusion in society.

Refugees United is an initiative set up by supporters of the fan-owned team BSG Chemie Leipzig in summer 2014. The concept is simple: to organise leisure time activities - in particular football-related ones - for kids and teenagers who are currently residing as refugees in Leipzig, and integrate them in the youth section of the club. One main aspect of the project's philosophy is that all participants (the refugees, the "regular" kids, as well as the organizers) should benefit and learn from each other. In this way, Refugees United fosters intercultural exchange, reduces social barriers and seeks to encourage more local people and sport clubs to get involved in refugee aid.

OKTOBER 2015: Fan Project SC Freiburg / Corrillo Ultras (GERMANY)

Since the beginning of 2014 the Ultras of **Corrillo** have been supporting several young refugees after meeting them at a football tournament against discrimination. Since then they have integrated several minors into their group. They are taking them to games, home and away, helping them out with visits to public authorities and finding clubs in the area like Eintracht Freiburg where they can play. Additionally the ultras are intensely studying German asylum legislation to support their new friends in their struggle for their right of residence.



NOVEMBER 2015: Liberi Nantes (ITALY)

Liberi Nantes was founded already in 2007 as the first Sport Association in Italy who promotes and guarantees the free access to sport for all refugees and asylum seekers. They offer sports, a possibility of freedom, for recovering their dignity, for rebuilding themselves and create new relationship of friendship and faith to women and men who were able to escape war or dramatic humanitarian situations. Liberi Nantes Football Club is the first team



in Italy entirely composed of refugees and asylum seekers. The composition of the team is multicultural, the colours of the flag are the ones used by the United Nations and the access to the training is free and open to everybody. At the moment, the club consists of open teams, composed by 80-100 refugees who play and train at the XXV Aprile ground, as well as an official team which plays since 2008 in the 3rd Category tournament organised by the Federazione Italiana Giuoco Calcio.

FEBRUARY 2016: No Borders Kitchen (GREECE) & Jungle United (FRANCE)

No Borders Kitchen operates from the Greek island of Samos. Turkey is only 2.2 km away and on a daily basis, refugees are making the perilous journey across the sea to Samos. All refugees are held in a former prison on the island, where the facilities are very basic. The project has been running since December of last year providing hot food and donated clothes to refugees, some of whom help run the kitchen themselves. Though no dedicated sports initiative, the FSE-committee decided to give them a donation due to the desperate situation on the island anyway, as also football fans from various clubs are helping out on the project.

Jungle United is a football project in the refugee camp in Calais. The money will help run a Youth Centre in the Jungle as a protective area for 12-18 year olds away from camp life and stress. The youth project is actually run by a group of football volunteers from Spurs, Exeter City, Southampton and Odense BK. The money will be spent purchasing equipment such as goal posts. Although parts of the camp will be closed by the authorities, it is understood that the youth project will continue catering for teenagers.

APRIL 2016: Kicken ohne Grenzen (AUSTRIA) & United Glasgow FC (SCOTLAND)

Kicken ohne Grenzen from Vienna in Austria is a project working with both men and women refugees offering them an opportunity to play football and join free training sessions. It allows young refugees a chance to receive advice and guidance from mentors and has successfully built a network with a growing number of players and clubs involved. Around 60 young people will benefit from this project, which has been running since September 2015 and is also backed by FSE -members at Wiener Sportklub and First Vienna FC 1894.

United Glasgow FC is a project based in Scotland. With individuals from over 40 different countries involved, United Glasgow will use the donation to hire venues, providing equipment and training facilities for their teams. Run entirely by volunteers from Glasgow's football supporting community, the club encourages refugees and asylum seekers to meet others and play football in an environment free from discrimination.

Croatia

Creating Community Cohesion

by NK Zagreb 041

The idea for the club came from a section of the NK Zagreb fan group White Angels, following many years of anger with the actions of the club's management, who had completely failed to communicate with the club's fans, implemented highly nepotistic policies, and has opposed fans' struggle against forms of discrimination such as racism and homophobia, labelling them as "political". As many White Angels have had connections with activists in various NGOs, the group closely cooperated with other organisations and were able to motivate a large number of people to join or support the new club, and so it quickly grew into something much bigger. The name chosen for the club -Zagreb 041 - is a reference to the former area call code for Zagreb. It symbolises a nostalgic evocation of times when football was a community not commercial issue and played for fans and for the love of the game itself.



The club's structure is completely horizontal, meaning that we chose to avoid common management roles such as a president, governing committee, secretary. Instead, we developed an alternative system based on the White Angels and other organisations' experiences with direct democracy. We are the first officially registered Croatian sports club organised in such a way - a fact that didn't come without some legal struggles with the city officials. The main decision making body is the club's Assembly which meets as often as is necessary to discuss important issues. The Assembly also forms and organises working groups that do the practical jobs, such as on issues like marketing, finances, logistics. The Assembly also gives the working groups guidelines for their work. For the system to be effective we place a high emphasis on communication and transparency, giving members multiple real and virtual platforms for discussion and decision making as well as full transparency by frequently sharing detailed financial reports, meeting minutes.

In addition to our sporting aims, the club aims to engage in the active struggle against racism, nationalism and other forms of discrimination and places an emphasis on active involvement in working with the local community. The club focuses on integrating asylum seekers in Croatia in its everyday work. Our effort to include asylum seekers in the

first team has been hampered by strict regulations for foreign players at this level of competitive football particularly those with an uncertain legal status (i.e. asylum seekers). We are engaged in an ongoing legal campaign to change this situation and in the meantime there are a handful of persons who have been granted asylum who are training with and playing for the first team. Our matches, which are typically attended by 150 to 200 people, have also become a social occasion where asylum seekers gather in Zagreb, greatly helping them to integrate with the local community. The location of the stadium in which we play our home games was chosen in part as it is near a hotel that functions as a refugee centre. We plan to expand our projects in that area as well.

The club is currently completing its first season and has faced a lot of challenges. We do not have our own stadium at present, and so rent one for official matches and another one for the training. This is quite a drain on our resources and it prevents us from implementing some projects within the local community as we are uncertain of where we will be based in the long-term. In addition, we receive no financial support from the city, state or football governing bodies and rely solely on donations and membership fees. Our coach, the Nigerian born Celestine Olisa, who has professional level football experience, works as a volunteer for the club besides his regular job. The players are not paid and even cover the rent for the training pitch themselves. The task of washing the team strip after each match rotates between the club's members and they do all the other work themselves (preparing the lines on the pitch, cleaning the stadium and changing rooms, cooking for the team and spectators

at each match, managing the club's website, facebook page). Although all these tasks may sound like obstacles, in the long run in we hope to compete in the higher divisions, whilst at the moment such work helps create a magical feeling that the club is truly fan-owned and fan-run, and every task each member completes, gives them a full sense of collective ownership of the club.

We compete in the third Zagreb Area Division, which is effectively the 7th tier of Croatian football. The division itself has an average of thirty spectators per match and our arrival on-stage with an average attendance of 150 during our first half-season, along with support for the team throughout the entire game. If you add to all this our trademark pyrotechnic shows and a merry colourful entourage of female and male supporters, both locals and asylum seekers, children and families, you get a sense of how this has been somewhat of a positive shock for the league!

Our club's future plans include settling in at our own stadium, forming a youth division and women's football team, improving our organisation, learning from our experiences so far, and hopefully financial stability by – first and foremost - expanding the membership base, which at the moment of writing stands at more than 120 people from Croatia and other European countries.

The club will continue to grow along with its members and its limits will only be determined by our enthusiasm, creativity, activity and effort we put in. In the meantime, we are having a hell of a lot of fun!

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NK Zagreb 041

Germany

Refugees Welcome at SV Babelsberg 03 - More than just an empty phrase *by Alexander Bosch*

The commitment for refugees of SV Babelsberg 03, began long before the rise in the numbers of displaced people in Germany and was for us, never up for discussion. Advocating social values such as tolerance and anti-discrimination are an integral part of the DNA of our SV Babelsberg 03 and our Fandom.

The commitment for refugees started with an open training session, in which both active fans and young refugees participated. It was initiated by fans and in cooperation with Fanprojekt Babelsberg, under the direction of former social worker Felix Kruse. For this session very quickly a joint team emerged, which successfully participated in numerous recreational football tournaments. We also arranged joint visits to our beautiful Karl-Liebknecht-Stadion and to the games of the first team. The SV Babelsberg 03 supported it from the start with free tickets for participants. Although all the refugees among the participants wanted to work immediately in Germany, rather than take free tickets, the repressive state regulations doesn't allow this and so that many of them have to make do only with the essentials. Despite these circumstances, the atmosphere among all participants was always very good and everybody had a lot of fun at the matches and close friendships developed.

This project was in 2014, incorporated into the new project "Welcome United 03"



within the club structures. Why did we have this idea before? No clue! But now and then you need new impulses from the outside and this came in the form of Manja. She was then engaged voluntarily in refugee relief, and came into contact with displaced people from Nigeria, Cameroon and Somalia who wanted to play football together. She asked the club to see if there would be the opportunity to use one of the few training grounds. Her request landed on the desk of Thoralf, who was hooked on the idea and wondered why they couldn't simply set up a separate team within the club structures? Also Manja liked the idea and so they immediately went to work. Because Thoralf knew the integration project of the fan project, he called there, presented his idea to them and integrated the old to the new project.

So through Thoralf, Manja, the fans project and the newly Babelsberger were enthusiastic about the idea, also the Board of Directors and active fan scene were immediately supportive with all possible forces. Because Financially the SV Babelsberg 03 is not exactly resting on a bed of roses, such a project therefore needed donations or new sponsors for it to be realised. Funds were raised for training materials, training clothes, soccer shoes and its own set of jerseys for the new third team of SV Babelsberg 03. And here the active fan scene in the form of Nordkurve Babelsberg stepped in and became the new shirt sponsor of Welcome United 03! The fans were not only sponsors, they also collected donation in kind and cash and so helped to launch the project.

To be honest, you did not feel anywhere unconditional sympathy for refugees and we had to do something. So we planned - the club, the active fan scene and the fan project - the organization of an action game

day on "Escape", with the aim to sensitize people to this issue and to bring them in contact together. Therefore, we invited that day all displaced people for free to the game of the first team of Babelsberg. On the day, there was a market of opportunities on which were introduced a number of initiatives, clubs and organizations, which are engaged in helping refugees. Also, there was a friendly match between Welcome United 03 and the FC Lampedusa in Hamburg and as a highlight a solidarity concert on which PyroOne, Radio Havana and Irie Révoltés sound system played. A really great and successful day! A great side effect of the day is that the team decided that refugees and asylum seekers will always have free access to the games of the first team in the Karl-Liebknecht-Stadion!

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Alexander Bosch worked three years as social worker at the Fanprojekt Babelsberg. He resigned in May 2015 and is now just a fan and member of the Nordkurve Babelsberg.



Germany

Refugees Welcome - Where Football is (be)coming home *by Susanne Rudolph*

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While Europe has been gripped by the worst refugee "crisis" since the end of the Second World War, German football fans are showing solidarity to people in plight, on their terraces and by pulling out all the stops to welcome refugees to matches. In Düsseldorf, Fortuna fans went one step further and founded the first Syrian-German Ultra group 'Yalla Yalla FORTUNA'.

The German club 'Fortuna Düsseldorf' and its active fans have been supporting refugees in various ways for years. Founded in 1895 and currently residing in the 2nd Bundesliga, Fortuna (F95) built the reputation of being a reliable partner for the local refugee organisations. The club offers free weekly training sessions for young refugees and invites refugee groups to matches on a regular basis. The fans assist the club with the invitations and additionally collect money or donations, organise events and initiate awareness campaigns.

However, some of the fans supervising and accompanying refugees to matches noticed that they were missing something. Firstly, mainly due to administrative reasons, the refugee groups get tickets for the mostly empty stands next to the away fans opposite the home crowd. That sometimes feels like being separated from the real deal or showing their guests only from afar how much fun being a football fan could be like if you'd really belong. And besides getting homesick, the helping hands were so busy seeing the big picture, organising everything for everyone, that they hardly spent any quality time with their guests and didn't really get to know them individually on a more personal basis.

Having realised that, one of the German founding members of 'Yalla Yalla FORTUNA' decided to change at least the latter the next chance she got. So when she felt everybody was adequately supplied of the following invitation of refugees, she switched roles from organiser to participator and imagined herself being an international student looking to meet new friends. Experts who tackle integration issues theoretically tend to overthink matters and forget, that the best way to build bridges between cultures is to be authentic and act naturally.

When her eyes met those of the other founding members in the stadium for the first time, they were all just railing



passionately against a decision of the referee. They all hardly took notice of the fact that she ranted in German and the others in Arabic – they all spoke football and understood each other just fine. Fate stroke the moment they grinned at each other a bit shameful afterwards, they started talking and cheering together: “YALLA YALLA (COME ON/GO) FORTUNA!” As is the way of these endearing people, the Syrian refugees graciously extended their heartfelt hospitality to their new German friends after the game and invited them to their temporary residence. Because visitors were not allowed in the refugee camp, the Germans went in undercover and hid in the middle of the group, wrapping themselves up Ultras style. And the rest is, as they say, history.

The Fortuna fans were warmly welcomed in the midst of the refugees and the evening, like many to follow, was quickly filled with song and laughter. It is amazing how rich with music the Syrian culture is, everybody seems to be bursting into song at all times - and to sing really well too. When the ‘Yallas’ were one night singing together with other refugees from the Near East, sharing their stories of their flight to Germany like the bards of old, their deeply emotional performance brought all listeners close to tears - regardless of whether they understood the words right away or if they had to be translated for them afterwards.

F95.Antirazzista is an alliance between various Ultra groups and active fans of Fortuna Düsseldorf. They are united by their conviction that racism, fascism or any kind of discrimination have no place in football. The members share their knowledge, manpower and networks to start or support fan initiatives with focus on anti-discrimination, awareness and integration work. Members of F95.Antirazzista cooperate with national and international football fan networks, organisations or campaigns like FARE - “Football (Fortuna) Against Racism in Europe (Everywhere)”; FFaH – “Football (Fortuna) Fans against Homophobia” or FSE’s own “Second Fan Shirt” campaign.

Only once in a while you were reminded by little things of what ordeals they all went through until they got to Düsseldorf. Like a noise, which sounded a bit like a bomb, getting them all on high alert for a split second, or the little girl starting to cry heartbreakingly when the others were sharing their experiences with each other in song, processing what had happened to them. After settling down a bit, all ‘Yallas’ from Syria showed signs and various degrees of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

The ‘Yallas’ also started to translate Fortuna Düsseldorf songs into Arabic to enrich the clubs fan culture with a new facet, whereas saying “Yalla Yalla!” instead of the German “Auf geht’s!” has already become a common habit. Even though the fan group was only founded last year, the members sometimes feel like they already know each other for ages. When you leave your whole life behind and your friends and relatives live more than 3,000 km away, the motto “one team, one family” quickly becomes more than a saying. With Fortuna, the ‘Yallas’ have finally found a new place to belong.

‘Yalla Yalla FORTUNA’ was warmly received in the F95.Antirazzista family and thank the long-established Fortuna fans for their kindness and support. Together, they cheer for Fortuna at home games from the self-administered south stand (F95 Ultras & Supporters Club) and regularly meet in

the F95.Antirazzista fan pub to hang out, play games and chat about all or nothing.

In addition to the Ultras, various F95 executives and employees have also personally supported the members of the new Syrian fan group and thereby proved once more, that Fortuna Düsseldorf can be much more than just football. For the ‘Yallas’, their new home is simply the greatest club in the world.

The ‘Yallas’ stick out of the usual German fan groups not only because of their Syrian background, but also because they elected two female spokespersons as their leaders, one German and one Syrian. When the ‘Yallas’ showed no hesitation to participate in the 4th “Dr. Waldemar Spier Cup”, a football tournament dedicated to the remembrance of the Jewish victims of the Nazi Era, the makers of the KZ movie “Liga Terezin” even called ‘Yalla Yalla FORTUNA’, “a silver lining on the horizon”.

Due to the “Residenzpflicht” (mandatory residence), Syrians are not allowed to move freely in Germany anymore and can’t even chose their own place of residence. Therefore the Syrian ‘Yallas’ are not only prohibited from attending Fortuna away games with their German friends, but are also separated against their will by the German authorities and sent across the country, forced to live far away from Düsseldorf in some unknown small villages. So the group of friends, who just found each other and a place to belong, is involuntarily spread into the wind again.

As things are getting more complicated, this is no reason for the ‘Yallas’ to even seriously consider giving up their new home and family. It only means, that the ‘Yallas’ need to



organise themselves better – thank Allah for social media. With not only ticket and traveling costs quickly piling up, the German ‘Yallas’ plan to found a registered society or association (e.V.) to be able to receive funding and financially support their fan group.

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If you want to reach out to the “Yallas”, simply visit the “Yalla Yalla Fortuna” community on Facebook or contact us via email at Merhaba@yalla-yalla-f95.de.

Dr. Waldemar Spier Cup

In January 2016, the F95.Antirazzista alliance hosted the 4th „Dr. Waldemar Spier Cup”, a football tournament with anti-racist Ultra groups from all over Germany, dedicated to the remembrance of the victims of the Nazi Era. Dr. Waldemar Spier was the mastermind behind Fortuna Düsseldorf’s one and only national championship in 1933, the ‘Obmann’ of the ‘Meister-Mannschaft’. But instead of becoming a legend, Waldemar Spier wasn’t even allowed to celebrate the championship with his team. Not because he did anything wrong - Dr. Waldemar Spier was a Jew. Like countless other innocent victims, Dr. Waldemar Spier was later deported to & died in the concentration camp Auschwitz. Fortuna fans honor his memory with this tournament in his name. Because we may never forget. We have the responsibility, no, the duty, that monstrosities like that can’t ever happen again. NEVER AGAIN!

Russia

CSKA Fans Against Racism

by Robert Ustian

The incident in Rome during a Champions League match in September 2014 was the turning point where a group of CSKA fans said “enough is enough”. The club was punished for “racist behaviour of supporters”, “crowd disturbance” and “setting off/throwing of fireworks and missiles” by UEFA. We had to play our next three European matches behind closed doors.

CSKA’s international image was completely ruined. We are perceived not as a team that won the UEFA Cup, but as one, which has an awful stigma of racist fans, who focus only on destroying things and abusing black people. We wanted to show the international football community that those few racist hooligans are in the absolute minority.

As a result, we created a movement “CSKA Fans Against Racism” which quickly gathered momentum on social media, where CSKA fans from all over Russia sent pictures of themselves with anti-racist messages under the hashtag #CSKAFansAgainstRacism.

Being the club of the army, there is something poetic about CSKA fans being the frontrunners in the fight against fascism on the stands. In the Soviet era, CSKA was the sports society for the so-called Red Army, and during the Great Patriotic War, as World War II was known in the Soviet Union, several of the club’s players served in the army and thus fought against fascism.

Since that horrible evening in Rome, many things have changed, both among the fans, but more importantly within the club itself. Facing the reality that CSKA could be kicked out of European competitions if they were once again reported for racism, the club has imposed a strict control at the stadium, where both police and stewards now check the fans’ clothing and banners for far-right symbols, and anyone violating these rules are asked to leave the stadium. Furthermore, CSKA accompanied all tickets to their away game in the Champions League qualification game against Sparta Prague, with a letter asking supporters to behave well for the sake of the club’s reputation. More importantly, the club has taken a clear stand on its official website and social media accounts, where videos with the club’s most popular players taking a stand on racism, have been shared.

The players taking a stand on racism has had a lasting impact. The most important thing was that the players didn’t say “please be good so we don’t get punished”. They said: “Racism is bad, we don’t accept it and we’ll never accept that”. The statements from stars like Seydou Doumbia, Igor Akinfeev and Alan Dzagoev has made the club’s position on racism very clear, and this is something that will affect the younger fans of the ‘Red-Blue of Moscow’. The impact will be with young CSKA fans who love Akinfeev to see Igor say “no to racism” and calling it a disgrace will affect them.

Creating an alternative way of supporting the club is one of the main tasks of CSKA Fans

Against Racism, as the far-right ultra way was for a long time to only road a young CSKA fan looking to support his club could go. Now, that is no longer the case, and that’s something that indicates a brighter future. There is an alternative role model now - at least at our club and that is the key point. There is now an alternative to the far-right, which is one of the most positive and amazing things to happen from what was at first, an unfavourable position.

There is however only so much that can be done at a local level, and whilst keeping CSKA from being punished by UEFA again was one of the goals by CSKA Fans Against Racism, when it was started, there is also a need to solve Russia’s deeper issues with racism in society, something that demands a broader solution.

A part of the solution we believe UEFA should create the position of anti-racism officer in Eastern Europe, something CSKA Fans Against Racism proposed in an open letter to UEFA’s Control, Ethics and Disciplinary members in November 2015. The letter was written after UEFA punished Dynamo Kyiv with one game behind closed doors after four black fans were beaten up during the Champions League fixture between Dynamo and Chelsea in the Ukrainian capital city. The incident in Kyiv was a point-of-no-return, as it was the first time blood had been spilled on European stands due to racism, and it should be a wake-up call for UEFA to change their approach to fighting racism.

This anti-racism officer would be tasked to travel across Eastern Europe to meet with NGO’s, grassroots movements, clubs, FA’s and supporters to understand what is going on on the terraces, because it is clear that what UEFA is doing at the moment isn’t working at all.

UEFA are working with a zero-tolerance approach, an approach they are using in the

entire Europe, but the association needs to cut the eurocentrism, and realize that what works in France might not work in Russia, Ukraine or Serbia. Furthermore, UEFA needs to listen to the many organizations working on anti-racism work in Eastern Europe.

If UEFA are sincere in their wish to fight racism, they need to get out of their comfort zone and visit the situation on the ground by talking to supporters, to find out what is going on. The key question that remains is whether UEFA will decide to stand side by side with the activists to fight racism, or if they will choose to hide the problem with the easy solution that a stadium closure brings. This is only a short-term measure, punishes all fans, and doesn’t challenge the longer-term question of changing minds and hearts.

When that is said, it is however important to notice that while UEFA’s approach might not be up-to-date, racism is still a domestic problem, that can’t be expected to be solved by football on its own. It is for the future generations and the younger fans, that it is important to get rid of racism, both in the stadiums and in the wider society.

During the summer break, CSKA Fans Against Racism will meet with the Russian anti-racism officer to propose a detailed plan for how to proceed fighting racism on the stands. Because while a lot have been achieved in the past year, more incidents will without a doubt hit CSKA as well as Russia, and instead of only criticizing when things go wrong, our movement wants to be a part of the solution.

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Robert Ustian is a member of CSKA Fans Against Racism and sits in the committee of Football Supporters Europe.

France

Discrimination and the fight against discrimination among French fans since the 1980s *by Nicolas Hourcade*

Discriminatory attitudes of supporters began to be considered a problem in the French stadiums in the mid-1980s, due to the racism of some groups. This period is indeed characterized by the appearance of extreme fans (ultras and hooligans) and a high sensitivity of the opinion in relation to incidents in stadiums following the Heysel Stadium disaster in 1985. In the second half of the 1980s and in the early 1990s, some ultras and hooligans displayed their racism: Celtic cross or swastikas exhibited, outstretched rights arms, racist insults and monkey chants towards opposing black players, misleading slogans, songs in praise of Jean-Marie Le Pen National Front leader. Racism problems were particularly concentrated in the Boulogne stand of the Paris Parc des Princes, but they also touched some other clubs. However, they almost never concerned the French national team. Today, these openly racist incidents have almost disappeared from stadiums, which can be attributed to four main reasons.

The apolitical posture of many ultras groups

First, in the French curvas, the ultra trend was much more developed than the hooligan movement. The ultras groups emerged in France in a context where the fan culture was low. Their activism has quickly made

them the “best fans,” the noisiest and most demonstrative. However, they scared the club leaders and other supporters, because they had a taste for provocation, they created overflows and were often confused with hooligans. When the ultras groups began to organize themselves, they sought to improve their image in order to gather the fans behind them and be considered as interlocutors by their club. They particularly tried to stop displaying of extreme right positions.

Rather, the Ultra groups now say they are “anti-racist” or more frequently “apolitical”. This apolitical posture, avoiding internal tensions and turns unifying, covers two cases. Most often, it reflects the diversity of political ideas of the group members. In other cases, a trend (far right or racist) is dominant in the group, but refuses to display it openly to prevent it from being detrimental.

Supporters committed against racism

Second, from the early 1990s, some ultras groups, starting with the South Winners Marseille, opposed the far right in the stadiums. Winners not only affirmed their anti-racism, but they are also physically taken to visibly extreme right Marseille fans to drive them out of their stadium. While xenophobia was expressed at Stade Velodrome in the late 1980s, it is now banned from the stadium and the

main Marseille ultras groups show their opposition to the extreme right, in a city where it gets good scores in the elections. Other ultras groups, Bordeaux, Grenoble, Metz, Montpellier, Nimes, Rennes and Sochaux are positioning themselves as anti-racists. In the second half of the 2000s, many of them have even formed a short-lived network *Supporter of Antifascist Resistance*. Every year, the French ultras surrendered to anti-racist *World* organized in Italy. Bordeaux and Metz ultras are also part of the European network *Alerta*, which opposes the extreme right in the stadiums. These groups regularly organize awareness campaigns against racism, perform anti-racist activities (banners, choreography) and undertake actions towards discriminated populations such as migrants.

The action of the authorities and anti-racist associations

Third, sports and public authorities have gradually taken against racism in stadiums. In late 1993, a law was passed on the safety of sporting events: several articles specifically target insults and racist violence. However, it was necessary that the associations fighting against racism, particularly the LICRA (League against Racism and Anti-Semitism) and more recently SOS Racisme, conduct numerous campaigns for the football authorities to tackle this problem head on. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the racist insults were often considered folklore and they were hardly punished. They are now seen as unacceptable. Since 2000, the sports authorities indicate their strength against racist outbursts supporters, strongly penalizing their clubs. Individual legal sanctions for racism are relatively rare, however, except when a supporter commits a particularly visible act and can be positively identified. Anti-racist associations, football authorities,

clubs and public authorities also carry out campaigns against racism, particularly at the annual *Action Week FARE* (Football Against Racism in Europe). However, there is generally no coordination between these initiatives and those in the same direction by the groups of anti-racist supporters.

The Paris case

The fourth reason for the lower visibility of racism in stadiums today is linked to the extinction of his main home, located in the Paris forum Boulogne. In the mid 1980s, far-right skinheads settled in the centre of this podium and have established a racist tradition. The “Kop of Boulogne” has gradually built like a white country, as opposed to popular cities in the Paris area in which public space is held by young people many of whom are from immigrant families. In the 1990s and 2000s, racial segregation was in fact applied in Boulogne, only a few non-whites being tolerated in the gallery. Moreover, the club guided non-white supporters to other areas of the stadium. Political and racist slogans were chanted by a regular part of the rostrum. Sometimes racist acts were perpetrated around the stadium. However, all supporters of Boulogne were far from the extreme right. In fact, an active minority imposed its racism.

In the 1990s, another fan culture of the community grew at Parc des Princes, the Auteuil bend. In the 2000s, a violent conflict erupted between certain components of Boulogne and Auteuil, when the ultras groups Auteuil no longer accepted the physical domination and racism of the kop. While Boulogne was a white gallery, Auteuil welcomed young people from all backgrounds. Some components of Auteuil gradually asserted their anti-racism. After many episodes, this conflict has dramatically

completed in February 2010 by the death of a hooligan Boulogne, Yann Lorence.

After this tragedy, the government has dissolved the ultras groups and bands of Parisian hooligans. And PSG introduced in summer 2010, random placement in Auteuil and Boulogne stands. The fans from all backgrounds are now mixed in the two corners and the club and the authorities are vigilant in relation to racist slippage. Boulogne is no longer a white platform.

A less visible racism, but still present

Racist demonstrations have gradually declined in the French stadiums. There are no more Celtic or swastikas. Fan groups no longer cast monkey chants and racist slogans. Sometimes racist abuse can be expressed in the stadiums, but they are done by isolated individuals or small groups

(some of which briefly exhibited hostile banners to migrants in recent months).

The far-right ideas have not completely disappeared from French ultras groups and hooligans. They shall be expressed in a roundabout way, or outside stadiums. The few ultras groups in which the far-right members can discretely suggest this tendency is by the exhibition of the French flag, the use of lettering or symbols specific to the extreme right or tendentious slogans. Racist remarks can also be heard on the bus when travelling to games.

Thus, if the far right is very visible in the stages of French football, its ideas can implant more insidiously, benefiting from a favourable political context. The National Front is trivializing its racist links, so it is easier to assert a close affinity with this party. In any case, the contrast with the late 1980s is clear, between now hidden rac-

ism but racism previously put forward by some, but for various reasons (by conviction but also sometimes by pure provocation).

A less strong awareness of homophobia and sexism

French fans, not just those in the curvas, willingly use insults as "PD - homosexual" or "enculé - motherfucker". Most fans consider that these are ritual insults that have no real homophobic content. From the mid 2000s, a football club "gay-friendly" Paris Foot Gay, led many actions, including offering professional clubs to sign a charter against homophobia or by filing complaints for homophobic insults from players or supporters. But these initiatives have encountered more difficulties than anti-racist action, to the point that the Paris Foot Gay has recently decided to disband. In September 2013, the association had organized a football tournament with some supporters' groups to address homophobia in the stands. This experience was very rewarding but also very limited. In 2013, the Ultramarines Bordeaux unfurled a banner against homophobia in the European network Alerta and Horda Frenetik Metz also brandished banners against homophobia, but these are also relatively isolated actions.

Regarding sexism, clubs and football authorities say they want to attract more women in the stages of French football, but rather to expand and diversify the public that the fight against discrimination. Within groups of French fans, sexism is not a topic considered important, except in a few militant groups. It must be said that if young women are involved in the ultras groups, their place is special. The tasks entrusted to them are very visible (preparing choreographies and flags, holding the sales table at the stadium, budget management or travel), under

the pretext that they could not physically defend the banner of the group against the attack of an opposing group. According to the groups, they are integrated in a more or less positive, but they are still in a subservient position in relation to men. Admittedly, the Ultra culture highlights traditional male values: physical strength, honour and solidarity between men. Beyond the ultras groups, the French football stadiums remain male places where sexist remarks are not uncommon, although not ubiquitous either.

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Translation: Eline Bouffigny

Nicolas Hourcade is a Sociologist at the Ecole Centrale de Lyon.



Queering Football

Tackling Homophobia and Promoting Anti-Discrimination around Major Sport Events



Since January 2016, **Football Supporters Europe** has been a partner in the project **Queering Football**.

From January 2016 till the end of 2017, this European project seeks to challenge homophobia in football and aims at establishing an inclusive football culture and anti-discrimination standards at major sport events.

Background

Homophobia – prejudices and violence against LGBTIQs – is still one of the main and untackled problems in European football. Homophobic chants and physical attacks as well as ignorance and exclusion still happen on a daily basis. With Queering Football - Tackling Homophobia and Promoting Anti-Discrimination around Major Sport Events (2016-2017) we want to raise awareness for a wider recognition of homophobia as a problem and support the creation of an inclusive football and fan culture where respect is celebrated and solidarity is cherished.

Aims

Queering Football aims at **using the UEFA EURO 2016 in France as a pan-European communication platform to tackle discrimination and hatred**. The anti-homophobia measures in France will serve as an example to ensure that questions of inclusion, equality and minority rights are on the agenda. **Anti-discrimination activities should be a precondition if a country/city is going to host a major sport event**. One main output of *Queering Football* is a **handbook on fundamental rights and anti-discrimination standards in the context of mega sport events**.

Activities

- EuroPrideHouse & Campaigning against homophobia around UEFA EURO 2016
- Building networks and capacity among LGBTIQs and football supporters
- Developing anti-homophobia educational and training tools
- Promoting anti-discrimination standards at major sport events



Queering Football network

Queering Football is a collaborative project between supporters groups, NGOs, grassroots initiatives, networks and local and international (football) institutions.

The partners in the European project are:

European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation (EGLSF | www.eglsf.info),
Football Supporters Europe (FSE | www.fanseurope.org),
Fédération Sportive Gaie et Lesbienne (FSG, France | www.fsgl.org),
Unione Italiana Sport per Tutti (UISP, Italy | www.uisp.it),
Spolint (Slovenia | www.spolint.org) and
VIDC-fairplay (Austria | www.fairplay.or.at) as the lead organization.

Queering Football is co-funded by the European Commission/ERASMUS+ Sport Programme.

More Information on www.queeringfootball.org and [facebook.com/footballforequality](https://www.facebook.com/footballforequality)





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EN VALLEKAS NO HAY LUGAR PARA LA HOMOFOBIA