

EventRights – What Is It?



EventRights seeks to explore, and share knowledge, on the extent to which the landscape of mega sport events (MSEs) can be improved to ensure a progressive, rights-focused agenda is pursued by awarding organisations, host governments and implemented in the formal institutions tasked with organising these events. The project will produce recommendations as to how MSE organising committees, awarding bodies, and the local/national state can be mandated to ensure that opportunities to address inequality, enhance diversity and facilitate greater dialogue are enshrined in the planning, delivery, and legacy plans for the events themselves.

The project is 4 years long (Dec 2018 to Nov 2022) and is funded by the European Commission under the Marie Curie Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Staff Exchange Scheme. It has ten partners in eight countries. These are Coventry University and the University of the West of Scotland (United Kingdom); Technical University of Munich (Germany); University of Gothenburg (Sweden); University of the Peloponnese (Greece); Western University (Canada); Fundacion Getulio Vargas (Brazil); North Carolina State University and George Mason University (USA) and Meiji University (Japan).

Project Website: www.eventrights.net



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement no. 823815.



Human Rights, Diversity and Inclusion

Human Rights

“Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more. Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discrimination”. (UN, n.d.).

Diversity

Diversity means understanding that each individual is unique, and recognising our individual differences. These can be along the dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, or other ideologies. The concept of diversity encompasses acceptance and respect. It means understanding that each individual is unique, and recognising our individual differences.

Inclusion

Diversity often focuses on the differences, and is referred to as “the mix.” Inclusion is the deliberate act of welcoming diversity and creating an environment where all different kinds of people can thrive and succeed. Diversity is what you have. Inclusion is what you do. True inclusion, therefore, is about valuing all individuals, giving equal access and opportunity to all and removing discrimination and other barriers to involvement, such that people feel a sense of belonging, feel respected and valued for who they are and feel a level of supportive energy and commitment from others that allows them to do their best (Miller and Katz, 2002).



Access to Public Space



Source: Dr David McGillivray

Mega sport events can create and reinforce issues associated with exclusion associated with access to housing, transport and freedom of movement and assembly before and during the event. There are concerns that the legal and social rights of citizens are (temporarily) suspended when special legislation is passed to enable host cities to plan and deliver these events.



Freedom of Expression

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 20

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
(2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Source: UN Convention of Human Rights

Mega sport events represent opportunities for organisers to promote their nations to a worldwide audience. However, there are concerns that freedom of expression and peaceful assembly are curtailed for citizens before and during the event.

Planning and Decision Making



Source: FIFA Human Rights Policy document

As the issue of human rights has become more recognized in the field of mega sport events, pressure has been exerted to ensure that the main awarding bodies and host organisers are embedding human rights policies and guidance within their planning and delivery processes.

Children's/Youth Rights



Source: Harsh Kushwaha - Pexels

Mega sport events have been noted by several academics and sporting event experts to be an important tool for generating positive outcomes for cities and countries at large. However, the aftermath of hosting these games, most times, goes beyond the success stories, positive impacts and legacies, as child rights issues such as police violence, forced eviction, child labour, sexual exploitations, and so on have been highlighted to be associated with the hosting of such events.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement no. 823815.



Gender/LGBTQ-Rights



Source: Sharon McCutcheon - Pexels

Historically, women and the LGBTQ communities have been marginalised in the context of large sport events. Their participation and inclusion has been low or non-existent. The first Gay Games was organized in San Francisco (1982) and the next will be set in Hong Kong (2022). The Federation of Gay Games (FGG) lobbies sporting bodies, media and governments to increase opportunities for all athletes “regardless of gender, age, ability, or physical challenge” (gaygames.org).



Labour Rights



Source: Tom Fisk - Pexels

Strengthening labour rights for workers who build the event sites and organise the event is important. Otherwise, the event will be a showcase for the negative effects of commercialisation in sport.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement no. 823815.



Environmental Issues



Source: Pixabay - Pexels

How green events are is not only determined by the construction of infrastructure, but it also relates to travelling and purchase behaviours of attendees. Almost no mega-event does a good job in fighting climate change.

Corruption/ Governance of MSEs



Source: CoWomen - Pexels

Good governance in sport organisations requires successful change management. Only if our whole world is free of corruption, will sport be free of corruption.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement no. 823815.



Poverty – Rio 2016, Favelas and Gentrification

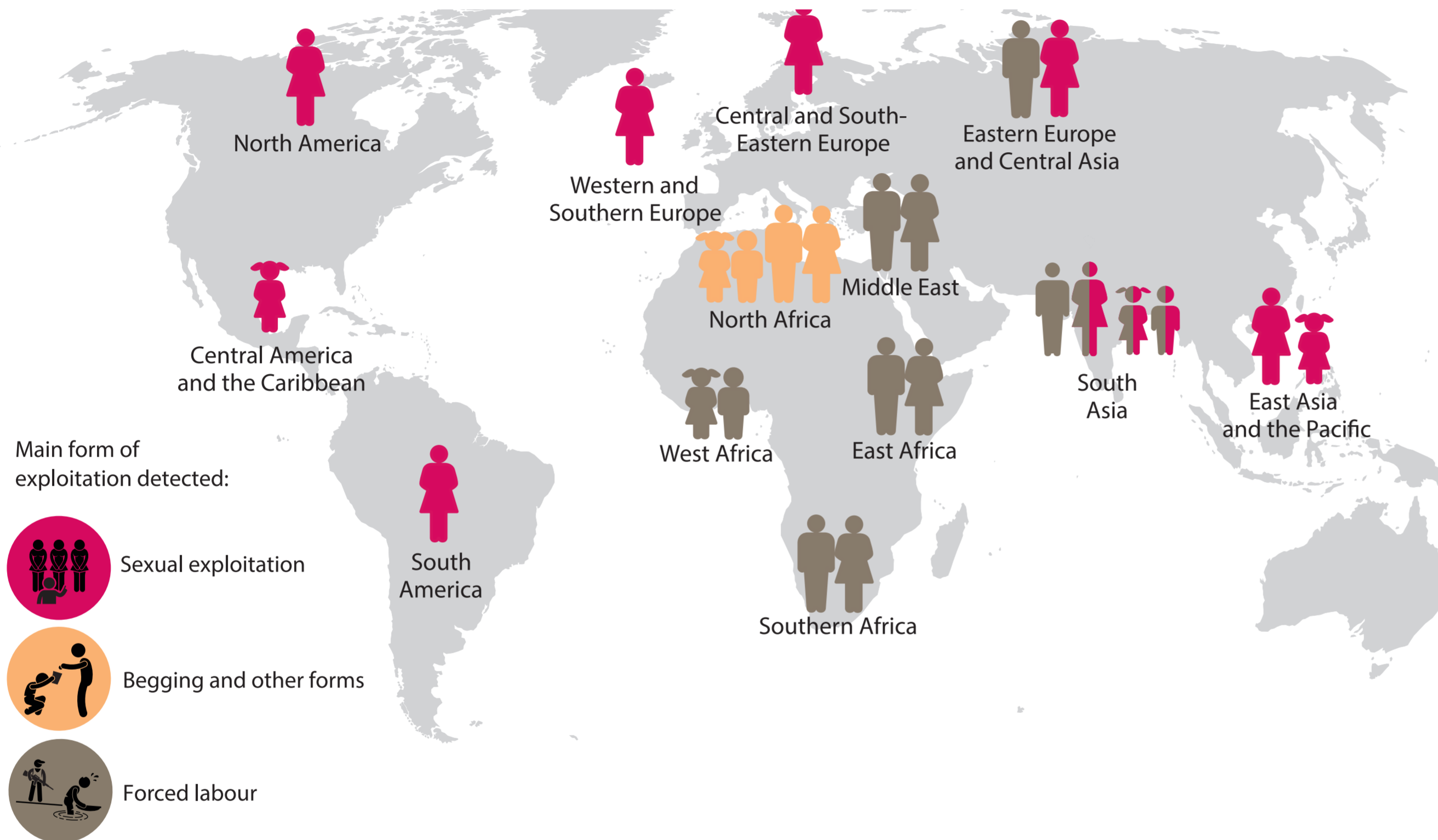


Source: Tiago Ribeiro

Increased poverty and crime in favelas, inadequate infrastructure, public education, and health assistance continue to be problematic issues, and some observers suggest that mega events in Brazil are conceived of as a privileged event for the elite and display a lack of concern for the welfare of the citizens. In addition, the construction of hypermodern sport stadia and the associated areas for tourist and consumer classes often leads to the displacement of the very communities purported to benefit from such events.

Sex/Human Trafficking

Main profiles detected in the geographical areas considered, by subregions, 2016 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: United Nations Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018

“Despite the progress, impunity still prevails in large parts of the globe...There remain significant knowledge gaps related to the patterns and flows of trafficking in persons...More victims of trafficking in persons were reported to UNODC in 2016 than at any time over the past 13 years” (United Nations: Global report on trafficking in persons 2018)

People with Disabilities



Source: Dr Ian Brittain

The Paralympic Games are now the second largest multi-sport competition on earth after the Olympic Games. The overall vision of the International Paralympic Committee is to make for an inclusive world through Para sport (IPC Strategic Plan 2019-2022). However, questions still remain about whether the claimed benefits of hosting the Paralympic Games actually reach the wider disabled community beyond athletes with a disability.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement no. 823815.

For more information contact:
Dr Ian Brittain - aa8550@coventry.ac.uk
Coventry University



Technische Universität München



UNIVERSITY OF PELOPONNESE



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG



Download the notes with more information by clicking on the link:
<http://eventrights.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/200214-events-rights-notebook.pdf>

