

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



Centre for Sport  
& Human Rights

### YOUTH MEDIA FORWARD INITIATIVE

Young journalists reporting on sport, human rights and the FIFA World Cup 2026

GENERATION2026



## INTRODUCTION

The Centre for Sport and Human Rights launched its [Generation 2026: Youth Media Forward Initiative](#) in December 2023. The Centre is now inviting applications for the first cohort of 20 youth reporters: we are inviting applications from 15-17 year olds based in four of the FIFA World Cup 2026 host cities: Guadalajara; Toronto; Los Angeles; New York New Jersey.

## WHY APPLY?

The program is an exciting opportunity to hone your skills, build a peer network, report stories and share opinions: on the human rights dimensions of sports in your community, and in connection with the FIFA World Cup 2026.

As a Youth Media Forward reporter, you will receive:

- **Training on reporting the human rights dimensions of sport** and ensuring responsible reporting practices, across print, broadcast and online media. Dimensions may include (but not be limited to): access and diversity, safety in sport, the impacts of major sporting events and the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders; and the working conditions for people involved in or affected by major events.
- **Opportunities to submit stories for publication**, through partnerships with media outlets.
- **Interactive sessions with media industry leaders.**
- And, through the above activities, the **opportunity to help inform and shape the future of sports media**, with a focus on stories that advance human rights.

“As a sports journalist I can’t wait for this program to get started as more young journalists in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico elevate important stories, shift dominant narratives of sport and give more attention to human rights.”

**SHIREEN AHMED, CBC SPORTS.**

“There aren’t many of us doing this work. Diversifying newsrooms is critical for addressing persisting inequalities within the sports landscape. Working in



communities with the next generation is so important to expand opportunities in sports journalism”

**MIRIAM WALKER-KHAN, SKY SPORTS.**

“The Youth Media Forward initiative is an exciting opportunity for youth journalists. They will have the chance to report on ways that sport breaks barriers and can be a force for change, and to pose questions to decision-makers involved in hosting major sporting events. Through the initiative they will be helping shape the future of sports, and of journalism.”

**SOLEDAD O'BRIEN, FOUNDER OF SOLEDAD O'BRIEN PRODUCTIONS.**

## WHO CAN APPLY?

- **Current high school students who will be 15, 16 or 17 years old** in September 2024.
- **Based in** one of the following host cities/regions for the FIFA World Cup 2026: Guadalajara; Toronto; Los Angeles; New York New Jersey.
- **Experience:** Applicants should have a demonstrated interest in: journalism or the media; social impact / human rights; and in sport (for example as someone who takes part in sport or is a sports fan).

## YOUR COMMITMENT

The first Youth Media Forward cohort of up to 20 youth journalists will be underway from September 2024 - August 2025, with the option of continuing for a further year up to and including the FIFA World Cup in July/August 2026. A second cohort of up to 20 will join in September 2025.

Over the year, participants will be expected to:

- **Join interactive training sessions every two months**, including four virtual 1.5-hour sessions across the full cohort; and at least two local or topic-specific training sessions or seminars. Simultaneous translation in English-Spanish will be available for the joint sessions.
- **Produce at least two written / video / or audio stories** to be pitched to relevant media outlets or reviewed and published on the program platform.
- **Be willing to be interviewed** about your involvement in the program, for the Centre for Sport and Human Rights website.
- **Maintain timely/smooth communication** with the Centre for Sport and Human Rights.
- **Complete a feedback survey** at the end of the program.

## HONORARIUM

Participants will receive an honorarium of US\$ 550 for their participation in the program: half when the program begins, and half on completion if the above expectations have been met.

## SAFEGUARDING



At the Centre for Sport and Human Rights we believe everyone has the right to be safe especially children, and adults at risk. Adults involved in ongoing interactions with the Youth Media Forward Initiative will be trained in safeguarding, and the selected candidates will be expected to adhere to our [standards](#). Our selection process reflects our commitment to the protection of children and adults at risk.

## HOW TO APPLY

1. Please complete the [application form](#) by Friday April 19th (23.59 PT). The form asks for:

- Your name and the city / town where you are based

A maximum two-minute video OR short written responses sharing:

- Why you are interested in taking part in the Generation 2026: Youth Media Forward Initiative.
- How you would describe bringing a human rights perspective to reporting on sport (no specific expertise is needed here, we are interested in your ideas).
- Two specific details about yourself or your experience so far that demonstrate why you are a strong candidate for the Youth Media Forward initiative.

*Note: Application videos will only be viewed by the project team, stored in a dedicated area accessible only by the project team, and deleted when the process is complete. CSHR's privacy policy is [here](#).*

2. **Parent/Guardian consent:** Please ask a parent or guardian to complete [this short consent form](#).

3. **Optional - message of support:** Please ask a teacher, guidance counsellor or community member who is 18 or over to provide a short note of support for your application [through this form](#).

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a 30 minute virtual interview with two members of the Centre for Sport and Human Rights team. Invitations to interview will be sent by Wednesday May 15th, and we plan for the selection process to be complete by the end of May 2024. The youth journalists will begin their placement in September 2024.

## MORE ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR SPORT & HUMAN RIGHTS

The Centre for Sport and Human Rights is a global human rights organization for the World of Sport, working to strengthen accountability and build collective action. The Centre's [Advisory Council](#) is an unprecedented alliance of intergovernmental organizations, governments, sports bodies, athletes, event hosts, sponsors, civil society organizations, employers and trade unions. Find out more: [www.sporhumanrights.org](http://www.sporhumanrights.org).

We work hard to create and maintain a positive internal environment with a team that is open, supportive and encourages collaboration, including a commitment to inclusion and diversity at all levels. We will consider applications to the Youth Media Forward program without regard to disability status, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status or any characteristic protected by law, and value candidates with varied experiences who can bring a new perspective and outlook to our work.

