

Paris 2024 Olympic Games: for a positive social legacy

Paris, December 15th 2023 – **At a time when the number of people living in precarious conditions, particularly families on the streets, is rising dramatically, the collective is stepping up its calls to the public authorities to put in place an emergency plan in the run-up to the Games. The associations are proposing solutions, but deplore the lack of any real consultation to date.**

Today, as every day, thousands of people will spend the night on the streets in the Paris area, families, pregnant women, nearly 700 children in Paris and 200 in Seine-Saint-Denis district, half of whom are under 3 years old, according to community organisations including the Salvation Army Foundation, the Fédération des acteurs de la solidarité, the Centre d'Action Sociale Protestant and Emmaüs Solidarité.

While less than 30% of calls to the 115, the sheltering emergency number, are answered, and more than 2/3 of homeless people do not call or no longer call because they are turned down, the housing situation is deteriorating day by day, with increasingly restrictive sorting criteria imposed by the authorities, leading to people being turned back onto the streets, including families with babies.

Yet in Paris, almost one in five properties is unoccupied, and some 25,000 furnished tourist apartments are rented out illegally via Airbnb, as year-round rentals are prohibited.

In the run-up to the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, homelessness is on the increase, particularly because of the pressure on accommodation and the city's tourism industry, while the public authorities are deploying major resources to make the most precarious people invisible. This is illustrated by the increase in evictions from informal settlements (squats, shanty towns and camps) in 2023¹.

We welcome the support of many elected representatives to our plea of October 30th 2023, and the initial discussions with the COJO and the Ile-de-France Prefecture since then. Nevertheless, we regret that this issue has not yet been addressed in a coordinated manner by the public authorities.

"To date, the massive resources deployed for the Games have served to make poverty invisible", observes Paul Alauzy, health watch coordinator at Médecins du Monde and spokesman for the collective, "but hiding poverty doesn't make it go away! We are reiterating our demand for concerted action to roll out a genuine emergency plan, both to ensure the continuity of care for people in the various existing social services, and to put in place long-term solutions. "

The associations have collectively drawn up a set of proposals aimed at leaving a positive legacy, including: a humanitarian reception site for refugees, dedicated safe rooms for drug users, cash transfers for food aid, a moratorium on administrative controls, and the urgent opening of 10,000 additional emergency housing spaces. With 6 months to go before the Games, if we don't want to leave a legacy of exclusion, the time to act is now!

¹ *l'Observatoire des expulsions de lieux de vie informels.*

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Collectif le revers de la médaille

Olympic Games Paris 2024: let's not leave exclusion as a legacy

<https://lereversdelamedaille.fr/>

Press Contacts

Paul Alauzy - paul.alauzy@medecinsdumonde.net – +33 6 25 64 63 14

Antoine de Clerck - contact@lereversdelamedaille.fr - +33 6 81 92 07 76