June 4, 2026

RE: Post-Event Human Rights Evaluation for the 2026 FIFA World Cup

Dear FIFA World Cup 2026™ New York New Jersey Host Committee, New York State government, New Jersey State government, New York City government, and East Rutherford government (together, the Hosts),[1]

The New York City Bar Association's Business and Human Rights Committee, Civil Rights Committee, and Foreign and Comparative Law Committee ("the Committees") welcome the release of the New York New Jersey FIFA World Cup 2026 Human Rights Action Plan (NYNJ HR Plan).[2] We write to urge you to undertake an evaluation after the conclusion of the 2026 World Cup, in close consultation with key stakeholders and experts, to assess (*1*) the extent to which responsible parties met or failed to meet the commitments set forth in the NYNJ HR Plan, (*2*) the areas in which the NYNJ HR Plan addressed or failed to address adverse human rights impacts, and (*3*) key lessons learned as a result of the foregoing review that should apply to human rights considerations applicable to future major events, including but not limited to the 2031 FIFA Women's World Cup. This evaluation should be made public once it is concluded.

The 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup is the first World Cup event with human rights bidding requirements,[3] the first with a Human Rights Strategy as part of the award, and the first with a Human Rights Framework.[4] Released in July 2024, the Framework instructs Host Committees to

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[1] In addition to the considerations set forth in this letter, we call on FIFA to do everything in its power to ensure a rights-respecting tournament for the 2026 Men's World Cup and all tournaments hereafter. This includes but is not limited to mandating the drafting and publication of human rights action plans by host committees, a post hoc and transparent human rights impact assessment by all host cities in close consultation with relevant experts and stakeholders, and favoring future bidders that can demonstrably address and protect human rights.

[2] FIFA World Cup 26™ New York New Jersey Host Committee Human Rights Action Plan, May 2026, available at https://nynjfwc26.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/FWC26-Human-Rights-Action-Plan.pdf. (All websites were last accessed June 2, 2026).

[3] *See, e.g.*, Human Rights Watch, "FIFA: 2026 World Cup Bids Test Reforms," June 12, 2018, available at https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/06/12/fifa-2026-world-cup-bids-test-reforms#:~:text=In%202018%2C%20Human%20Rights%20Watch%20(HRW)%20said,rights%20risks%20*%20Address%20human%20rights%20risks.

[4] FWC Human Rights Framework, June 2024, available at https://digitalhub.fifa.com/m/494d934f7de1bad/original/FWC26-Human-Rights-Framework_Final_EN_24-July-2024.pdf.

About the Association

The mission of the New York City Bar Association, which was founded in 1870 and has over 20,000 members, is to equip and mobilize a diverse legal profession to practice with excellence, promote reform of the law, and uphold the rule of law and access to justice in support of a fair society and the public interest in our community, our nation, and throughout the world.

"develop tailored Host City Human Rights Action Plans in consultation with FIFA World Cup 26, local governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, and community groups." The Human Rights Framework calls on Host Cities to focus their Human Rights Action Plans on human rights violations in three areas: inclusion and safeguarding, workers' rights, and access to remedy.

The NYNJ Stadium will host eight matches, including the FIFA World Cup 26 Final on July 19, 2026. As World Cup Czar in the New York City (NYC) Mayor's Office, Maya Handa, testified to the NYC Council, "The World Cup will not be felt only inside of a stadium. It will be felt on subway platforms, on buses, on sidewalks, in parks, and on neighborhood commercial corridors across all five boroughs."[5] The World Cup will therefore bring a host of human rights impacts across the entire region as well. Indeed, Governor Kathy Hochul announced that the New York State government expects more than 1.1 million visitors to come to the region, potentially generating US$ 3.3 billion of economic activity.[6]

In our view, New York and New Jersey must lead, not only on making human rights commitments, but also on fulfilling their respective promises to their citizens and to visitors. Releasing the NYNJ HR Plan one month before the start of the games is not enough. A robust monitoring and evaluation process is crucial to ensuring rights protection and identifying gaps that can be remedied in future events. By undertaking and publishing the human rights evaluation, New York and New Jersey can demonstrate to the world their sincere human rights commitments, create an invaluable precedent for other FIFA hosts to follow, and ensure decision-makers capture key lessons to inform planning for future large-scale events.

In view of these important goals, the Committees call on the Hosts to commit to a public process devoted to comprehensively evaluating the human rights performance of the NYNJ Host Committee and the other participants in the 2026 World Cup events in view of the commitments made in the NYNJ HR Plan.

Respectfully,

Business and Human Rights Committee
Isabelle Glimcher, Co-Chair
Isedua Oribhabor, Co-Chair

Civil Rights Committee
Evan Henley, Co-Chair

Foreign and Comparative Law Committee
Sabeena Ahmed, Co-Chair

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[5] Grace Thomas, "Mamdani admin says nil on World Cup plans," City and State NY, February 27, 2026, available at https://www.cityandstateny.com/policy/2026/02/mamdani-admin-says-nil-world-cup-plans/411775/.

[6] Press Release, "Governor Hochul, Mayor Mamdani and FIFA World Cup 2026™ NYNJ Host Committee Announce Free Fan Events in All Five Boroughs of New York City," April 27, 2026, available at https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/video-audio-photos-rush-transcript-governor-hochul-mayor-mamdani-and-fifa-world-cup-2026tm.