



FIFA WORLD CUP 2026™ HOUSTON HOST COMMITTEE

HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION PLAN SUMMARY / 2.18.26

Years of Diligent Engagement: The History of This Human Rights Action Plan

The creation of Houston’s Human Rights Action Plan began during the FIFA World Cup 2026™ bid phase (2019–2022), when the Houston Bid Committee convened a Human Rights Sub-Committee to proactively identify and address potential risks associated with hosting a mega sporting event.

Over four years, more than 100 individuals representing 91 organizations—including local government agencies, law enforcement, labor leaders, accessibility advocates, homelessness service providers, anti-trafficking organizations, and civil society stakeholders—contributed input through surveys, workshops, and working sessions. Following Houston’s official host city selection, the plan was updated to align with FIFA’s World Cup 2026™ Human Rights Framework (released in July 2024), incorporating renewed stakeholder consultation and translating commitments into targeted, operational actions for 2026.

Concerted Efforts Spearheaded by Leadership from the Onset

Along the way, this effort has been spearheaded by Minal Patel Davis, currently Chief Legacy Officer for the FIFA World Cup 2026™ Houston Host Committee. A nationally recognized, award-winning human rights specialist, Davis has built a career advancing human rights due diligence, and community-centered policy solutions across complex global supply chains and public-private partnerships. Her leadership on this plan dates back to the bid phase, where she led stakeholder engagement and risk assessment efforts that shaped Houston’s original human rights commitments.

The work has been carried forward with ongoing institutional support and resources from Host Committee President Chris Canetti, who has supported embedding human rights protections in operational planning since Houston’s pursuit of the tournament began.

Human Rights Action Plan Aims to Raise Bar for Host Cities Like Houston and Beyond

The goal of this Action Plan is clear: To raise the bar for how mega sporting events are hosted—both in Houston and beyond.

Rather than treating human rights as a compliance exercise, the Host Committee has embedded worker protections, accessibility standards, anti-trafficking coordination, free speech protections, and community safeguards directly into tournament delivery systems.

The intent is not only to mitigate risk during the 39-day tournament, but to strengthen lasting systems, partnerships, and expectations for future major events in Houston and across the United States.



Core Elements of the Human Rights Action Plan

FIFA Fan Festival™ Wage Floor

The Host Committee established a \$15 per hour wage floor operating at the FIFA Fan Festival 2026™ Houston—more than double the state and federal minimum wage. The Responsible Contracting Policy embeds international labor standards into procurement and includes compliance monitoring to protect workers.

FIFA Fan Festival 2026™ Houston Worker Hub

A dedicated Worker Support Hub will operate onsite at the Fan Festival, offering confidential worker interviews, grievance reporting pathways, access to labor stakeholders, upskilling resources, and wellness support.

FIFA Fan Festival 2026™ Houston Inclusivity

The Fan Festival will reflect Houston's diversity through multilingual signage, diverse food options, an interfaith prayer space, and a clear Code of Conduct prohibiting discrimination. Dually, the plan directly aligns with the cultural considerations that align with the countries scheduled to play matches in Houston.

FIFA Fan Festival 2026™ Houston Accessibility

Accessibility measures include accessible entrances and restrooms, sensory accommodations, service animal relief areas, accessibility training for frontline personnel, and accessible digital communications.

Free Speech Zones

Designated demonstration areas, a peaceful demonstration toolkit, and coordination with safety teams will ensure constitutional protections for peaceful assembly are upheld.

Unsheltered Population

The Host Committee commits to preventing displacement or criminalization of unsheltered residents by coordinating with homelessness service providers and aligning outreach and housing resources as needed.

Community Trainings

[Publicly available trainings](#) created by the Host Committee include human trafficking and accessibility trainings.

Where to View the Full Plan

Version 1 of the Human Rights Action Plan, released February 16, 2026, is available at bit.ly/hou26-humanrights. In addition to the aforementioned elements, the prevention and mitigation of trafficking and topics related to freedom of assembly, opinion, expression, and the press are addressed, among additional topics.

Inquiries

For media and general communications inquiries, please contact media@fwc26houston.com