

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMME THEMES<sup>1</sup>

### TWO PLENARY SESSIONS

<b>Theme</b>	<b>THE INSTRUMENTALIZATION OF THE DEATH PENALTY FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES</b>
<b>Format</b>	Plenary session
<b>Date</b>	Tuesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
<b>Time</b>	3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Whether they utilize capital punishment to reinforce their power, to control the population, to further their political agenda, or in the context of elections, political actors are no strangers to the debate surrounding the death penalty. From reiterating that capital punishment is frequently a corollary of systemic human rights violations to addressing the issue of the oversimplification of public opinion, this plenary session seeks to explore the various aspects of the instrumentalization of the death penalty for political purposes to identify the most effective and contextually appropriate strategies for abolition.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>THE NEW ABOLITIONIST GENERATION: TRANSMISSION AND INNOVATION</b>
<b>Format</b>	Plenary session
<b>Date</b>	Wednesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
<b>Time</b>	10:00 am to 12:00 pm

In 2020, 123 of the 193 UN Member States voted in favour of the 8<sup>th</sup> resolution calling for a universal moratorium on capital punishment, confirming the global consensus on abolition of the death penalty. With universal abolition in sight, the time has come for the abolitionist movement to reflect on its foundations and to envision its future. To this end, and benefiting from one another's experiences, representatives of different generations of the abolitionist movement will share the reasons behind their commitment and discuss their strategies for awareness raising, advocacy, as well as new ways to sustain the movement and promote the abolition of capital punishment.

<sup>1</sup> Note: The contents of this document, including titles and discussion points are subject to minor changes before the Congress.

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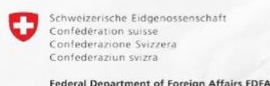
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# 8<sup>th</sup> WORLD CONGRESS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

15-18 NOVEMBER 2022  
BERLIN, GERMANY



## FIVE ROUNDTABLES

<b>Theme</b>	<b>SAME FIGHT, SAME RISKS: LAWYERS AND JOURNALISTS AS ACTORS OF ABOLITION</b>
<b>Format</b>	Roundtable
<b>Date</b>	Tuesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
<b>Time</b>	5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Whether they are representing clients facing the death penalty or keeping the public informed on the application and status of the death penalty, lawyers and journalists are key players of the fight to end the death penalty. This roundtable will focus on the challenges they encounter as well as the common risks they experience as human rights defenders and civil rights protectors.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>SEXUAL VIOLENCE &amp; THE DEATH PENALTY: REAFFIRMING THE UNIVERSALITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS</b>
<b>Format</b>	Roundtable
<b>Date</b>	Wednesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
<b>Time</b>	2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

At least seven countries still carry the death penalty for rape and many more are considering reintroducing it, blatantly ignoring the views of gender and children's rights experts as to the effectiveness of capital punishment to end rape. While keeping a victim-oriented approach at the heart of the discussion, this roundtable will focus on the instrumentalization by authorities of public opinion's need for justice in order to avoid addressing the roots of sexual violence and, also, seek to promote cooperation between human rights activists to abolish the death penalty as a response to rape.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>THE DEATH PENALTY AND LACK OF TRANSPARENCY: GLOBAL IMPACT ON HUMAN RIGHTS</b>
<b>Format</b>	Roundtable
<b>Date</b>	Wednesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
<b>Time</b>	4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

In 2021, the UN Secretary-General emphasized the growing concern of both civil society and international institutions over the opacity surrounding the death penalty in retentionist states. While this lack of transparency violates the fundamental human rights of those facing capital punishment and their families, it also impacts abolitionist actors, lawyers, and society at large by hindering state accountability and preventing access to crucial information. After a three-year pandemic which has only exacerbated these issues, this roundtable will be an opportunity to reflect on the consequences of this lack of transparency and to consider mechanisms available to lawyers and civil society to overcome them.

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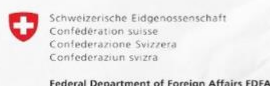
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<b>Theme</b>	<b>HOW TO MAKE THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY IRREVERSIBLE?</b>
<b>Format</b>	Roundtable
<b>Date</b>	Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
<b>Time</b>	9:30 am to 11:00 am

Despite the universal trend towards the abolition of the death penalty, some abolitionist states seek to reintroduce it while others, having recently expressed an intent to abolish capital punishment, are reconsidering their position. Legal mechanisms, whether national, regional or international, exist to ensure the irreversibility of the death penalty. This roundtable will explore the range of legal instruments that can be used to unequivocally abolish capital punishment and aim to develop new arguments, as well as strategies to handle attempts to reintroduce it.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>THE ROLE OF JUDGES IN RELATION TO THE DEATH PENALTY</b>
<b>Format</b>	Roundtable
<b>Date</b>	Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
<b>Time</b>	11:30 am to 1:00 pm

“Judges are terrible politicians”<sup>2</sup>, and yet, they are the key players in the administration of justice and hence, in the administration of one of the most politicized issues: the death penalty. This roundtable will discuss the various facets of the role of judges and prosecutors in relation to capital punishment, by discussing issues such as the concept of integrity, the psychological impact of administering the death penalty, the obligations they must comply with and, most importantly, their influence in the abolition of capital punishment process.

<sup>2</sup> Justice Stephen Breyer on the Death Penalty : <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/facts-and-research/united-states-supreme-court/individual-justices>

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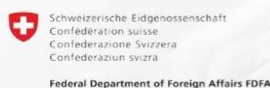
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## EIGHT WORKSHOPS

<b>Theme</b>	<b>IDENTIFYING THE DEATH ROW PHENOMENON</b>
<b>Format</b>	Workshop
<b>Date</b>	Wednesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
<b>Time</b>	2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

The death row phenomenon is difficult to identify, very rarely recognized in national legislations or jurisprudence and often regarded as a regional issue rather than a global one. The facilitators at this workshop will therefore define the death row phenomenon and train participants to better identify it and use it for the purposes of release or the commutation of sentences, as well as for abolition itself.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>MOBILIZING NON-CONVENTIONAL ACTORS</b>
<b>Format</b>	Workshop
<b>Date</b>	Wednesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
<b>Time</b>	2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

This workshop will seek to develop tools for strengthening the mobilization of the corporate sector but also to reach out to new actors, such as athletes or influencers, while fostering their cooperation with traditional abolitionist actors.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>INTELLECTUAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL DISABILITIES AMONG PERSONS SENTENCED TO DEATH</b>
<b>Format</b>	Workshop
<b>Date</b>	Wednesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
<b>Time</b>	4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

This workshop will provide an opportunity to raise awareness on intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in order to further build inclusivity and intersectionality in the abolitionist movement. It will also offer an overview of the many recent developments on the subject.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>SEXUAL MINORITIES, GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION AND THE DEATH PENALTY</b>
<b>Format</b>	Workshop
<b>Date</b>	Wednesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
<b>Time</b>	4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

The facilitators will strive to establish strategies for local civil society organizations, as well as lawyers and journalists, to oppose the use of the death penalty for repressing sexual minorities. Additionally, this workshop will provide training to abolitionists worldwide with the aim of developing a framework for good practice when collaborating with LGBT rights groups in situ.

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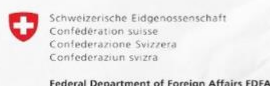
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<b>Theme</b>	<b>NHRIs, CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE FIGHT FOR ABOLITION</b>
<b>Format</b>	Workshop
<b>Date</b>	Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
<b>Time</b>	9:30 am to 11:00 am

While civil society plays a crucial role in the abolition of the death penalty, NHRIs are not to be overlooked, whether in their monitoring of death rows or in informing and raising public awareness on human rights violations. This workshop will seek to find ways of involving NHRIs in abolitionist processes and to develop a framework of good practices for working with NHRIs in states applying a moratorium on the death penalty, as well as in retentionist ones.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>A NEW APPROACH: THE EXAMPLE OF THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION</b>
<b>Format</b>	Workshop
<b>Date</b>	Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
<b>Time</b>	9:30 am to 11:00 am

The aim of this workshop is to study the abolition processes in the member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in order to disseminate this approach to the participants. They will, in turn, be able to use it as a tool to advocate with the authorities in favor of the abolition of the death penalty.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>MAKING THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY A NORM OF INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMARY LAW</b>
<b>Format</b>	Workshop
<b>Date</b>	Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
<b>Time</b>	11:30 am to 1:00 pm

This workshop will seek to train participants on the international customary norms, which are relevant to the abolition of the death penalty and explore the means of enshrining its abolition in international law through customary international law and/or jus cogens prohibition of torture.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>SUPPORTING CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT REGIONAL CONGRESS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY</b>
<b>Format</b>	Workshop
<b>Date</b>	Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
<b>Time</b>	11:30 am to 1:00 pm

This workshop will assess the need of civil society in the Middle East through a dialogue with participants to develop greater international collaboration and support. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss the upcoming Regional Congress Against the Death Penalty.

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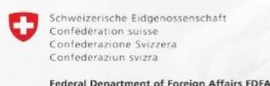
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