



ICAB WORLD BAR CONFERENCE  
Edinburgh 2016  
[www.worldbarconference.com](http://www.worldbarconference.com)



## **The Edinburgh Declaration 2016**

We the representatives of the member bars of the International Council of Advocates and Barristers attending the World Bar Conference in Edinburgh 14-16 April 2016 re-affirm our commitment to the principles set out in the Edinburgh Declaration of 2002, and in that regard resolve that:-

1. The rule of law is one of the foundations of a just and economically successful society.
2. The independence of the courts is essential to the rule of law and to the functioning of democracies.
3. The independence of the legal profession is essential to the independence of the courts.
4. The efficient functioning and adequate resourcing of the courts by the state is essential if they are to fulfill their constitutional role.
5. In our respective legal systems the independent referral bars, the organized bodies of the profession of advocates and barristers, have a crucial role to play in defending the independence of the courts and in securing their efficient functioning, in affording effective access to justice and in promoting the rule of law.



ICAB WORLD BAR CONFERENCE  
Edinburgh 2016  
[www.worldbarconference.com](http://www.worldbarconference.com)



## **The Edinburgh Declaration 2016**

6. The member bars commit themselves to supporting, in all ways open to them, legal practitioners in all countries where their capacity to practise and organize themselves freely and independently is under threat.
7. The member bars express their complete support for bars and legal professions in countries where the independence of the legal profession and/or the rule of law is under threat.
8. The rule of law demands effective access to justice; and effective access to justice for the poor and vulnerable requires an adequate publicly funded system of legal aid.
9. The member bars will take practical steps to co-ordinate and advance the work of the bars around the world for the protection of human rights and access to justice.
10. The member bars will continue to work to defend the independence of the profession of advocate and barrister.