



**SENATOR JORDON STEELE - JOHN**  
AUSTRALIAN GREENS  
SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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To: Mr Chris Nikou  
Chair of Football Australia

CC: Mr James Johnson  
CEO of Football Australia

*by email*

Dear Mr Chris Nikou and Mr James Johnson,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Australian Greens, to express our deep concern for human rights abuses that have occurred in Qatar, and particularly those affiliated with the FIFA world cup.

In 2010, there was worldwide shock that the 2022 World Cup would be held in Qatar. It only had little infrastructure, but most importantly, the desert-like temperature created concern about fans, footballers and workers.

Human Rights Watch reports that low-paid migrants made up 90% of Qatar's workforce. Given its role as a global organisation, FIFA had the opportunity to create strict rules about the workforce used to develop the infrastructure required for the World Cup and protect workers. Unfortunately, this was not the case.

The information we have received is that between 6,750 and 15,000 workers have died while building stadiums and hospitality venues that will be used for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Additionally, many migrant workers are undertaking construction work through the 'Kalafa', a bonded labour scheme in Qatar. This scheme has been criticised by Human Rights Organisations for creating opportunities for workers to be exploited, with employers able to monitor workers, withhold wages, and take away passports with limited opportunity for legal repercussions.

The Australian Greens will always promote human rights and call out those who do not support them. We are proud to see the Socceroos call out these abuses, and we ask you to do the same. Sport has the ability to bring people together from across the globe in ways no other industry does, but this should be done in a safe and respectful manner for everyone.

*We have written to FIFA to support the establishment of a compensation and remedy fund of US\$440 million (matching the FIFA World Cup price) for migrant workers, and for the families of those workers who have died. We hope you will do the same.*

*We also request that you make a public statement available on your website in support of migrant workers' rights, compensation, and non-repetition of human rights abuses in future World Cups.*



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We look forward to hearing how Football Australia will address these human rights violations.

Kind regards,

Senator Jordon Steele-John  
Australian Greens spokesperson for Foreign Affairs, Peace and Nuclear Disarmament

Senator Lidia Thorpe  
Australian Greens spokesperson for Sport

Senator David Shoebridge  
Australian Greens spokesperson for Justice

Senator Barbara Pocock  
Australian Greens spokesperson for Employment

Senator Mehreen Faruqi  
Deputy Leader of the Australian Greens