

## **Press Release:**

‘UK university sports faculty student team report ‘Homophobia in Sport – What’s the Score?’ provides a further timely warning about the scale of ineffectively challenged homophobia in sport and schools’

As an outcome of the success of the 2012 ‘Time for Change – Now!’ Olympics legacy anti-homophobia exhibition project, the Bournemouth University Sports Faculty in the autumn of 2012, invited exhibition project lead Alan Mercel-Sanca to be the client for a faculty student team innovative research project that would explore homophobia in sports and schools contexts. The project’s report has now been released and provides some valuable indications into the scale and nature of the obstacles encountered that obstruct badly needed change in these important areas; it also indicates some potential solutions to the issues revealed that can be of use to sports organisations and schools.

The project, that provided a timely ‘snap-shot’ type sounding of the ‘state of the nation’ overview of homophobia in sports and schools, in particular identified the considerable ineffectiveness of work to date in remedying LGBT discrimination and prejudice. The report valuably highlighted the arguments used to do as little as possible to remedy this situation by those with direct responsibilities to ensure inclusiveness and legal compliance with equality and anti-discrimination legislation and related requirements, as well as detailing the rationale of those requiring better education about the sources of inherited or peer-group influenced homophobia.

Many organisations and LGBT and non-LGBT individuals were contacted by the research team, and particular thanks is provided to the ‘Just a Ball Game?’ organisation for its invaluable support in advising on the creation of wording for the project’s questionnaires, that in turn provided such valuable and very honest responses.

Alan Mercel-Sanca. 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013