

VIRTUAL ROUND TABLE

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Istanbul Bilgi University
CENTER
FOR MIGRATION
RESEARCH



MISSION 89



Istanbul
Bilgi Üniversitesi
Spor Bilimleri ve Teknolojisi Y.O.



“Impact of the coronavirus pandemic and restrictions imposed on the lives of migrant footballers in Istanbul”

Mission 89 – Istanbul Bilgi University
Virtual Round Table Discussion

TUESDAY 9th June 2020

14h30 TRT / 13h30 CET

Via Zoom

Agenda

Objective

The roundtable aims to enhance understanding of the protection needs of migrant athletes in Istanbul during the coronavirus pandemic, and the struggles they face due to newly enforced restrictions on their mobility and work, while exploring solutions to the challenges they experience.

Moderators

Mr Yann Coelenbier, Board Member Mission 89

Dr. Ilknur Hacisoftaoglu Kozleme, Faculty Member, Istanbul Bilgi University

Timetable

13:30	Welcome Remarks: Dr. Ilknur Hacisoftaoglu, Faculty Member, Istanbul Bilgi University
13:32	Panelists present themselves
13:37	Keynote address: Yann Coelenbier, Board Member, Mission 89
13:42	Panelists Input Part 1: General experiences of migrants and trafficked athletes during the pandemic
13:53	Panelists Input Part 2: Experiences of institutions during the pandemic, its impact on the football community, Istanbul municipality, media etc.
14:04	Panelists Input Part 3: Approaches to protecting the needs of vulnerable groups and available resources
14:34	Open opportunity for participants to express their views and ask questions via Zoom chat box
14:40	Panelists discuss, and answer questions and clarify issues raised
14:50	Closing remarks: Summary of discussion, call to action, next steps Mr Yann Coelenbier & Dr. Ilknur Hacisoftaoglu Kozleme

PROFILES

Moderators

Yann Coelenbier



Yann is committed to various initiatives dedicated to sustainable development and humanitarian issues, particularly those that engage with sport. He is a co-founder of Mission 89, a non-profit working to combat child trafficking in sport. A humanitarian at heart, he volunteers his time and expertise with several non-profits, including Football for Peace Global and the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation in Kenya.

With a background in Business and International Development, Yann is well versed in brand development, strategic advisory, team management and market expansion. He was formerly Managing Director of Peace and Sport, a Monaco-based non-profit, before he launched YSEO Consulting to address public policy and sustainable development through sport and governance. He is currently a Business Development Consultant for

Monaco-based Shibuya Productions and a Director of International Affairs for Crans Montana Forum, which primary aim is to strengthen international cooperation between public and private sectors.

Dr. İlknur Hacisoftaoğlu



Dr. İlknur Hacisoftaoğlu is a faculty member of the Department of Sport Management at Istanbul Bilgi University. She completed her undergraduate degree at the Department of Sociology, Middle East Technical University. She received her master's and Ph.D. degree in Sports Sciences and Technology through Hacettepe University's Sport Sociology Program. She is one of the editors of the book *Beyond the Game: Sociology of Sports Studies*. Hacisoftaoğlu has numerous publications in the fields of gender, migration, and sport, and she continues to conduct research in the fields of women, migration, masculinity, and spectatorship in sports.

PANELISTS

Julius Kugor



is a Ghanaian and Turkish citizen involved in humanitarian activities and sports coaching. Since 2015, he has served as the president of the Ghanaian community in Turkey and in 2017 became the president of the African community in Turkey.

He had his education in Tema, Ghana. Julius turned professional at the age of 18 and played football in Bulgaria, Tunisia, Hong Kong, Egypt and Turkey. During his career he witnessed and experienced the difficulties faced by migrants, which led to his humanitarian work dedicated young footballers.

Simten Birsoz



is the Coordinator of Migration Unit in the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and has a professional background in foreign affairs and fundraising. Since 2005, she is providing consultancy for several public institutions and NGOs on global urban policies and international networks while making advocacy on inclusive local policy making. She is an active member of YERELİZ (Association for Local Monitoring, Research and Implementation), Board Member of Sıfır Ayrımcılık (Zero Discrimination) Association and Advisory Board Member of Ülke Politikaları (Country Policies) Foundation.

Professor Emre Erdoğan



is the Head of the Department of International Relations. He has been lecturing at Istanbul Bilgi University since 2005. His research focuses on political participation, foreign policy and public opinion, child and youth well-being, methodology and statistics. He studies Syrian refugee youth in Turkey in terms of social, educational, and economic integration. He is also extensively working on othering, polarization and populism and publishes these topics. He is also a board member of Galatasaray SK since 2018.

Bağış Erten



is a production manager of Eurosport Turkey, a founder of Socrates Magazine, and a lecturer at Kadir Has University. He graduated from Istanbul University's Faculty of Law and completed his master's degree in Modern Turkish History at Boğaziçi University. He worked as an editor at İletişim Publishing for 3 years and he was a commentator at CNN Turk and NTV Spor until 2017. Erten also writes on a regular basis. His articles are published on Bizim Gazete, Express, Radikal Futbol, Radikal, Cumhuriyet, Tam Saha, Four Four Two, Hürriyet, Socrates and Gazete Kadikoy.

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Football trafficking is the practice of transferring, via legal or illegal means, young athletes from Africa to European football leagues. Fake agents and middlemen charge thousands of dollars to send children as young as eight years old to trial for a place on a European team. While the opportunity is alluring for many young athletes who dream of becoming the next football star, the reality is that the vast majority end up without a place on a team, stranded in Europe, unable to work, and unable to return home.

The plight of these trafficked youths has been further exacerbated by the current COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to COVID-19, trafficked players who were in breach of their condition of entry were one of the most vulnerable demographics in Europe, relying on non-contractual ad-hoc work to sustain themselves. They are typically ineligible to receive unemployment or other social benefits in the countries they are trafficked to; they may struggle to find food and accommodation; and they lack access to basic sanitary supplies or personal protective equipment such as facemasks.

Government agencies, civil society organisations, and the private sector have stepped up their responses to the COVID-19 crisis. But how effective have these measures been and what role can sport play as part of coordinated local, regional and global responses?

In light of this, Mission 89 is bringing together a range of experts from the field of migration, sport and local governance to discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the lives of victims of human trafficking and irregular migration, and the role that sport can play towards an effective response to mitigate the current challenges brought on by the crisis.

Objectives & Outcomes

Objectives	Outcomes
<p>Educate a wider audience of policy makers on the unique challenges victims of irregular migration and trafficking face in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>Enhance the understanding of the protection needs of this demographic, by engaging with their day-to-day lives during the pandemic, and the struggles they face due to the enforced restrictions on mobility and work.</p>



<p>Enlighten the wider public on the fundamental human rights of young people in and out of sport during public health crises.</p>	<p>Enhance the understanding of a wider audience on the existing fundamental human rights of individuals in and out of sport, particularly the rights of young people in sport based on principles derived from the UN Convention <i>on the Rights of the Child</i>.</p>
<p>Brainstorm ideas and offer solutions on how these vulnerable populations can be assisted with the situation and be a clearing house to facilitate help</p>	<p>Provide a platform for a vibrant discourse about existing good practices and determine the extent they could be used as models for wider dissemination; to discern broader lessons, implications, strategies, and policies to proactively address the issues that victims of irregular migration and trafficking in football face, such as food insecurities, homelessness, poor health and mental wellbeing.</p>
<p>Discuss the role that local and international sport organisations can play in support of the wider response systems</p>	<p>Assess the role that local and international sport organisations play supporting victims of irregular migration and football trafficking during the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to ensure the health, safety and financial well-being of this demographic.</p>
<p>Discuss the future of trafficked athletes in a post-COVID 19 society</p>	<p>Provide insight from victims and experts in the field of migration and football on how COVID-19 will undoubtedly change the landscape of professional and grassroots level sport, and perhaps more philosophically how this serves as a wakeup call to the key decision makers in the higher echelons of sport on the aggressive commoditization of vulnerable individuals in society.</p>

Key questions to be addressed by the participants

1. How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your sector and activities? What are the opportunities and challenges?
2. What has been the experience of migrant and trafficked athletes in Istanbul during the coronavirus pandemic?
3. How is the issue being discussed in the public domain and perceived by the community?
4. What are some of the migration policies and regulations that have mitigated or aggravated the challenges experienced by migrants and trafficking victims?
5. What will be the likely long-term impact of the outbreak on these vulnerable groups, and what support is needed in the short to long-term to deal with those?
6. What are some examples of ways that your sector has contributed support to vulnerable populations (migrants, IDPs, refugees, trafficked victims) during a crisis? What would you consider as best practice?
7. How can relevant stakeholders and community leaders cooperate to aid vulnerable populations? What mechanisms need to be in place to make these populations aware of the services accessible to them?

Important links

- 10 step guide to football trafficking
<https://blog.lboro.ac.uk/news/politics/10-step-guide-to-football-trafficking/>
- Mission 89
<https://mission89.org/>
- Istanbul Bilgi University Center for Migration Research
<https://goc.bilgi.edu.tr/en/>
- Istanbul Municipality
<https://www.ibb.istanbul/en>
- Galatasaray S.K
<https://www.galatasaray.org/en/Homepage>
- Football trafficking in the news
<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/dec/31/field-of-broken-dreams-footballs-slave-trade-photo-essay>



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