

Human Rights Impact Assessment Exercise

Consider the components for a human rights impact assessment of the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

Background:

- In 2010, FIFA awarded the 2022 World Cup (the quadrennial international men's football championship of at least 32 national teams) to Qatar. The tournament will be played from 21 November to 18 December 2022 (to avoid the summer heat between May and September). 86,000 fans are expected to attend the opening ceremony at the Lusail Stadium, and billions will watch the tournament worldwide.
- Major FIFA sponsors include the multinational companies Adidas, Visa, Hyundai and Coca-Cola. The last World Cup (Russia - 2018) generated an estimated \$6 billion in revenue.
- This will be the first World Cup ever to be held in the Arab world and the first in a Muslim-majority country.
- Seven new stadiums have been built for the tournament. Additional construction projects include a new airport, roads, and hotels.
- Amnesty International has accused Qatar of widespread labor abuses, including the use of forced labor and restrictions on freedom of movement. Human rights advocates have highlighted the persistence of Qatar's 'Kafala' system of sponsorship-based employment which legally binds foreign workers to their employers, restricting all workers' ability to change jobs and preventing many from leaving the country without their employers' permission.
- FIFA adopted a human rights policy in 2017.

- According to the U.S. State Department’s 2017 Human Rights Report on Qatar: “The most significant human rights issues included restrictions on freedoms of speech and press, including criminalization of libel; restrictions on assembly and association, including prohibitions on political parties and labor unions; restrictions on the freedom of movement for migrant workers’ travel abroad; limits on the ability of citizens to choose their government in free and fair elections; and criminalization of male same sex sexual activity. There were reports of forced labor that the government made efforts to eliminate.”
- *The Guardian* reports more than 6,500 migrant workers have died in Qatar since 2010.
- The Government of Qatar has expressed a commitment to align its laws and practices with international labor standards and fundamental principles and rights at work. Qatar has recently ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), albeit with reservations - refusing to fully recognize equal rights for women (in matters of personal laws such as inheritance); interpreting the term ‘punishment’ in line with the Islamic Sharia (maintaining the death penalty and corporal punishment for crimes including murder, banditry and adultery); and allowing only Qatari nationals to form associations and trade unions.
- In October 2019, the Qatari Labour Ministry promised to abolish the *kafala* (sponsorship) system.

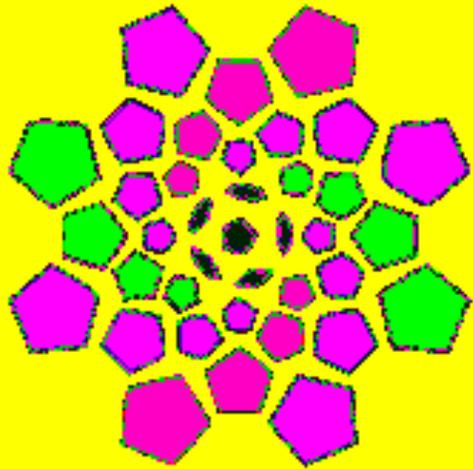
The class will break into 3 groups focusing, respectively, on the following stakeholders:

- 1) Fans and athletes;
- 2) Workers and communities; and
- 3) Journalists and human rights defenders.

Each group will consider the following questions:

- **What rights can be impacted and how?**
- **How can due diligence be carried out to identify impacts on rightsholders?**
- **What actions can be taken based on the results of a HRIA?**

Groups will be asked to map their impacts against potential responsive actions.



qatar
2022



MIGRANT WORKERS IN QATAR

Migrant workers have flocked to Qatar since the country was awarded the World Cup in December 2010, and the population has grown by **more than a million**.

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL 

QATAR POPULATION

— DECEMBER 2010

1.6 MILLION
PEOPLE

— DECEMBER 2018

2.6 MILLION
PEOPLE

MIGRANT WORKERS

REPRESENT



OF THE COUNTRY'S
LABOUR FORCE

WORKING MAINLY IN :



CONSTRUCTION



HOSPITALITY



DOMESTIC SERVICE

LESS THAN 2% OF MIGRANT WORKERS ARE EMPLOYED ON
WORLD CUP CONSTRUCTION SITES