

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

16-18 NOVEMBER 2022 (TBC)  
BERLIN, GERMANY



Federal Foreign Office



[www.ecpm.org](http://www.ecpm.org)

## WHAT IS IT?

### The Congress in figures\*

At least :

- 1,000 participants from at least 90 countries
- 25 ministers
- 200 diplomats
- 700 members of civil society
- 10 parliamentarians
- 20 NHRIs and their main international and regional networks
- 50 young abolitionist leaders
- 15 journalists from non-abolitionist countries
- 2 cultural exhibitions, 2 cultural evening events, a final happening, an Abolition Village, screenings
- Dozens of artists and performers

\* The main impacts of the World Congresses against the Death Penalty may be consulted on our Impacts Brochure available here : <https://www.ecpm.org/wp-content/uploads/The-World-Congresses-Numerous-real-and-certified-impacts.pdf>

## WHAT FOR?

### The project aims to accelerate the universal abolition of the death penalty, seeking the following objectives

- Strengthen the action and cooperation of political actors to encourage States to make concrete commitments towards abolition
- Promote initiatives by key civil society actors and cooperation to advance national debate and international strategy
- Raising awareness on the reality of the death penalty among a wider public

### Innovative objectives for the Berlin Congress:

- Strengthen the involvement and **empowerment of young abolitionist actors** in the fight against the death penalty to sustain the movement in the **long term**
- Pursue efforts to involve **non-conventional allies** in the international fight against the death penalty, notably **business leaders**, actors in the **sports sector** and others, to raise awareness of a wider audience.
- Use **live streaming technologies** to allow the greatest possible number of abolitionist actors to follow the Congress debates, while reducing its **environmental impact**, and to safeguard against the effects of potential travel restrictions

# THE DEATH PENALTY ACROSS THE WORLD

## Abolition is part of a universal trend

➤ **146 countries and territories have abolished the death penalty either in law or in practice.** 80% of the UN members no longer execute and 60% of them are abolitionists

➤ The African continent is moving towards abolition: **43 of the 55** African States are abolitionist in law or de facto.

And yet, some regions still strongly resist the advance of abolitionist thought and continue to apply the death penalty widely. This is the case in **China, Iran, Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia**, the **5 leading countries** in terms of the number of annual executions in 2020.

**486+** **Estimated world number of executions in 2020.**

This figure is well below the reality, given that China has made data on the number of executions, estimated to be several thousand per year, a State secret.

**28,500+** **Prisoners sentenced to death** await execution in conditions of detention which are often well **below what is required by international standards.**

**Why do the 31 countries in the world considered to be de facto abolitionist represent important catalysts for action?**

Their move into the abolitionist camp could create a snowball effect:

➔ 52 States still use the death penalty, **imposing a repressive judicial system to 60% of the world population, even though its dissuasive effect has never been proven.**

# WHAT'S AT STAKE?

## Ending the risk of resumption

With the rise of populism and the radicalisation of thinking on security issues in some States which have abolished the death penalty in law, pro-death penalty movements regularly **challenge abolition**. Besides, **the risk of a resumption of executions** in non-abolitionist countries which have not executed anyone for several years is ever present.

## Fighting for equal justice

In most of the countries where support for the death penalty is still high, **capital punishment is passed** (after unfair trials, often based on confessions obtained under torture) **in a discriminatory manner for non-violent crimes** which do not meet the criteria of “the most serious crimes” such as financial crimes, witchcraft, apostasy and drug-related offences, sexual relations between consenting adults – against juveniles at the time of the events.

## Demanding the universal right to life

Numerous State actors, as well as the European Union, agree on the idea that the death penalty constitutes a **manifest violation of the right to life** as set down in Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In that respect, they share the conviction that the fight for its abolition is a struggle for the most fundamental human right and respect for human dignity, particularly that of the absolute prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

## HOW TO GET THERE?

Holding the 8<sup>th</sup> World Congress Against the Death Penalty in **Berlin** in November 2022 and **livestreaming** key events

Mobilising the **youth** all around the globe with our campaign **#AbolitionNowTour**

Speeding our campaign with the **private sector**

Campaigning to mobilise **political authorities** with the support of the Core Group

Mobilising international and regional networks of **IGOs** and **National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)**

Supporting abolition actors to develop their **capacity for strategic action** and their integration as part of the international dynamic

Supporting the **UN resolution** calling for a **universal moratorium** on the use of the death penalty

## WHO WE ARE?



ECPM (Together Against the Death Penalty) is a cornerstone organisation working for universal abolition of the death penalty. Created in 2000, it organises since 2001 the World Congresses Against the Death Penalty and initiated the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty in 2002. ECPM seeks to federate abolitionists across the world, strengthen the capacities of local actors where it is possible, advocate for universal abolition and raise awareness about the death penalty. ECPM is composed of a board of directors with 9 members, who are all volunteers, and a professional team with fifteen staff members and collaborators based in Paris.



## THE VENUES

### Opening ceremony

PIERRE BOULEZ SAAL



### Conferences and debates

RADIALSYSTEM-V



### Closing ceremony

ROTE RATHAUS



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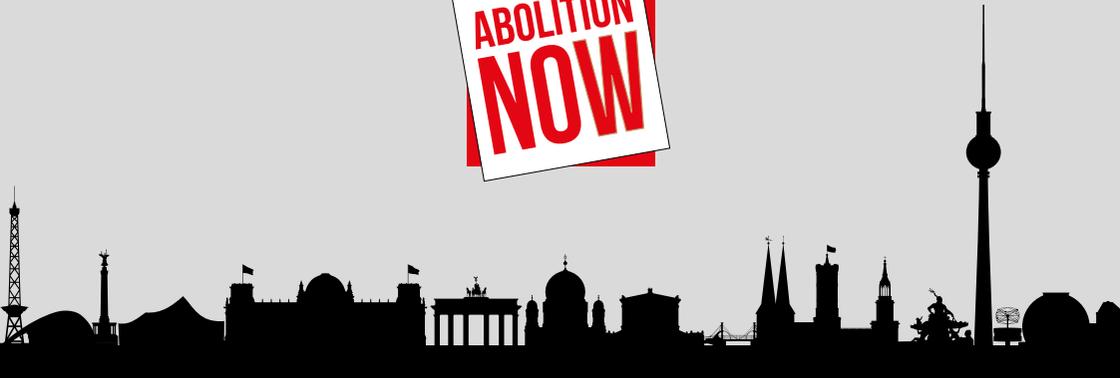
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