

The Edinburgh Declaration 2002

World Forum for Barristers and Advocates

This Conference resolves:

1. That the independence of courts is essential to the functioning of democracies, and that the independence of the legal profession in turn is essential to the independence of the courts.
2. That the referral Bars, the organised bodies of the profession of barristers and advocates, have a particularly important role to play in defending the independence of the courts and in affording access by the public to them.
3. That the participating Bars commit themselves to supporting, in all ways open to them, legal practitioners in all countries where their capacity to practise and organise themselves freely and independently is under threat.
4. That it expresses its complete support for:
 - the Bar Council and Law Society of Zimbabwe in their assertion of independence and in their commitment to the restoration of the rule of law in Zimbabwe;
 - to the Hong Kong Bar in its principled espousal of the rule of law.
5. That the participating Bars shall take practical steps to coordinate and advance the work of Bars around the world for the protection of human rights and for the enhancement of pro bono legal services for the poor and the vulnerable.

The participating Bars shall also continue to work to defend the independence of the profession of barrister and advocate.