



THE COUNTESS

The Countess Advocacy Group

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Ireland

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Dear President Bach,

We, a diverse group of individuals and organisations who advocate for women's rights, call upon the International Olympic Committee ("IOC") to urgently investigate the eligibility of two boxers (Imane Khelif and Lin Yu-ting) to compete in the women's Olympics boxing events, which commenced this week in Paris.

These two boxers were previously deemed ineligible to compete in women's boxing events by their sport's governing body, the International Boxing Association ("IBA"). We understand the IBA excluded the two boxers based on the results of sex/hormone screening, which deemed that they are not eligible to box in the female category.

The IOC has undertaken the role of boxing governing body for the Paris Olympics and we would presume would retain the same eligibility criteria for participation in women's boxing events. Instead, however, the IOC has deemed the two boxers, Khelif and Yu-ting, eligible to compete against women. This seems impossible to justify, especially if any meaningful risk assessment was conducted. Dr Emma Hilton, a well-respected developmental biologist, has conducted research that shows a male boxer's punch is 160% more powerful than a woman's punch. There is a very real risk of death or serious injury to these women boxers. We, therefore, find this decision to include two males in women's boxing extremely concerning for both the safety and well-being of women boxers.

We call on the IOC to reverse the decision to permit Imane Khelif and Lin Yu-ting to compete in the women's Olympics boxing events and to abide by the IBA's eligibility criteria instead.

In addition, we call on the IOC to immediately reinstate the cheek swab sex screening for all athletes participating in the Paris (and future) Olympic games to ensure fairness, dignity, and integrity in women's Olympic competitions.

Kind regards,

Sorcha Nic Lochlainn, Sports Spokeswoman, The Countess

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AFCC-French Association of Women Cyclists

Alianza Contra el Borrado de las Mujeres

Fair Play for Women

For Women Scotland Sport

Gaels for Fair Play

Independent Council on Women's Sports (ICONS)

Independent Women's Forum

Lobby Europeo de Mujeres en España

Movimiento Abolicionista de Segovia

Mujeres Progresistas de Retiro

Partido Feministas al Congreso

Save Women's Sport Australasia

Sex Matters

Women's Declaration International (WDI)

Women's Space Ireland

Women Won't Wheest

Women's Sports Policy Working Group