

CUP OF HATE Outrage as Qatar World Cup ambassador says being gay is ‘damage in the mind’ as homosexual fans could face execution

A QATAR World Cup ambassador has been slammed after describing homosexuality as “damage in the mind” less than two weeks before the contest kicks off.

Former Qatari footballer Khalid Salman has said fans coming into the Gulf state for the tournament “will have to accept our rules”.

In Qatar, being gay is illegal and is punishable under the country’s penal code with up to seven years in prison or even the death penalty for Muslims under sharia law.

Some football players have raised concerns over the rights of fans travelling to the event, especially LGBT+ individuals and women, who rights groups say Qatari laws discriminate against.

The country expects more than one million visitors for the World Cup.

In an interview filmed in Doha, Salman told German television broadcaster ZDF said he believes being gay to be “haram”.

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