



**JOINT STATEMENT**  
**BY THE SCOTTISH YOUNG LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION AND**  
**THE EUROPEAN YOUNG BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**REGARDING THE COVID-19 VIRUS**

Dear Members, Dear Friends,

In light of the recent COVID-19 outbreak in Europe and globally, the Scottish Young Lawyers' Association and the EYBA Board, after careful consideration and with a very heavy heart, must announce the postponement of the EYBA Spring Conference 2020 (23 -26 April) which will be deferred to Spring 2021.

We have determined that trying to hold an international event with hundreds of people from different countries (seriously affected or not by the situation) would be too risky as it would undermine, rather than support, the international efforts by medical professionals, policy-makers and governments around the world to contain and suppress this virus and prevent its further spread.

We also took into consideration that a significant number of participants would probably be unable to attend the Conference as a result of rapidly evolving regulations, policies and bans on travel and the discouragement of attending large gatherings. This could have an impact on the expected number of attendees and on the overall organisation.

In this regard, the EYBA is really thankful to all the members of the Organising Committee for their effort to organise what was expected to be an amazing conference and we extend our immense gratitude to the sponsors of the Conference - T.M. Lewin, Ledingham Chalmers and DWF - for their continuous support.

We have, over the past several weeks, monitored the situation and seriously considered to reschedule the Conference to the next months but, at the moment, it is impossible – in the midst of the uncertainty surrounding this pandemic – to know when the current situation will be improved, if not resolved.

The uncertainty of the weeks ahead and many other concerns (such as the risk of overlapping with other events usually organised between September and December) effectively preclude rescheduling in 2020. Therefore, we are left with the only option to postpone to Spring 2021.

We understand that this decision will cause complications for those who have already bought their tickets and booked flights and accommodation. We hope that you will understand that the health and safety of all participants to our conferences is our highest priority.

Many airlines have offered waivers or refunds based on the COVID-19 crisis. We encourage you to reach out to your airline to discuss your options. Moreover, the Organising Committee will accommodate refund the fees already paid by participants.

Despite the challenges that the COVID-19 epidemic is causing worldwide, it is our strongest belief that EYBA network will meet again soon, more united and more determined, when everything will be back to normality.

EYBA will continue to monitor the situation, and assess the impact on upcoming events. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at [info@eyba.org](mailto:info@eyba.org).

Kind regards,

EYBA Board

Ayla (also on behalf of the Organising Committee), Nikoline, Owen, Veronica, Giulia, Simon, Guillaume, Joyce.