Which protection for minors in the 21st century football?

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Play the Game 2015

Aarhus
Foot Solidaire Mission

- The protection of young African footballers, aspiring for a professional career in Europe or Asia

- Footsolidaire is an NGO founded in 2000 in France and now headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland with a representative in London
The increasing migration of young African football players to Europe has magnified exploitation, notably:

The recruitment process by clubs & scouts

- The conditions of their stay during their trials at football clubs & academies e.g. visa and working permit duration

- Their schooling, coaching and development, etc;

15000 young players migrate every year from 0 West African countries

1,5 million others training in official and non official academies with a short-term migration project
Why Foot Solidaire

To fight against exploitation and abuse, Foot Solidaire wishes to:

- Highlight and speak-out against this exploitation
- Join hands with footballing bodies, institutions and governments to protect Africa’s youth
- Educate actors at both ends of the ‘football market’
- Establish ‘best practices’ for the scouting, recruitment and education of young African footballers
- Like in any labour market, need to protect young talent
Why is there a problem

- Economic outlook for young Africans is a pull factor
- Unscrupulous intermediaries, the quick buck
- Non-licensed FIFA Agents (Fake agents)
- Short duration working visa for players on trials
- No enforceable framework governing good practice
- Weak processes in Africa governing players’ exit
- Lack of cooperation - FA’s and Governments in host country
Why is there a problem

- No reward for good practice at «supply and demand level»
- No fall back net for failed trials
- No re-intergration path in non-football sectors
- Pride/dishonour pushes players to stay illegally in host country
- Children used as market commodities
- Human drama/Children abandoned in the streets in foreign countries/ Child Rights issues
- Wall of Silence
Why is there a problem: Trafficking through Football

- children are Recruited, Transported, Sold and Exploited by “fake” or unlicensed Agents for the purpose of becoming professional football player
- Non official football academies: breading grounds for exploitation
- Payment of large sums of money: up to USD 10000
- Destination unknown
- Transported via roads. Boats
- Forged documents/tourist visa
- Operating in transit countries
- Discarded in the streets with nothing/no-one
- Forced in criminality to survive
The question

• Which protection for minors in 21\textsuperscript{st} Century football?
• How can we reverse the trend?
What solutions?

- Face the problem and break the wall of silence
- Sport movement to comply with Child protection conventions (Calling for a Higher Regulation and Protections of Minors)
- Respect and Implement existing sport regulations
- Prevention Work at source
- Promote Best practices on scouting, recruitment, education...
- Strength cooperation between World sport, public authorities and civil society together
What solutions?

✓ Develop training in developing countries
✓ Good governance and Ethics in football/sport
✓ Establish a set of rules for good governance for both African and European/Asian academies training young Africans
✓ Federate international football institutions to our mission
✓ Gain Need firm support and commitment from FIFA
✓ Educate and communicate
✓ Fund and support programmes
Foot Solidaire Next steps

- Conference in Dakar (7-8 Dec.)
- Charity match in Dakar (June 4\textsuperscript{th} 2016) with former professional players
- Opening of 2 Information centers (sept. 2016) - Dakar & Yaoundé
Thank you

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