



Australia's prime minister said that the country would **boycott** the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China.

He said that it would be a diplomatic boycott, which meant that athletes would go to China but officials would not. The reasons were mainly reports about **human rights abuses** in China, and other things, too.

The prime minister said that China did not want to talk about these problems, and the boycott was the only way to show that Australia did not agree with China.

The US was the first country to boycott the Olympics. Some countries were US partners, and they were not sure what to do because the US was an important partner for them. Still, China was their biggest business partner.

**Difficult words:** **boycott** (to stop some activities, usually business activities, with a country or organization to protest against something), **human rights** (the rights which all people have, and it does not matter where they live or who they are), **abuse** (the situation when someone behaves badly to someone, or he uses something in a bad way).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *boycott, human rights and abuse*
2. What does a diplomatic boycott in the Olympics mean?
3. Which countries decided to boycott in the 2022 Winter Olympics in China?
4. Why did Australia decide to boycott in the 2022 Winter Olympics?
5. Which countries are considered important and biggest business partners for some countries?

**Express Your Thoughts**

1. Did your country join the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China?
2. Has your country ever joined a diplomatic boycott in the Olympics?
3. What could be the impact of this diplomatic boycott to their athletes who were competing in the games?
4. Do you know about the issues of human rights abuses China has been accused of?