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The Law Society  
of England and Wales



### G7 Bars Meeting

#### Resolution on the confidentiality of the client-lawyer relationship

We, the representatives of the bar associations in the G7 countries (the “G7 Bars”) met on 27/05/2022 for the 2022 G7 Bars meeting

1. **Recognising** the essential role of the legal profession in upholding the rule of law and the separation of powers as fundamental principles of all democratic nations and that this role is essential to ensure accountability and access to justice for citizens worldwide;
2. **Recalling** the proposals as submitted to the G7 Governments following the G7 Bars Meeting in Paris in July 2019;
3. **Acknowledging** that lawyers are at the forefront of judicial systems, helping build and defend accessible, efficient and fair justice systems;
4. **Reaffirming** that lawyers must be able to exercise their profession without undue interference, intimidation or harassment in order to fulfil their duties for the administration of justice and the maintenance of the rule of law;

5. **Recalling** that the confidentiality of the client-lawyer relationship is an interaction between the professional obligations of the lawyer and the fundamental rights of the client;
6. **Emphasising** that the confidentiality of the client-lawyer relationship and professional secrecy require absolute protection to serve the fundamental rights of the clients and their right to effective access to justice;
7. **Recognising** the vulnerable position in which lawyers may be placed when client-lawyer confidentiality and professional secrecy are attacked and acknowledging that such attacks may amount to an attack on the rule of law;
8. **Expressing grave concern** that in certain jurisdictions and countries, laws and other instruments are applied in ways that hinder lawyers from practicing their profession, that interfere with fair trial guarantees of lawyers' clients and/or result in breaches of confidentiality of the client-lawyer relationship;
9. **Reaffirming** that the principle of professional secrecy and the confidentiality of the client-lawyer relationship must be duly protected in all circumstances;
10. **Considering** the priorities stated for the G7 Summit of Heads of State and of Government, to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022 in Castle Elmau;
11. **Request** our respective governments to consider the following recommendations:
12. The G7 governments shall take appropriate measures to ensure that client-lawyer confidentiality and professional secrecy are protected to the greatest possible extent against any national or transnational laws or practices that might violate them.
13. The G7 governments shall consider consulting directly with the G7 Bars and Law Societies if legislative proposals might impair professional secrecy and client-lawyer confidentiality.

Signed in Berlin, 27 May 2022

Canadian Bar Association

Law Society of England and Wales



Conseil National des Barreaux

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