



## **HOST CITY BIDDING PACK**

### **Background Information**

#### **Invitation for Applications:**

**From UK&NI cities to host the International Working Group on Women & Sport World Conference (2026)**

#### **Deadline for Application Submissions:**

**17:00 GMT, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

All bid documents to be completed and returned electronically to all of the following people:

- Clare Hartley: [clare@arceventconsultancy.co.uk](mailto:clare@arceventconsultancy.co.uk)
- Rebecca Leach: [rebecca@arceventconsultancy.co.uk](mailto:rebecca@arceventconsultancy.co.uk)
- Ricky Boardman: [rboardman@sportandrecreation.org.uk](mailto:rboardman@sportandrecreation.org.uk)

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### **Background Information**

## **International Working Group on Women & Sport**

### **World Conference 2026**

#### **Introduction**

A Host City and Venue is being sought to host the International Working Group (IWG) on Women & Sport World Conference to be held in summer 2026.

The conference will take place over 4 days (Thursday – Sunday) and is expected to host 1,000 delegates in person and up to 500 delegates digitally. Traditionally the conference has been held in May or June, but July is also acceptable and will depend on venue and host city availability and cost.

The conference will require a mixture of spaces including an auditorium with a capacity of up to 1,000, series of breakout spaces and meeting rooms plus exhibition hall.

There is a requirement for sustainable catering for international delegates with varying dietary requirements throughout the day.

As a world leading conference attracting senior international officials and sporting figures, the Opening and Closing receptions and Gala Dinner will be expected to be held at iconic venues either at the conference venues or within the City.

#### **Background**

International Working Group on Women & Sport (IWG) was founded in 1993 with the first World Conference on Women and Sport in Brighton, UK. At this conference, the Brighton Declaration on Women and Sport was signed. The declaration was later developed at a conference in Helsinki to become the Brighton-Helsinki Declaration. Today, the Brighton-Helsinki Declaration has more than 600 signatories from organisations around the world. The vision of the IWG is a sustainable sporting culture that enables, empowers, and values the full involvement of women.

The Sport and Recreation Alliance (SRA) are coordinating the bid for the UK to host the 9<sup>th</sup> IWG World Conference on Women and Sport (May-July 2026) and the Secretariat in the preceding four years (2022-2026). SRA are already working collaboratively with a cross government working group and are now looking for a Host City Delivery Partner to join the bid team. The following agencies have all already confirmed their initial support for the bid; DCMS, UK Sport, Sport England, Women in Sport, BOA and BPA.

The successful country will host the Global IWG Secretariat for the period September 2022 to July 2026, and in so doing commit to fulfil the responsibilities of the global operation and IWG key objectives. The host will also develop a programme of initiatives over the period that delivers a 'step-change' in empowering women and advancing sport. The host country is required to secure the support of Government, NGO and commercial partners to invest in a programme of compelling and meaningful initiatives for the benefit of women within the country and around the world over this 4-year period. The programme would draw on IWG's values of collaboration, inclusiveness, transparency and being outcome focussed, as well as commit to advancing the Brighton-Helsinki Declaration and any additions from 2022 IWG host, Auckland, New Zealand.

## IWG Conference Detail

The IWG Conference on Women and Sport is held every four years and is the highest profile event staged by the IWG and the largest independent conference of its kind in the world. The event is action-orientated, and its focus is on realising change and considering the synergies between sport and physical activity, the women’s movement, and other entities interest in women’s empowerment. These World Conferences have a unique purpose and reporting function; however, they are also a milestone in the four-year IWG Secretariat journey and therefore should not be considered as a ‘stand-alone’ event.

The World Conference on Women and Sport in 2026 is a fantastic opportunity for the Host City Delivery Partner to become a change agent in the empowerment of women and girls in sport and achieving full gender equality. It will be the climax of 4 years of events, campaigns and programmes throughout the UK and will be the world’s largest gathering of experts on gender equity in sport and physical activity, with over 1000 delegates.

The delegates will include:

- A broad cross section of leaders within key sporting bodies (the International Olympic Committee, International Federations)
- Representatives of the 550 signatory organisations to the Brighton-Helsinki Declaration
- Women of all ages representing best practice in sport and women and girls in leadership roles
- NGOs and Women in Sport organisations
- International corporates committed to gender equity and leadership
- Academia
- Global media
- Athletes
- Governments from around the world

The conference will be a fully self-funded event, comprising a mix of revenue from registrations, host city support and sponsors. Government agencies will be requested to support the 4-year secretariat.

## Timeframes

Date	Action
24 November 2020	Host City Bidding Pack distributed to interest Host City Partners
14 December 2020	Deadline for return of applications from Host City Partners
16 December 2020	Bid Steering Group Meeting
18 December 2020	Shortlist of Host City Partners confirmed with all applicants
January 2021	Bid developed with shortlisted partners and applications for funding submitted. Confirmation of Host City Partner
February 2021	Funding secured and bid confirmed viable
March 2021	Bid book and presentation developed
31 March 2021	Submit bid to IWG Global Executive
End June 2021	Announcement of successful host of Secretariat and Conference 2022-2026

**IWG – Bid Steering Group**

The following diagram shows the bid steering group and sub-groups that have already been established and there is significant political will to get behind this bid. The UK have already submitted an Expression of Interest to the IWG Global Executive.

