

## Paris 2024 Olympics : we're not ready yet

Paris, February 5, 2024 - **The risk of worsening exclusion of the most disadvantaged population in the run-up to Paris 2024 is real. Previous editions of the Olympic and Paralympic Games are proof of this. In order to address this and leave a positive social legacy in the fight against exclusion, the *Le revers de la médaille* collective is proposing solutions. Today, it renews its call to work together with the institutions and the Games' organizers.**

Previous editions of the Olympics have had the effect of "social cleansing" in the host cities, with forced evictions of people living in informal and precarious housing, and the removal of homeless or street people (sex workers, drug users, etc.), as documented in various studies<sup>1</sup>. An exchange mission took place between the collective and Canadian organizations defending social rights, who monitored the impact of the Vancouver Olympics on people living on the streets and in precarious situations. And their conclusion is clear: the impact of the Games has been very negative. These organizations are alerting us to the proven risks of worsening social exclusion in the Paris region.

Facing these risks, the collective is proposing solutions to ensure that the dynamic of the Games contributes to the fight against exclusion. These solutions are published in the note [JOP 2024, for a positive social legacy](#). They aim to prevent any risk of eviction of precarious people (homeless people, people living in camps, slums and squats, sex workers, drug users, etc.), to guarantee the maintenance or adaptation of essential social services before and during the Games (food aid, access to water, access to healthcare, harm reduction), and, finally, to leave a legacy of accommodation and reception solutions to ensure that as many people as possible leave the streets permanently.

"*We are calling for a real plan to be put in place in concert with the public authorities and the Games organizers, to ensure that Paris 2024's promise of a positive social legacy is kept in the fight against exclusion*", said Paul Alauzy, health watch coordinator at Médecins du Monde and spokesperson for the collective.

With the Games only a few months away, there is still time to act. While the collective welcomes the exchanges and briefings with the various institutions, it is concerned that no commitment has yet been made to concrete solutions to meet the challenges. *Le revers de la médaille* therefore renews its call for immediate action.

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Collectif le revers de la médaille

*Paris 2024 Olympics : for a positive social legacy*

<https://lereversdelamedaille.fr/>

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<sup>1</sup> In particular : [Fair Play for Housing Rights](#) - Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE)

PRESS RELEASE



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