



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
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**Centre for Human Rights**  
Faculty of Law

## **10TH NELSON MANDELA WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS MOOT COURT COMPETITION 15 – 20 July 2018, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

**Presented by the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, South Africa  
in collaboration with  
the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,  
and selected partners**

The 10th Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition will be held from 15 to 20 July 2018, at Palais des Nations in Geneva, and will bring together up to 150 participants from up to 30 universities representing all 5 United Nations regions of the world (Africa; Asia and the Middle East; Eastern Europe; South America and the Caribbean; Western Europe and other regions).

Invitations are sent to all universities in the world. The Competition will for the first time not only be presented in English but also in French with the addition of other UN languages such as Spanish, Russian and Arabic in future years. Participating universities select two students, preferably one man and one woman. The students submit written heads of argument for a hypothetical case, which are assessed by a panel of experts. The best 10 teams from each region are then invited to travel to Geneva to participate in the pre-final rounds of the Competition. Here, teams have to argue the two sides of the hypothetical case, the Applicant and the Respondent, before a 'bench' of human rights experts.

The two best teams proceed to the final round, which is presided over by judges from international courts and tribunals. In the past the former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Navi Pillay, has been a judge, as well as judges from the International Criminal Court, European Court of Human Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The World Human Rights Moot Court Competition has been presented every year for the last nine years, and has become a leading human rights educational event. It is unique in bringing together some of the youngest and brightest students from universities all around the globe to debate burning contemporary human rights issues on the basis of a common UN human rights system, influenced by national and regional perspectives and experiences.

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The Competition is unique in the geographic spread of its participants, and in being held in at the Palais des Nations from 15 to 20 July. It is also unique in reaching a broad base of participants, also from those parts of the world where regional human rights systems have not been established, or have only been recently introduced. The 10th Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition holds special significance as it marks the 100th birthday of human rights icon Nelson Mandela.

As in 2017, the 2018 Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition will include a one-day event, designed to expose students to the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as the Human Rights Council. This will involve personal interaction with senior staff members of both institutions who are involved in key activities and processes. This practical exercise promises to be an eye –opening and personally enriching series of encounters which will add value to what many World Moot participants have already described as the highlight of their university studies.

The competition website containing the rules of procedure, the hypothetical case, and registration details is available at [www.chr.up.ac.za/worldmoot](http://www.chr.up.ac.za/worldmoot)

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