

**Tine Vertommen, PhD**

Expert Consultant to the International Olympic Committee Safe Sport Unit

## **Council of Europe Breakfast roundtable on women in sport**

**8 March 2023, Strasbourg**

10.14-10.22am Combating gender-based violence toward adults in sport: IOC policy

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### *1. The issue of gender-based violence in sport*

- A hidden topic for too long. First studies showed that girls and women are disproportionately affected by violence in (and outside) sport.
- Often a focus on children and young people in sport, but recent studies show alarming numbers of adult athletes exposed to harassment and abuse in sport. Safeguarding efforts should not only focus on children.
- By the way: boys and men are exposed to harassment and abuse in sport too. A recent study with over 10.000 European adults showed that men experienced higher levels of all types of interpersonal violence compared to women
- The issue is bigger than GBV towards athletes only: all sport participants, entourage, coaching staff, officials can be exposed to GBV
  - Examples: dropout of young referees due to GBV
  - Female Sport and exercise physicians much more often exposed to GBV from fellow physicians, coach/managers and athletes
- Sport can also be a tool that can be deployed to contribute to wider approaches to addressing gender-based violence, as a platform to help challenge social attitudes and norms, provide safe spaces to support women and girls engage understand and advocate on GBV and an avenue to engage men and boys in PIVAW efforts.

### *2. The IOC program. What we do:*

- Strengthen the evidence base on GBV *in sport*
  - The new IOC consensus statement brings together world leading academic experts in the field of harassment and abuse and translates academic knowledge into applicable knowledge for sport organisations
  - Mapping and understanding the needs and challenges of International Federations and NOCs in the response to GBV in sport
- Build communities of practice
  - Educate the Olympic Movement via the IOC Safeguarding Certificate course and the Athlete Commission and Focal Point trainings in the Olympic Movement
  - Tools for stakeholders to raise awareness, educate and promote the exchange of good practices
- Be at the forefront of safeguarding as the leader of the Olympic Movement
  - Games-time framework in place at OG and YOG since 2016

- Special attention to safeguard online spaces. At this moment, IOC is hosting a side-event during the UN Women's Summit on the role of sport to prevent online abuse
  - Strong link with mental health
- Launch of the Olympism 365 strategy on how sport can impact the SDG's focusses on ensuring access to safe and inclusive sport for all.

An important component of this strategy is to strengthen safeguarding and the prevention of harm and abuse across the diversity of the Olympism365 portfolios, partnerships and interventions. In addition, there is a suite of direct action within the Olympism365 Sport, Health and Active Communities Portfolio. Including direct investment in programmatic interventions, capacity building and knowledge sharing on the use of sport as a tool to help fight GBV, for example through the [One Win Leads to Another Initiative](#).

### 3. Call for collaboration with governments

Double role of sport: Sport is a setting in which GBV can take place. Sport can also be used as a vehicle to fight gender stereotypes and norms. Call for collaboration with sport sector

From a governmental point of view:

1. Include sport in national action plans to prevent GBV
2. Increased awareness could be raised on the connection between sport, gender roles and gender stereotypes, which might create a barrier for LGBTQ people to participate in sport