



G7 Bars Meeting

Proposals to the G7 governments

1. We, the representatives of the bar associations in the G7 countries;
2. **Meeting** in Paris on July 11th and 12th, 2019 for the "G7 Bars Meeting";
3. **Reaffirm** the essential role of the legal profession in upholding the rule of law, access to justice and the fundamental principles of democracy, including the independence of the judiciary;
4. **Emphasise** the importance of respect for the rule of law to ensure the economic prosperity of our respective countries;
5. **Proclaim** our wish to engage in a constructive dialogue with governments and civil society organisations in order to find common solutions to the challenges the system of justice is facing, especially in relation to the protection of the rule of law and the independence of the system of justice;
6. **Recall** our dedication to human rights and commitment, to ensure that lawyers, judges and prosecutors are able to perform their duties without intimidation, harassment, or inappropriate interference ;
7. **Remind** governments of the vital importance of promoting and protecting the rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
8. **Having considered** the priorities stated for the G7 Summit of Heads of State and of Government, to be held from the 24th to the 26th August in Biarritz, France;
9. **Request our respective governments** to consider the following proposals and recommendations:



Concerning the fight against inequalities and promoting Access to Justice:

10. Support the participation of bar associations, court systems, and others in activities that promote awareness of the system of justice and the rule of law from an early age by organising awareness days in schools with lawyers, judges, and other members of the legal profession explaining the importance of the rule of law and presenting the role of the legal profession in so doing and promoting access to justice ;
11. Promote gender and other equality in society and in the workplace, including the legal profession, by addressing conscious and unconscious bias, the gender pay gap, and other discrimination in pay, bullying and sexual harassment, in collaboration with legal professional bodies, relevant state authorities and civil society organisations;
12. Commit to including legal aid by independent lawyers as part of humanitarian aid ;

Concerning the protection of the environment:

13. Promote meaningful debate at an international level regarding the responsibility of governments to safeguard both the environment and the climate for current and future generations;

Concerning strengthening Responsible Business conduct:

14. Promote a meaningful debate at international level on the need to address matters regarding Business and Human Rights;
15. Engage with the international community, including civil society organizations, to promote responsible business practices;

Concerning the preservation of the rule of law and the right to a fair trial:

16. Ensure that all are equal before the law and that the law protects lawyers in the performance of their duties;
17. Ensure access to a counsel of one's own choosing, the confidentiality of the lawyer-client relationship, the right to prepare a defence, and the right to a fair trial and an independent judiciary;



18. Ensure that all legislation, including anti-terrorism legislation, as implemented in practice, must respect fundamental rights and freedoms, including the confidentiality of the lawyer-client relationship and the right to a fair trial;
19. Enshrine the right to legal counsel and the protection of lawyers in the performance of their duties and raise awareness among international organizations, States and international actors about the importance of an effective protection for lawyers;
20. Commit to support actions marking the Day of the Endangered Lawyer and to encourage other countries to do likewise;

*Some organisations have to submit these proposals to their policy-making bodies

Language of negotiation: English

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Signed in Paris, the 11th July 2019

Christiane Féral-Schuhl
Conseil national des barreaux

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Féral-Schuhl'.

Ray Adlington
Canadian Bar Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Adlington'.

Edith Kindermann
Deutscher Anwalt Verein

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Simon Davis
Law Society of England and Wales

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Salvatore Sica
Consiglio Nazionale Forense

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Bob Carlson
American Bar Association

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Tatsu katayama
Japan Federation of Bars Associations

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James Mc Guill
Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe

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