



4 November 2013

SENT ONLY BY E-MAIL

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH  
350 Fifth Avenue, 34<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10118-3299  
USA

Dear Ms Worden, dear Ms Buchanan

Thank you for your letter of October 10, 2013 and for the document outlining the steps Human Rights Watch is asking the IOC's corporate partners to address.

As I had mentioned in our previous correspondence, Human Rights Watch has outlined its positions with sufficient eloquence and clarity that a meeting is not necessary for us to understand its cogent, well-reasoned arguments.

Omega is categorically opposed to any disregard for human rights, wherever they might take place in the world. We are gratified that the efforts of committed organisations, including Human Rights Watch, have drawn global attention to the need to ensure that the rights of the athletes, visitors and spectators in Sochi are respected and protected.

It is clear that the pressure that organisations and individuals have brought to bear has had an effect. Last week, as you know, Russian President Vladimir Putin said to IOC President Thomas Bach, "We will do everything to make sure that athletes, fans and guests feel comfortable at the Olympic Games regardless of their ethnicity, race or sexual orientation. I would like to underline that."

This unambiguous statement from the one person with the greatest influence in the country reflects the effectiveness of human rights campaigners and of organisations and individuals who have raised their voices on behalf of human rights – with specific regard to ethnicity, race or sexual orientation – at the upcoming Olympic Winter Games. It has been made abundantly clear that the world will be watching.

The struggle to ensure human rights is worthy and never-ending. Obviously, it is not limited to events that draw enormous global audiences (though these are pragmatic rallying points). I commend Human Rights Watch for its work on behalf of all of those whose human rights have been limited and whose dignity has not been respected.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Urquhart", written over a horizontal line.

Stephen Urquhart  
President  
OMEGA