



The Commonwealth

Rule of Law Webinar Series: COVID-19 and the Rule of Law

How Has COVID-19 Affected Access to Justice in the Commonwealth?

Tuesday 18 August, 1.00pm – 2.30pm (BST)

Experts from across the Commonwealth will discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected access to justice and how justice systems have implemented innovative measures in order to continue offering services to populations.

Panellists will be invited to reflect on the short and long-term impacts of the pandemic, notably on case management and backlogs, access to legal representation, and the work of the judiciary. Given the recent increase in the use of virtual hearings, panellists will also discuss the challenges in conducting and attending virtual hearings, and possible approaches to ensure access to justice, inclusion and participation of the most vulnerable, taking into account access to internet and digital platforms.

The panel of experts will examine how justice systems in the Commonwealth have adapted at the time of the pandemic and may have to reinvent themselves in its aftermath in order to achieve equal access to justice for all.

Speakers

The Rt Hon Beverley McLachlin,
Former Chief Justice of Canada

Justice (Prof) Joel Ngugi,
Judge, High Court of Kenya

Mr Lionel Yee Woo Chin SC,
Deputy Attorney-General of Singapore

Sheriff Alistair Duff,
Director of the Judicial Institute for Scotland

Moderator

HE Dr Athaliah Molokomme, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Botswana to the United Nations in Geneva

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