

FIFA Diversity Award

In 2016, FIFA created an annual award to recognise an outstanding organisation, initiative or football personality that stands up for diversity and anti-discrimination in football at national or international level and on a sustained basis. At the 2017 award ceremony in London, FIFA Secretary General Fatma Samoura presented the trophy to US organisation Soccer Without Borders (SWB), who are using football as a tool for capacity building with refugees in the USA, Nicaragua and Uganda. SWB was chosen ahead of the other finalists, the Kenyan organisation Moving the Goalposts, the international network Discover Football (Germany) and the Indonesian organisation Uni Papua Football Community.

1. Aims

The FIFA Diversity Award highlights the importance of the fight against exclusion and discrimination, and is presented to an organisation, initiative or football personality that, day in, day out, puts their full weight behind a project or programme that is making a significant contribution to diversity and anti-discrimination. Through this symbolic recognition and honour, FIFA hopes to inspire others around the world to take up the cause, which in turn will motivate other organisations, initiatives and individuals to exchange best practices and build up networks.

The award also provides FIFA with an opportunity to present and strengthen its own strategic approach and activities to promote diversity and anti-discrimination, for example by firming up relations with key stakeholders or fostering the debate around diversity and anti-discrimination.

2. Award process

Every year, FIFA assembles an 11-strong online jury comprising prominent figures from global football and international experts in diversity and anti-discrimination in sport. Since 2017, the winner of the previous year's award has also been invited to join the jury and replace the previous year's winner. Between them, the jury members combine their expertise on discrimination in all of its guises, whether based on ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, sexual orientation or any other reason.

This team then selects three exceptional candidates from the highly varied landscape of projects and programmes implemented by organisations, group initiatives and individuals before deciding on the ultimate winner of the award.

3. Winners and finalists

Winner 2016:

Slum Soccer (India)

Finalists 2016:

- International Gay and Lesbian Football Association (international)
- Kick it Out (England)

Winner 2017:

Soccer Without Borders (USA/Nicaragua/Uganda)

Finalists 2017:

- Moving the Goalposts (Kenya)
- Discover Football (international)
- Uni Papua Football Community (Indonesia)