

Challenge for the 2024 Paris Organising Committee

Implement the Olympic Charter

In 1924, for the first time Paris hosted the Olympic Games, but women were excluded by Pierre de Coubertin's sole will. It was not until the 1928 Amsterdam Games that, thanks to the determination of the Frenchwoman Alice Milliat¹, women gained the right to participate in athletics and other Olympic disciplines.

The organizers of Paris 2024 proclaimed that they would promote sex equality and mix, wanting the legacy of the Games to be the enforcement of the *universal fundamental ethical principles*, as set by the Olympic Charter.

Among those principles: non-discrimination, including that of sex (Principle N° 6)², neutrality such as stated in Rule 50 (“*No kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in any Olympic sites, venues or other areas*”), the Olympic oath (“*Granted the honour of becoming a member of the International Olympic Committee, (...) I undertake to keep myself free from any racial or religious consideration (...)*”)

Yet, two countries, Iran and Saudi Arabia, still contravene both the spirit and the letter of the Olympic Charter as they subject the participation of women in international competitions to considerations that are in total contradiction to the terms of the Olympic Charter: only those disciplines deemed “*Koranic*” are accessible to them, on the double condition that they be covered from head to foot and that they participate solely in women only events. Such archaic measures are among other humiliating ways sexual apartheid is imposed on their peoples by those political regimes³.

How could the IOC accept such serious violations of the basic principles of the Charter when it excluded South Africa when racial apartheid was its rule?

We demand that the President of the 2024 Paris Games draw the IOC President's attention to the incompatibility of sexual apartheid with the Olympic Charter. Furthermore, has not the IOC inscribed in its 2020 agenda the promotion of “*gender equality*” and “*mixed gender teams events*”⁴ as a priority, as did the Paris Olympic Committee?

It is vital to seize the opportunity of the 2024 Paris Olympics to emphasize ALL the universal principles inscribed in the Olympic Charter: particularly that of neutrality, forbidding any display of political or religious affiliation. This message should be conveyed to the 2024 Generation⁵, as well as to those who are active in sports, and be at the core of the Paris message. Contact : www.ldif.asso.fr;

¹ Drevon (André), *Alice Milliat, la passionaria du sport féminin*, Paris Vuibert, 2005.

² In conformity with international texts (cf. particularly, the International Convention for *the elimination of discriminations against women* (CEDAW)

³ These theocracies institutionalized sexual apartheid in the 1960s (Saudi Arabia during the oil boom and its Islamic renewal) and in 1979 (Iran during its Islamic Revolution).

⁴ 2020 *Olympic Agenda* : Recommandation N°11.

⁵ Booklet Paris 2024 : « *Génération 2024, des Jeux pour aujourd'hui et pour demain* ». Paris 2024