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CEO | Prif Weithredwr: Brian Davies

Jenny Rathbone MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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11.07.2023

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your letter of 29 June in relation to the committee's inquiry into the public health approach to preventing gender-based violence.

As you may know Sport Wales is not a regulatory body and therefore organisations such as National Governing Bodies of sport, local authorities and individual clubs and organisations are better placed in terms of making a direct difference.

Inclusive Sport Sector

Your letter correctly identifies sport as having an important role to play in preventing gender-based violence. Whilst bystander interventions, where safe and effective, are noted as possibly functioning to change negative gender attitudes and beliefs, we believe we must focus on tackling the cause of gender-based violence. It is therefore the development and sustainability of an inclusive sport system that is the primary focus of Sport Wales. This involves cultivating safe, inclusive, welcoming, and developmental sporting opportunities.

There are a range of approaches we are taking to facilitate this ambition. Firstly, our recent changes to the investment approach we operate has put tackling inequalities in sport at the heart of our partnerships. An important aspect of this is to invest in sports where women and girls are both participating in and want to do those sports. Our ambition it to ensure that sports are catering for those demographics and thus are establishing opportunities that ensure women and girls are welcome and supported.

Partnership Working

One avenue we are also developing that can impact on the agenda of preventing gender-based violence is our partnership work. Our ongoing partnership with, and investment in, the International Working Group (IWG) on Women in Sport has enabled this internationally renowned organisation to be hosted in the UK during the current 2022-2026 secretariate. The vision of the IWG is for a sustainable sporting culture based on gender equality that enables and values the full involvement of girls and women in every aspect of sport and physical activity.

Sport Wales also has several important partnerships focused on ensuring safeguarding in sport is a priority. These include our work with the NSPCC and its Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) as well as the Ann Craft Trust.

The CPSU, which is part of the NSPCC and is funded by Sport England, Sport Northern Ireland, Sport Wales, UK Sport and The Football Association, has a range of resources and campaigns, such as their [Keeping your child safe in sport](#) & the [Listen Up, Speak Up](#) campaigns. These focus on empowering adults to create safe sporting environments.

The Ann Craft Trust also provides resources and support for safe and inclusive sport. As part of its #SaferCultureSaferSport Campaign on the 12th of June, the Trust ran a free online seminar about Bystander Interventions.

Sport Wales will continue to support the development of resources, training, and guidance through these partnerships.

Finally, we would also like to make the committee aware of the recent publication of the '[Tackling violence against women and girls in sport: highlights](#)' document by the UNESCO. This document offers advice and challenge to sport practitioners and policy makers. Sport Wales will be considering how we can both support directly and our partners to utilise resources to enhance the sporting environment for women and girls.

Yours Sincerely,



Brian Davies
Chief Executive
Sport Wales