

ATL26 Human Rights Action Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Prepared in support of FIFA World Cup 2026™



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Atlanta's Commitment

The City of Atlanta is the birthplace of the American Civil Rights Movement and home to leaders whose work transformed the nation's understanding of justice, dignity, and equality. As a host city for the FIFA World Cup 2026™, Atlanta carries that legacy forward with the ATL26 Human Rights Action Plan—a comprehensive framework for ensuring that the world's largest sporting event reflects our values in both celebration and practice.

This plan was not written for Atlanta. It was written with Atlanta. Over 75 hours of community engagement sessions brought together labor leaders, disability advocates, faith organizations, immigrant-serving nonprofits, anti-trafficking coalitions, youth organizations, academic institutions, and residents from across the city and region. Their input shaped every section of this document.

The plan is guided by a core principle: **the FIFA World Cup 2026™ should happen with Atlanta, and not to Atlanta.** Every initiative is designed to protect, include, and create lasting benefit for the communities that call this city home—before, during, and long after the tournament ends.

What This Plan Covers

The ATL26 Human Rights Action Plan addresses the full spectrum of human rights considerations associated with hosting a mega-event. It is organized around four pillars:

- **Inclusion and Safeguarding:** Protecting vulnerable populations, advancing child safety, supporting unsheltered residents, preventing human trafficking, ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities, expanding language access, upholding the right to peaceful assembly, safeguarding data privacy and digital rights, and mitigating adverse environmental impacts.
- **Workers' Rights:** Ensuring fair wages, safe workplaces, freedom of association, wage theft prevention, small business readiness, and workforce development—with a \$17.50/hour minimum wage as the baseline for all FIFA-related employment coordinated by the City.

- **Access to Remedy:** Establishing a unified grievance reporting portal with FIFA, strengthening the Human Relations Commission as the City’s primary anti-discrimination mechanism, and ensuring multilingual access to complaint systems.
- **Accountability and Monitoring:** Defining measurable metrics for every Legacy Impact Initiative, committing to quarterly public progress reports, and publishing a comprehensive Post-Games Human Rights Impact Report within six months of the tournament’s conclusion.

Guiding Frameworks

This plan is grounded in internationally recognized standards, including the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and FIFA’s own FWC26 Human Rights Framework. It also draws on Atlanta’s existing policy infrastructure, including the City’s Resilient Atlanta Strategy, Clean Energy Plan, Climate Action Plan, Vision Zero Plan, and the Good Jobs Alliance.

Focus Areas at a Glance

The table below summarizes the plan’s major action areas, the commitments within each, and the City departments or partners responsible for delivery.

Focus Area	Key Actions & Commitments	Lead Department(s)
Human Trafficking	AHTA Training Series (1,000+ trained); Anti-Human Trafficking FIFA 26 Taskforce; coordinated enforcement with APD, FBI, GBI, Homeland Security; youthSpark youth safety programs	Mayor’s Office of Violence Reduction; Atlanta Alliance Against Trafficking
Housing & Homelessness	500 permanent supportive housing units; 2,000 households rehoused; Homelessness Task Force with updated SOPs; dedicated street outreach workers; Downtown Rising Strategy	Partners for HOME; Mayor’s Office; APD HOPE

Workers' Rights	\$17.50/hr minimum wage; Labor Rights Education Program with GLAHR; Good Jobs Alliance; ADOLES monitoring and enforcement; Showcase Atlanta vendor readiness	ADOLES; GLAHR; Good Jobs Alliance
Youth & Children	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child programming; Moving HER Forward Global Capstone; Future Forward Youth Entrepreneurship Accelerator; International Day of Play activations	Mayor's Office of One Atlanta; UNICEF USA; youthSpark
Accessibility	ADA walk-throughs with disability community; WCAG 2.1 AA digital compliance; MARTA Mobility services; workforce disability awareness training; adaptive sports programming	Division of Disability Access & ADA Compliance; MARTA; Georgia Tech CIDI
Language Access	Six priority languages + ASL; multilingual venue signage and digital platforms; volunteer language ambassadors; translated rights materials; real-time translation technology	MOII; iSpeak ATL; Division of Equity & Inclusion
Public Safety	De-escalation and crisis response training; updated uniforms for international approachability; Helpful Guidelines for Peaceful Assembly; independent local policing	APD; AFRD; E-911; Department of Law
Data Privacy	Technology review for facial recognition/biometrics; data minimization standards; public transparency report on surveillance; WCAG-compliant digital platforms	Mayor's Office; APD; Chief Information Officer
Environment	Zero-waste targets at Mercedes-Benz Stadium; public transit incentives; sustainable procurement; alignment with Resilient Atlanta Strategy and Clean Energy Plan	Office of Sustainability & Resilience; Mercedes-Benz Stadium; MARTA

<p>Access to Remedy</p>	<p>Unified FIFA/City grievance portal; Human Relations Commission modernization; multilingual complaint access; specialized training on international HR standards</p>	<p>HRC; Mayor’s Office of Constituent Services; Office of One Atlanta</p>
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Legacy Impact Initiatives

This plan identifies eight Legacy Impact Initiatives—programs and investments designed to deliver lasting value well beyond the final match. Each is paired with measurable targets and a commitment to post-tournament assessment:

- **Human Rights Ecosystem Mapping** – Convening and aligning 15+ partner organizations through at least four ecosystem meetings in 2026, with a publicly accessible directory of human rights resources.
- **Youth Advancement and Support** – Enrolling 200+ young people in leadership and development programs, with a 75% completion target.
- **Careers in Sports Training** – Three career exposure events reaching 150+ participants, with 50+ referred or placed into training and development experiences.
- **Major Sporting Event Accessibility Readiness** – Publishing a citywide Accessibility Readiness Kit by May 2026.
- **Supportive Housing Assistance** – 500 permanent supportive housing units and 2,000 households rehoused across 2025-2026
- **Anti-Human Trafficking Prevention** – 1,000+ individuals trained across Business and Community tracks by June 2026.
- **Pride Programming** – Two+ FIFA-connected LGBTQ+ community events with health, legal, and support resource distribution.
- **Advancing Local Expertise and Remedy** – Specialized HRC training, expanded community outreach, and reduced complaint resolution timelines.

How We Will Be Accountable

The City of Atlanta will publish quarterly progress reports beginning in Q1 2026, tracking performance against the metrics established in the plan's Accountability Framework. Within six months of the tournament's conclusion, the City will commission a Post-Games Human Rights Impact Report—developed with an independent advisory panel of community representatives, human rights experts, and academic partners—to evaluate outcomes, capture lessons learned, and outline a sustainability plan for continuing legacy programs.

A Risk Assessment and Mitigation Framework identifies seven priority risks—from labor exploitation and trafficking escalation to surveillance overreach—with assigned leads, defined mitigation strategies, and quarterly review cycles.

An Invitation

Atlanta has always believed that progress is possible when communities work together toward justice. This Action Plan is both a commitment to the standards we believe every host city should uphold and an invitation to join us in making the 2026 FIFA World Cup a model for what happens when human rights are placed at the center of global celebration.

We welcome the world to Atlanta—with humility, with purpose, and with the determination to ensure that the joy of sport is grounded in fairness, justice, and shared humanity.