

**Remarks by Mohammed Hanzab  
At Securing Sport 2015  
New York, NY  
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Ladies and gentlemen.

Panelists, participants, and distinguished guests.

Welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Securing Sport conference.

I am honored, and privileged, to be standing before you all today.

To different people, sport means different things.

For some, it is the games we love to play.

For others, it is the teams that we love to cheer for.

And still for others, it is an unparalleled economic, social, and cultural force that can lift up entire nation and, as President Obama described it earlier this year – sport is a matter of “incredible national pride”.

However you define it, it is clear that sport holds a special place in our collective consciousness.

Sport connects us. It binds us together like nothing else.

Sport positively impacts billions of lives, every single day.

And yet, sport is under attack.

One year ago, at Securing Sport 2014 in London. I spoke of the pervasive and undeterred corruption that sport faced and we discussed then ways and means to defeat this corruption.

I wish I could tell you that we have won, and that the fight is over.

But I cannot.

Unfortunately, corruption is still very much a part of sport.

Like a virus—it has spread from league to league, and federation to federation.

It is true, we have made some excellent progress against this disease—and that's due to the efforts of many of the people in this room.

But the threat has intensified.

The threat has grown larger and grown more complicated.

Match fixing, financial wrongdoing, trafficking, bid rigging—these are the symptoms.

We already know the diagnosis.

Now, we need a cure.

Which is to say - we need solutions.

As stewards of sport, we have a profound responsibility to protect it for this generation, and for future generations.

Which is why the overarching theme of Securing Sport 2015 is accountability.

To the ministers and regulators...

To the sports and business executives...

I ask: how can we better hold ourselves accountable?

What can we do to safeguard sport around the world?

How can we stop match fixing dead in its tracks?

How can we prepare today, for the emerging threats of tomorrow?

And how can we come together and protect the economic and cultural legacy of sport?

These are the questions we must answer if we are to cure sport of corruption once and for all.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have no illusions about the size and scope of the problem. I know that sport faces an unprecedented crisis.

But I am not deterred.

Let me tell you a story:

I began my career not in sport, but in the Air Force.

And during my service, we were taught that in order to take off, a pilot will purposely fly into the headwinds.

It's counterintuitive, no? You'd think that a pilot would want tailwinds to push the plane forward.

But in reality, the headwinds actually generate additional lift under the wing. Flying into the wind makes it easier to take off.



In other words, it's the most challenging environments that allow us to reach the greatest heights.

Yes, the headwinds in sport are difficult to navigate.

But as someone with a deep passion for sport—I believe that those headwinds will give us the push and inspiration we need to do great things.

When I founded the International Centre for Sport Security, it was with a vision of what sport could be – what sport should be!

Safe. Secure. Clean.

An institution that brings people together.

And a celebration of hard work and dedication, and of our greatest achievements.

I saw stadiums and arenas free from violence.

I saw major events that benefited the communities that hosted them.

I saw games free from corruption.

I saw children playing safely and freely – happily being inspired by sport and by their sporting heroes.

And I saw a sport economy that played by the rules—on, and off the field.

Ladies and gentlemen, I believe that we can make this vision a reality—if and only if we are willing to take serious, significant action.

The time for small fixes is over.

No one entity owns sport. How dare anyone think otherwise. Sport is a form of traditional knowledge.

Sport is a form of cultural expression – one not limited to a specific group.

Sport is a genetic resource of humankind.

Since the early days of the ICSS, we have mobilized our efforts to help to safeguard sport.

Many ministers and many Governments, major international organisations (including UNESCO, UNICEF, UNODC, the Organisation of American States, to name but a few) and leading academic institutions including the Harvard Kennedy Business school and the University of Sorbonne; have believed in our vision and supported our efforts.

But who is missing – sport! And who else – Business!

Let me, yet again, express my desire that the sport movement and its commercial partners unite and join the anti-corruption team.

Let's knock down old rivalries and divisions—cross sectors and continents—and unite for the sake of sport.

We need a credible, holistic, and global approach to safeguarding sport.

Let's share with, and learn from, one another.

Let's make plans, but, let's put them in motion.

Let's inspire others to join us.

And most importantly - let's hold ourselves accountable.

So when we come together, one year from today, at the next Securing Sport, we can be proud of what we have accomplished.

And be optimistic for the future.

Thank you.

## **Brian Galloway Remarks**

Before I leave the stage—I wanted to say just one more thing.

I could not have started the ICSS without the help of Brian Galloway.

Brian was integral to our founding.

He supported our work from its earliest days. In fact, he started with us before our office was even completed.

Brian was in charge of our technology operation, and took it from non-existent, to world-class.

He was a vital member of our team every step of the way.

Sadly, in March of 2012, Brian suffered a terrible motorcycle accident.

After five weeks in the hospital in Doha, he left to rehabilitate in Chicago—doing 5-6 hours of rehab a day for 3 months.

Brian fought, and persevered, and in July of 2012 he returned to Doha and got right back to work. He didn't let anything hold him back.

While there, he built the online Knowledge Portal that we still used today.



At the end of the year, he moved back to the United States to continue his rehabilitation. Since then, Brian has continued to offer counsel and advice to the ICSS—and I cannot thank him enough.

But more importantly, Brian has done something that goes beyond our work here, and abroad.

Since his accident, Brian has demonstrated uncommon strength and character.

He has become a foremost advocate for wheelchair sport—and an unbeatable wheelchair lacrosse player at that.

In fact, just last year, Brain founded a non-profit organization in his home of Indianapolis—Indy Adaptive Sports, which helps disabled athletes play the games they love, and live an active and healthy life.

Brian has shown us all that no obstacle is permanent...

And that even the biggest challenges can be overcome...

In short, Brian has embodied the values and spirit of sport better than any man I know.

So in honor of all his work, I would like to present him with a [\$TK] donation from the ICSS to Indy Adaptive Sports.

Please join me in welcoming, Brian Galloway.

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