

21.04.2021

Dear Brendan,

Thank you for reaching out to the IOC with your letter. As you know, following the IOC AC proposal, the IOC Executive Board tasked the IOC AC with an [athlete consultation](#) on the topic of athlete expression. We are always open to have constructive dialogues as part of our “open-door” policy and our continued focus on engagement and support for athletes. As such we will include your feedback as part of this consultation.

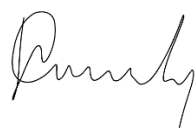
You stated in your letter that our survey was ‘fundamentally flawed’ but you did not expand with details of what you think those flaws are. To ensure our consultation was as strong and robust as possible, we hired a professional agency to help us design, implement and analyse the survey. In addition, in order to also have an independent review of the survey the IOC AC has engaged with [FORS](#), the Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Science, with an extensive experience in high quality academic surveys. FORS implements large-scale national and international surveys, offer data and research information services to researchers and academic institutions, and conduct methodological and thematic research.

We are confident in the both the methodology used for the survey and the analysis of the data collected. I wanted to also highlight that the survey is one part of many in this consultation: including qualitative calls with Athletes’ Commissions and consultation with human rights and sports law experts. The IOC AC has also published on [Athlete365](#) the public statements from many Athletes’ Commissions as part of the qualitative consultation on this topic.

The IOC AC and the IOC are fully supportive of freedom of expression. This is highlighted in the Athletes’ Rights and Responsibilities Declaration, in Right 11 and also the first Right is the right to “*Practise sport and compete without being subject to discrimination on the basis of race, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other immutable status.*”

As mentioned previously, the IOC AC is open to hearing feedback from all groups and will continue to engage with the entire athlete community.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirsty Coventry".

Kirsty Coventry

IOC Athletes’ Commission Chair