SPORT AT THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY: BREAKING THE BARRIERS OF INTOLERANCE THROUGH SPORT

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Image courtesy of The Council of Europe/Conseil de L’Europe.

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

The recent past has been marked by a significant increase in the number of cases of intolerance and discrimination in sports. This has led to a growing awareness of the need to address these issues through a comprehensive approach that involves all stakeholders. The Special Olympics, for example, has been at the forefront of this effort, using sport as a tool for inclusion and empowerment.

INCLUSION: ONE WOMAN’S VISION

Rosemary Kennedy, the younger sister of President John F. Kennedy, was the driving force behind the establishment of the Special Olympics. Driven by her love for her sister Eunice, who was diagnosed with Down syndrome, Rosemary was determined to create a special environment that would allow people with intellectual disabilities to participate in sports. In 1968, she opened the first Special Olympics in Chicago, and the movement has since grown to become a global phenomenon.

INFECTION – FROM ZERO TO HERO

Lilian Thuram, who is considered one of the best defenders of his generation, has been an outspoken advocate for inclusion in sport. He has been particularly active in raising awareness about the discrimination faced by players of color.

INSPIRATION – LEGEND TO LEGACY

Yao Ming, the former basketball player, is a prime example of how sport can be used to promote inclusion and respect. He was instrumental in the promotion of basketball in China and used his platform to advocate for inclusivity.

BE THE CHANGE

If you are passionate about the cause of inclusion and want to do your part, consider volunteering or supporting organizations that promote inclusion in sport. Together, we can be a powerful force for change.

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