

RESOLUTION

The European Law Faculties Association, at its Annual General Meeting held in Edinburgh on 19 April 2024.

Whereas, legal education serves as the foundation for a just and equitable society, providing graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote the rule of law;

Whereas, law schools play a vital role in cultivating the next generation of legal professionals, imbuing them with the ethical principles, critical thinking abilities, and professional competencies essential for socially valuable legal practice;

Whereas, the legal profession encompasses diverse fields and disciplines, ranging from advocacy and litigation to policy-making and corporate governance, thereby necessitating a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to legal education;

Whereas, access to quality legal education empowers individuals from all backgrounds to pursue careers in law, thereby promoting diversity, equality, and inclusion within the legal profession and ensuring representation for marginalized communities;

Whereas, legal education fosters a culture of lifelong learning and continuous professional development, enabling legal professionals to adapt to evolving legal landscapes, navigate complex legal issues, and contribute effectively as citizens of the world;

Whereas, the challenges facing society today, including but not limited to social justice issues, rapid technological transformation, environmental concerns, and global crises, underscore the urgent need for well-trained, open-minded, and creative legal professionals;

Whereas, promoting transnational legal education and cooperation is essential for addressing global challenges, fostering intercultural understandings, and promoting respect for human rights, the rule of law, and peaceful resolution of disputes;

Whereas, armed conflict remains a significant threat to peace, security, and human rights around the world, leading to widespread suffering, displacement, and violations of international humanitarian law;

Whereas, we as educators deplore the enormous suffering caused by the armed conflicts, and in particular the effects on children and young adults.

The EUROPEAN LAW FACULTIES ASSOCIATION

Calls upon its members and all Law Faculties as well as all relevant stakeholders to reaffirm their commitment to the development of legal education and to:

1. Prioritize the delivery of high-quality programmes that emphasize both theoretical knowledge and practical skills, thereby preparing graduates for the demands of contemporary legal practice;
2. Advance diversity, equality, and inclusion within their institutions by implementing policies and initiatives aimed at increasing access to legal education for underrepresented and marginalized communities;
3. Foster interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation within their curricula to address emerging legal challenges and opportunities in a rapidly changing world;
4. Promote transnational legal education and cooperation by offering courses, programs, and exchanges that facilitate cross-border collaboration, mutual understanding, and respect for diverse legal systems and cultures.
5. Ensure that funding is available to support mobility of students and Faculty to maintain and develop the highest quality of transnational legal education as an essential contributor towards intercultural understandings;
6. Support initiatives that promote lifelong learning and professional development among legal professionals, including opportunities for mentorship, continuing education, and pro bono service;
7. Engage in partnerships with legal practitioners, civil society organisations, international organisations and other stakeholders to enhance the relevance and impact of legal education on society as a whole;
8. Take appropriate steps to ensure that university academic freedom is not diminished by politically motivated interests.
9. Nurture initiatives aimed at fostering the virtue of cultural humility and addressing the root causes of armed conflict and other global challenges.
10. Condemn armed conflict and support efforts to uphold international humanitarian law, protect human rights, safeguard civilians not involved in the hostilities, and promote peaceful resolution of disputes through legal mechanisms and diplomacy.