

## Press Release

*Strasbourg, July 10, 2025* - This morning, Caster Semenya's 15-year battle for dignity, equality, and the rights of women in sport has culminated in victory before the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights.

Ms Semenya has long argued that World Athletics' eligibility regulations are discriminatory, unnecessary, and disproportionately harmful to women with sex differences, all in stark violation of her fundamental human rights. Those rules, which have been shifting and malleable, required her to undergo unnecessary and potentially harmful medical interventions in order to compete in the female category of international athletics.

Before the European Court of Human Rights, Ms Semenya's lawyers argued that the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and the Swiss Federal Supreme Court had failed to adequately protect her fundamental human rights in their respective considerations of her legal challenge to World Athletics' eligibility regulations.

Today, the Grand Chamber accepted Ms Semenya's arguments on the significant structural imbalance between sportspeople and their governing bodies, and in the mechanisms to address disputes over fundamental rights. That imbalance formed a central part of the Court's conclusion that Switzerland failed to properly scrutinise her substantive complaints and that Ms Semenya did not get a fair hearing in Switzerland.

Today's final judgment of the European Court of Human Rights is of profound importance to athletes and sportspeople around the world. The Court's conclusions that an athlete's fundamental rights must be rigorously examined in a dispute with a sports governing body should result in important changes to the governance of international sport.

Ms Semenya states: *"I have waited 15 long years for this judgment. Today, my patience in this journey has been rewarded with a result that will pave the way for all athletes' human rights to be protected. I have given up what I wanted in the hope that others may have what they need. I hope this victory will inspire young women to be and to accept themselves in all their diversity. There is still much work ahead to achieve justice for women in sport and I will continue to support this effort and fight for young women athletes."*

Ms Semenya wishes to thank all those who have stood behind her throughout her ongoing battle for equality in sport.

Ms Semenya's legal team is led by Gregory Nott and Patrick Bracher of Norton Rose Fulbright with assistance from James Bunting and Carlos Sayao of Tyr LLP and with counsel Schona Jolly KC and Claire McCann of Cloisters Chambers, London.

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