



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 12th ANNUAL NATIONAL INTER-UNIVERSITY CONSTITUTIONAL LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION

**THEME: “Navigating divergent perspectives in promoting reproductive and gender justice in Uganda”**

### 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 competition has been graced by an ever-growing number of law schools in Uganda that meaningfully participate each year. The main objective of the Moot is to train students in the practical aspects of litigating health and human rights within Uganda’s Courts of Law. This kind of arrangement helps bring out lawyers who 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 preparing court pleadings.

The Moot also aims at aiding law students to improve their public speaking skills and giving 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 attaining 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 a high Maternal Mortality Ratio, and there are still challenges in ensuring the right to reproductive health services and information. Promoting gender-equitable attitudes and behaviours and improving Sexual and Reproductive Health are essential to advancing gender equality and Sexual and Reproductive Health among adolescents and young people.

Under this year’s theme “Navigating divergent perspectives in promoting reproductive and gender justice in Uganda”, the moot aims at creating a fertile environment for thorough discussions on Reproductive and Gender Justice and in Uganda. The moot shall also shed light on government’s policies regarding the provision of reproductive health-related information and services to Ugandans, as well as the promotion of gender equality and equity. Students will demonstrate the need or otherwise, for the advancement of reproductive health and gender justice through access to information by highlighting constitutional rights, referencing international treaties and conventions that Uganda has ratified, and emphasizing the obligation to promote and protect reproductive and gender justice .

The students will break down reproductive justice, gender justice and explore the impact and influence of faith-based, traditional and cultural practices on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Gender Justice in Uganda. It could further examine the legal framework for progressive realization of reproductive and gender justice for all people, and the role of the legal system in addressing conservative religious and cultural practices that hinder realization of these.

## 2. TIMELINES

DATE	ACTIVITY
30th May, 2025	Announcement of the CEHURD Moot 2025
18th July, 2025 at 3:00pm	Virtual call to guide participants (Coordinators Meeting)
28th July, 2025	Release of the Moot problem and Instructions.
15th August, 2025 at 5:00pm	Deadline for teams to submit Memorials
28th August, 2025	Opening Ceremony for the 12th CEHURD Moot, Preliminary Rounds, Quarter finals and Semi-finals
29th August, 2025	Finals and awards ceremony

## 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).
- Quarter-final Rounds (the 8 teams with the highest scores from the Preliminary Rounds)
- Semi-final Rounds (the best 4 teams from the Quarter final Rounds – Winning by knock out)
- Finals Rounds (the best 2 teams from the Semi-final Rounds – Winning by knock out)

## 4. TEAM CONSTITUTION

Each participating university is expected to have a maximum of three (3) participants for the moot, two (2) students (mooters) and one (1) Coordinator.

## 5. TEAM CODE

- Each team shall be assigned a unique code as an identifier during the Competition.
- The team code must be ascribed to the top right corner of the cover page of the Memorial. Nowhere in the Memorial or any time during the competition should any team mention the name of its university or make any reference to it.

## 6. ORAL PRESENTATIONS

### Dress Code

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

### a) *Raising 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.

**b) Preliminary Oral Rounds**

- Teams to compete against each other during the preliminary oral rounds will be chosen through 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 reserve up to 5 minutes of their allocated time 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.

**c) Quarter-final Round**

- The eight (8) teams with the highest scores from the Preliminary Rounds will proceed for the Quarter final Round. They shall present as either Applicants or Respondents before the High Court.
- The best four (4) teams from the Quarter final Rounds who will win by knockout will proceed to the Semi-final Rounds.
- There will be an allocated time of 15 minutes for the 4 teams proceeding to the Semi Final rounds to “Schedule” and agree on their grounds of Appeal to the Appeals Court.

**d) Semi-finals and final Rounds**

- Qualification to the semi-final rounds will be determined by knock outs, and the best 4 teams from the Quarter final Rounds will proceed for semi-finals.
- The teams that qualify for the semi-final round will participate in a randomized exercise in which they will pick their opponents and sides.
- The teams shall present as either Appellant or Respondent during the semi-final and final rounds. The best two (2) teams from the semi-final round will proceed to the final round. Those proceeding to the final round will also participate in a randomized exercise in which they will pick sides (Appellant and Respondent).
- The participating teams will jointly agree upon grounds of Appeal in the final rounds and these will be communicated to the Registrar of the Court and the Presiding Judges

## 7. MARKING CRITERIA FOR ORAL PRESENTATIONS.

MARKING CRITERIA	MARKS ALLOCATED
<b>Legal arguments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● General knowledge of the laws</li> <li>● Understanding and analysis of the issues presented</li> <li>● Knowledge of the facts of the case. Choice of arguments most relevant to the case</li> <li>● Use of case law and secondary sources from the International Human rights law</li> </ul>	30
<b>Organization of Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Structure and clarity of presentation</li> <li>● Ability to synthesize factual material with legal arguments.</li> <li>● Use of time</li> </ul>	20
<b>General Evaluation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Persuasiveness</li> <li>● Ability to maintain the line of argumentation following interruptions</li> <li>● Originality</li> </ul>	15
<b>Responsiveness to Opponents</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ability to respond to opponent's arguments</li> <li>● Ability to counter each of the opponent's arguments</li> </ul>	10
<b>Responsiveness to Judges</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Thoroughness in answering the questions presented</li> <li>● Ability to deal with hypothetical questions</li> </ul>	10
<b>Delivery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Control</li> <li>● Demeanor</li> <li>● Body language</li> <li>● Composure</li> <li>● Tone of voice</li> <li>● Ability to be heard</li> <li>● Eye-contact</li> </ul>	15
<b>TOTAL MARKS</b>	<b>100</b>

## 8. MEMORIAL SUBMISSIONS

- 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, country, or team members other than the provided unique team codes.**

● The memorial shall account for **25% of the total mark scored at the Preliminary rounds.** As a result, the mark obtained by one during the oral round shall be **computed to the 75th percentile and added to the memorial mark to obtain the total mark.**

## 9. 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
<b>TOTAL MARKS</b>	<b>100</b>

### PLEASE NOTE

- o Marks shall be computed as: 75% (oral marks) + 25% (memorial marks) = Total Mark
- o The memorial format should also be as follows:
  - Spacing: Double-spaced
  - Form: Typewritten
  - Margins: Top: 2 cm, Bottom: 2 cm, Left: 2 cm, Right: 2 cm
  - Font: Arial narrow 12

## 10. MOOT REGISTRY

- o 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 ajalo@cehurd.org in copy.
- o A file of the filed documents shall be compiled by the moot registry and forwarded to the judges for marking and grading.

## 11. THE JUDGES

- The moot will be adjudicated by selected judicial officers from the different courts of judicature in Uganda. Each preliminary round and Quarterfinals 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.

## 12. AWARDS.

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

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

### 13. GENERAL INQUIRIES

For any inquiries or clarifications, *please call Esther Dhafa at +256785980879, Ruth Ajalo on +256775166862 or CEHURD at +256200956006 or* send an email to *dhafa@cehurd.org* and copy *ajalo@cehurd.org*

#### Appendix A

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August 2025

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)*

**GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL**