PRESS RELEASE

Geneva, 15th October 2026

"À LA BARRE DE L'HISTOIRE": ORATORY IN THE SERVICE OF MEMORY AND TRANSMISSION

About HADAR

HADAR is a professional network bringing together people of African descent based in Geneva. Its main objectives are to foster the professional, intellectual, economic, social and cultural development of its members, while supporting the promotion and integration of young professionals into the world of work in Geneva and Switzerland.

An Evening of Oratory: "À la Barre de l'Histoire"

On Thursday, 5 November 2026 at 8:00 p.m. at Up-Town Geneva, HADAR will present the first edition of "À la Barre de l'Histoire", an evening of oratory dedicated this year to three major figures in the contemporary history of the African continent: *Nelson Mandela, Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti and Patrice Lumumba*.

Through their lives and legacies, the evening will explore issues that continue to resonate in our societies today: freedom, anti-Black racism, equality, justice, Afrofeminist struggles, power, compromise, transmission, and the responsibility of the generations who have inherited these struggles.

The staging will draw freely on the conventions of criminal advocacy and the public-speaking competitions traditionally organised by Bar associations. The purpose, however, is neither to judge nor to condemn these historical figures. Rather, through the power of words, argument and contradiction, the evening seeks to create a space in which we can reflect on our own relationship with their legacy.

"À la Barre de l'Histoire" ultimately invites us to consider what we have done with the freedoms won, the doors opened and the sacrifices made by those who came before us.

The evening will be held under the patronage of *H.E. Adama Dieng*, who will honour us with his presence. H.E. Adama Dieng is an international jurist, former United Nations Under-Secretary-General and former Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide. His distinguished career has also included service with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the International Commission of Jurists and the African Union, where he currently serves as Special Envoy for the Prevention of Genocide and Other Mass Atrocities. He is also a recipient of the prestigious Troféu Raça Negra in Brazil.

Nine other distinguished personalities from the legal, artistic, professional and institutional worlds will also take part in this evening of oratory.

Each of the three fictional proceedings will open with a witness offering a personal and contemporary perspective on the life and legacy of the historical figure concerned. These perspectives will be provided by *Francis Kpatindé*, former Editor-in-Chief at *Jeune Afrique*, former department head at *Le Monde*, former spokesperson for the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), and lecturer at Sciences Po Paris; *WETU*, an artist, author and performer whose work spans music, spoken word, poetry and theatre; and *Tania Luminuku*, senior Corporate/M&A lawyer in Geneva and an active member of the Geneva Young Bar.

Six speakers will then take up the arguments: *Denis Agboton*, wealth manager, First Prize winner of the Michel Nançoz Public Speaking Competition in Geneva and First Prize winner of the Secretaries of the Paris Bar Conference; *Meryanne Loum-Martin*, former lawyer, owner of the Jnane Tamsna hotel in Marrakech and First Prize winner of the Secretaries of the Paris Bar Conference; *Seth Médiateur Tuyisabe*, qualified lawyer and Second Prize winner of the Michel Nançoz Public Speaking Competition in Geneva; *Ndaté Dieng*, lawyer, member of the Council of the Geneva Bar Association and Second Prize winner of the Michel Nançoz Public Speaking Competition; *Maël Azokly*, lawyer and former member of the Geneva Young Bar Committee; and *Simon Ntah*, partner at Baker McKenzie, First Prize winner of the Michel Nançoz Public Speaking Competition in Geneva and First Prize winner of the Paris–Montreal International Public Speaking

Their respective backgrounds combine legal practice, professional and personal engagement, artistic creation, institutional responsibilities and experience in the business world.

The discussions will be chaired by *Dr Eleanor T. Khonje*, professor and specialist in governance and leadership, and *Abdul Carrupt*, FSA-certified specialist in criminal law and First Prize winner of the Montreal Bar's English-language public speaking competition.

"À la Barre de l'Histoire" is, above all, an evening devoted to the power of words: nine distinctive voices, six pleadings and three testimonies bringing memory, oratory and contemporary issues into dialogue.

Full event dossier available upon request.

Practical Information

Event	Evening of Oratory — "À la Barre de l'Histoire"
Date	Thursday, 5 November 2026 at 8:00 p.m. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. — scheduled end at 10:30 p.m.
Venue	Up-Town Geneva, Rue de la Servette 2, 1201 Genève
Tickets	Ticketing link here
Organiser and contact	Association Hadar — www.hadar.ch – infos@hadar.ch Cécé David STUDER, Président, +41225595712