



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
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Centre for Human Rights
Faculty of Law

PRESS STATEMENT

THE 13TH NELSON MANDELA WORLD MOOT COMPETITION ADOPTS A HYBRID FORMAT

31 March 2021

The 2021 **Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition** will be held in an adjusted hybrid format due to the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the event's organisers have announced.

The preliminary rounds of the **competition** will be held online from 7 to 16 May 2021. The eight teams qualifying for the quarter-final rounds, to be held in person in Geneva, Switzerland, will be announced on 17 May 2021.

"The organisers regret being unable to support this year's competition entirely in person as planned," said Dr Eduardo Kapapelo, Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria. "However, they are very committed to ensuring that the competition, which has gained popularity since it was first held in 12 editions ago, does not lose momentum. With the hybrid format, those teams that have worked hard to prepare will reap the fruits of their labour, and new teams can participate."

The quarter-, semi- and final rounds of the competition will take place in person in Geneva from 14 to 16 July. The eight participating teams and judges will travel to Geneva for the final rounds.

Each year students submit written legal arguments for the two opposing sides in a fictional dispute involving burning contemporary human rights issues. Ten teams from each of the five UN regions with the highest scores for the written arguments are invited to participate in the final, oral rounds in Geneva, where they argue the case before eminent international jurists, including judges from international tribunals.

The 50 teams that qualify for the preliminary rounds, together with the schedule, will be announced on 26 April 2021. During the preliminary rounds, which will take place virtually, each team will argue the case twice, once as an applicant and once as a respondent.

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Teams are reminded to register and submit their written submissions/memorials by 15 April 2021.

The 13th Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition is organised by the University of Pretoria, the Human Rights Council Secretariat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at American University.

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