HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Thursday 16 July 2026

Dear President Infantino,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Liberal Democrats to express our profound concern regarding the unacceptable political demonstration by members of the Argentina men's national football team on 15 July 2026. Following their semi-final match against England at Atlanta Stadium, several Argentine players unfurled and posed with a banner declaring that the Falkland Islands are Argentine.

The Falkland Islands are British, and their sovereignty is undisputed, underpinned by the democratic self-determination of their people. By reviving this baseless territorial claim on a global sporting stage, these players have directly insulted the people of the islands. This display is a deeply painful affront to the memory of the British veterans and Falklanders who laid down their lives defending the freedom and sovereignty of the Falklands in 1982, as well as to the families they left behind.

Such behavior directly violates the core principles of political neutrality that FIFA and the International Football Association Board are bound to protect. Specifically, this act runs afoul of FIFA's own Stadium Code of Conduct for the 2026 World Cup, which strictly prohibits:

"any materials, including but not limited to banners, flags, fliers, apparel and other paraphernalia, that are of a political, offensive and/or discriminatory nature, containing wording, symbols or any other attributes aimed at discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group on account of race, skin colour, ethnicity, national or social origin, [...] or on any other grounds."

There is direct, clear precedent for swift and decisive action in these circumstances. In August 2024, UEFA handed a one-match suspension to Spanish national team players Rodrigo Hernández Cascante (Rodri) and Álvaro Morata for leading chants of "Gibraltar is Spanish" during their post-tournament celebrations. UEFA rightly ruled that bringing territorial, political disputes into the sporting arena violates the basic principles of decent conduct, brings the sport of football into disrepute, and constitutes a non-sporting manifestation.

FIFA must hold its competitors to the same ethical standards. On behalf of British football fans, the people of the Falkland Islands, and our veterans, I call on the FIFA Disciplinary Committee to take immediate action before the World Cup Final on Sunday, 19 July 2026. The players who actively held, posed with, and promoted this political banner must be issued an immediate one-match ban, disqualifying them from participating in the final.

FIFA has a serious commitment to peace after giving Donald Trump the first FIFA Peace Prize and this is your chance to show it.

Football is a game meant to unite the world, Allowing players to use FIFA's global platform to push aggressive and jingoistic territorial claims entirely undermines the integrity of the sport. We expect FIFA to act swiftly to protect its own regulations and ensure that the integrity of the World Cup Final is preserved.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Ed Davey MP
Leader of the Liberal Democrats