



INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 10TH ANNUAL NATIONAL INTER-UNIVERSITY CONSTITUTIONAL LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION – 2023

1. Introduction & Background

Since 2014, the Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD) convenes the Annual National Inter – University Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition. The moot court competition has been graced by an ever-growing number of law schools in Uganda who meaningfully participate. The main objective of the Moot is to train students in practical aspects of litigating health and human rights within Uganda’s Courts of Law. This kind of arrangement helps bring out lawyers that understand key constitutional and health issues beyond what they are taught in class. The Moot specifically aspires to train students in legal writing, professional conduct and demeanour, court decorum and trial advocacy while arguing cases and preparation of Court pleadings.

It also aims at aiding law students to improve their public speaking skills and give them an experience of the litigation process in Uganda. The CEHURD Moot has built a cohort of young lawyers who appreciate the right to health and its justiciability within the confines of Uganda’s legal system.

Uganda's Constitution articulates a commitment to attain gender equality, but there is still a gap between policy and practice. Ensuring accountability for the realization of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights is a human rights obligation and a central tenet of advancing gender justice. Uganda has for long grappled with a high Maternal Morality Ratio, and there are still challenges in ensuring the right to Reproductive Health services and information. Promoting gender-equitable attitudes, behaviour and improving Sexual and Reproductive Health are essential to advancing gender equality and Sexual and Reproductive Health among adolescents.

This year's competition will enable students to debate on how access to information as a key component of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) for young people promotes their Sexual and Reproductive Health, and gender justice. They will dissect the extent to which the lack of information on Sexual and Reproductive Health bears a ripple effect on the right to Education and Health through the use of a hypothetical moot problem.

Students will demonstrate the need or otherwise, for the advancement of reproductive health and gender justice through access to information by highlighting the Constitutional rights, referencing international treaties and conventions that Uganda has ratified, emphasizing the obligation to promote and protect reproductive health and gender equality. The students will also break down gender justice by discussing the need to address Sexual and Gender Based Violence, discrimination, and harmful cultural practices that affect girls, young women and marginalized groups in Uganda clearly denoting how easier it is when young people are empowered with age-appropriate information.

2. Timelines

DATE	ACTIVITY
13 th August 2023	Announcement of the CEHURD Moot 2023.
13 th September 2023	Release of the Moot problem and instructions.
15 th September 2023 at 2:00pm	Virtual call to guide participants.
5 th October 2023 at 5:00pm	Deadline for teams to Memorials
26 th October 2023	Opening Ceremony for the 10 th CEHURD Moot, Preliminary Rounds and Semi-finals
27 th October 2023	Finals and Awards Ceremony and Closure

3. Structure of the moot

The moot competition shall be structured as per the following format:

- Submission of Memorials
- Preliminary Oral Rounds (*each team as an Applicant and as a Respondent*).
- Semi-finals Rounds (*the teams with the highest score in the preliminary rounds*)
- Finals Rounds (*the 2 teams with the highest score from the semi-final rounds*)

Marking criteria for Memorials.

Marking criteria	Marks allocated
Knowledge of facts and articulate analysis of the issues	25
Knowledge & Application of Law	25
Innovation and persuasiveness	25
Adherence to the instructions.	25
Total marks	100

4. Preliminary oral rounds

- ❖ Teams to compete against each other during the preliminary oral rounds will be chosen through a computer software where all participating teams will be allocated a random team code and their opponents chosen randomly.
- ❖ Each team will have an opportunity to submit both as an Applicant and as a Respondent.
- ❖ Each preliminary round shall last for 1 hour with the total speaking time for each team being 20 minutes. The Applicant may use an extra 5 minutes for rebuttal and rejoinder and the Judge shall take the remaining 15 minutes to give feedback on their cases. How teams will allocate the given time is up to their discretion.

5. Semi-finals and final rounds

- ❖ Qualification to the semifinal rounds will be determined based on the teams with the highest average score in their memorials and preliminary oral rounds.
- ❖ The teams that qualify for the semi-final will participate in a randomized exercise in which they will pick their opponents and sides.
- ❖ The teams with the highest score in the semi-finals will proceed to the final round and will participate in a randomized exercise in which they will pick sides (Appellant and Respondent).
- ❖ Grounds of Appeal in the final round will be jointly agreed upon by the participating teams and will be communicated to the Registrar of the Court and the Presiding Judges.

Marking criteria for Oral Presentations.

Marking criteria	Marks allocated
Preparation and familiarity with facts	20
Structure and Clarity of Legal Arguments	20
Knowledge & Application of Law	20
Organization, Presentation & Clarity	20
Ingenuity and persuasiveness in responding to questions from the Bench	10
Courtroom Etiquette	10
Total marks	100

6. Dress code

Teams appearing before the bench during oral submissions are expected to be fully robed.

7. Raising of preliminary objections

The team members shall not raise preliminary objections on points of law but may structure them as issues and resolve the same within their memorials and oral arguments.

8. Team Code

- ❖ Each team will be allocated a unique code for identification.
- ❖ The team code must be ascribed on the top right corner of the cover page. Nowhere in the Memorials should any team mention the name of its university or make reference to it.

9. Team constitution

Each participating university is expected to have a maximum of three (3) participants for the moot – 2 mooters and a coordinator.

10. Moot registry

- ❖ The moot registry shall be CEHURD and all memorials (and attachments, if any) shall be submitted in **PDF format** to the following email addresses: dhafa@cehurd.org and nimwesiga@cehurd.org in copy.
- ❖ A file of the filed documents shall be compiled by the moot registry and forwarded to the judges for marking and grading.

11. Memorials

- ❖ Each team shall prepare two memorials; one as Applicant and another as Respondent.
- ❖ Each of the memorials must be one single document consisting of the following parts in the order followed below: (a) A standard cover page, identical in style and content to **Appendix A**. The cover page should not carry any mark that identifies the team, such as the name of the university, team members other than the provided unique **Team Codes**.
- ❖ The format should be as follows:
 - Spacing: *Double-spaced*
 - Form: *Typewritten*
 - Margins: *Top: 2cm, Bottom: 2cm, Left: 2cm, Right: 2cm*
 - Font: *Arial narrow 12*

12. The Judges

- ❖ The moot will be adjudicated by selected judicial officers from the different Courts of judicature in Uganda. Each preliminary rounds will be presided over by a single judge while a panel of three judges

will preside over the semi-final rounds. The final round will be presided over by a panel of five judges.

- ❖ Judges have the discretion to guide arguments, pose questions, or seek clarification on matters of law or facts during oral submissions.

13. Awards.

The following awards will be given by organizers after the final round:

- Overall winner
- First Runners Up
- Best Oralist
- Best Memorial
- Second best memorial
- Each team member and coordinator will receive a certificate of participation.
- The Best Oralist will also receive an internship placement at CEHURD.

14. General Inquiries

For any inquiries or clarifications, please call **Esther Dhafa** on +256785882809, **Seth Nimwesiga** on +256775560823 or CEHURD on +256200956006 or send an email to dhafa@cehurd.org and copy nimwesiga@cehurd.org

Appendix A

**10TH ANNUAL NATIONAL INTER-UNIVERSITY CONSTITUTIONAL LAW MOOT COURT
COMPETITION**

“Advancing Reproductive Health and Gender Justice in Uganda”

October 2023

IN THE MATTER BETWEEN _____ (APPLICANT)

AND

_____ (RESPONDENT)

Team CODE

Each of the two memorials for either the applicant or the respondent should be submitted in a single PDF document organized in the following order;

- i. Cover page (in the template above)
- ii. Pleadings
- iii. Summary of facts
- iv. Submissions
- v. Attachments (if any)

(Please note that the specific team should not be identified in anyway anywhere in the memorials other than by the Unique team Code provided by the moot registry)