



RANGERS SUPPORTERS TRUST
The Very Soul of the Club

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RST Condemns Sectarianism and Accuses UEFA of 'Gross Double Standards'

Commenting on the UEFA announcement that they will “give attention to the improper conduct and hooliganism of Rangers supporters in the return leg in Spain on 7 March, as well as to the fans' discriminatory chants in both fixtures”, The Rangers Supporters' Trust have expressed alarm at the words used by UEFA.

This announcement assumes Rangers supporters are guilty - obviously UEFA don't understand the 'innocent until proven guilty' concept and the RST can have no faith in the integrity of any such enquiry.

With an estimated 15,000 Rangers fans in Villarreal, even if 50 were involved in cracking one window on one bus and run-ins with Police then 99.66% of our support weren't involved. The Trust has again received numerous reports from our members of random Police brutality, incompetent stewarding and spectators needlessly exposed to danger and risk. We echo the concerns expressed by Rangers FC's Head Of Security Laurence McIntyre and it is credit to the vast majority of Rangers fans attending that there were no serious incidents - we call on UEFA to wake up and deal with genuine issues like crowd safety and security before there is a fatality, rather than focus on one window on a bus being cracked by some anonymous moron.

As for 'discriminatory chanting', the Trust has made our opposition to all forms of sectarianism and bigotry clear. We support the Club's initiatives and work closely with Rangers on this matter. The RST notes with alarm the widespread racism on display at football matches including Spain where Barcelona's Samuel Eto'o was recently prompted to walk off the pitch, note with alarm the rise in neo-nazi symbols and anti-semitic banners on display in many Italian stadiums and the persistent far-right

hooliganism seen at many German football clubs. If these are not matters for UEFA, what is?

The Trust notes that UEFA's last 3 punishments for fan's behaviour were given to teams from the Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Romania. UEFA clearly treats teams from smaller member countries as 'easy targets' whilst shamelessly ignoring the tide of racism and violence on display elsewhere.

Fans of every major club sing songs offensive to other people and singling out Rangers supporters is a wholly disproportionate attempt to find a scapegoat – UEFA clearly believes that some clubs and countries are more equal than others. The European body are applying gross double standards here and we urge both Rangers and the Scottish FA to vigorously insist that UEFA pursues all incidents with the same zeal.”

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For further information, visit our website – <http://www.rangerssupporterstrust.co.uk>

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