

**04/01/2019** : ECPM recalls that making homosexuality punishable by death is contrary to international law, and urges the Sultan of Brunei, Hassanal Bolkiah, to refrain from implementing this legislation.

## ECPM PRESS RELEASE

Following the procedure announced in 2014, Brunei is changing its legislation and announces its intention to make homosexual relations between adults and consenting persons punishable by death for Muslims in the Sultanate. This announcement takes place within the framework of a double standard legislative system, which applies the Shariah to Muslims (who represent 3/4 of the Sultanate's population) and the Common Law to others. If the General Attorney confirms this announcement on Wednesday, 3 April, Brunei will officially become the 12<sup>th</sup> country in the world to sentence to death for homosexuality:

*"The death penalty constitutes cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. International law does not strictly prohibit the application of the death penalty, but it does limit its application to the most serious crimes. Making same-sex relationships punishable by death would be a flagrant violation of international law and the fundamental principle of non-discrimination. In this context, **ECPM** urges the international community to assume its responsibilities and intervene to ensure that the principles governing international relations are respected."* said Raphaël Chenuil-Hazan, Director of **ECPM**.

ECPM

62bis avenue Parmentier  
75011 Paris FRANCE

Tel: +33 1 57 63 03 57

Fax: + 33 1 80 87 70 46

Email: [ecpm@ecpm.org](mailto:ecpm@ecpm.org)

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

Siège social

53 rue Patay

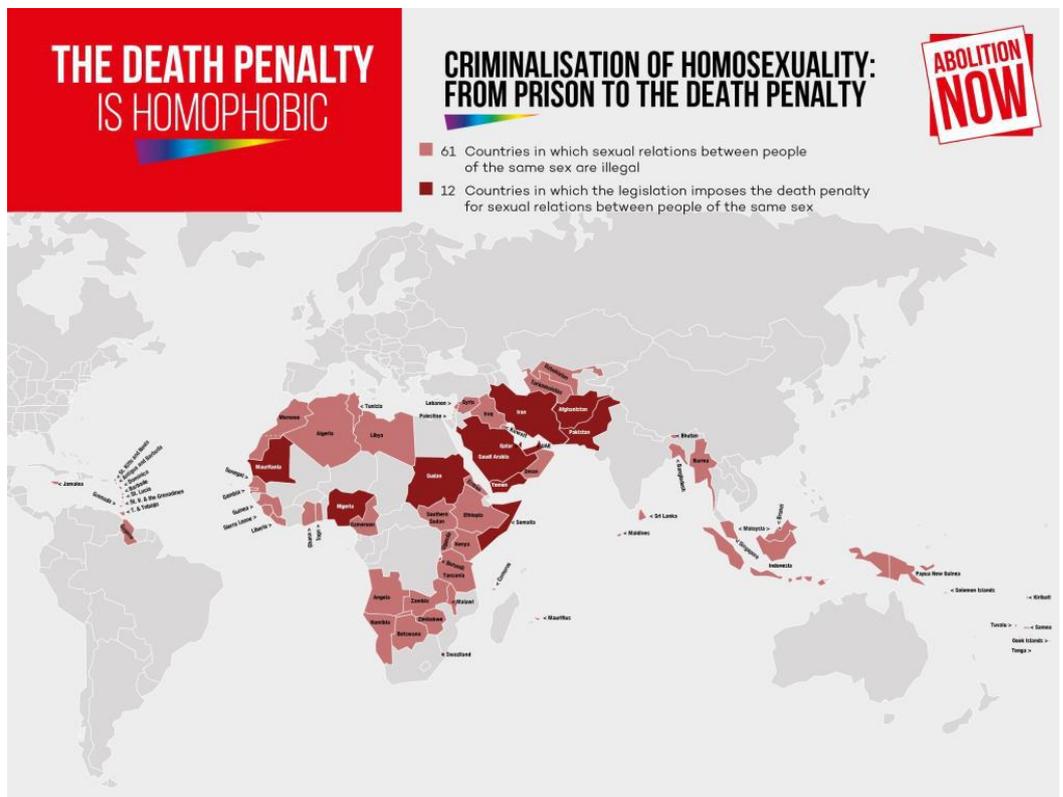
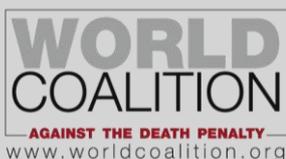
75013 Paris

Association loi 1901

SIRET 433 508 314 00047

APE 9499Z

Membre fondateur  
Comité de pilotage





ECPM has been leading the campaign "The death penalty is homophobic" for several years and organised a debate on the subject at the 7<sup>th</sup> World Congress Against the Death Penalty (Brussels-2019). On that occasion, the UN Special Rapporteur, Agnès Callamard, explained that governments that abuse LGBT people should comply with international human rights standards.

ECPM recalls that 12 countries provide for the death penalty for same-sex relationships. In 61 other countries, homosexual relations are illegal.

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

---

In May 2014, new legislation was scheduled to introduce Sharia law in the country, making homosexuality a crime punishable by death, whereas the previous penalty was up to 10 years' imprisonment. This hardening was planned gradually and is expected to reach its final stage in 2019. This revision of the Penal Code may raise fears of a resumption of executions, while a moratorium, the longest observed in the region, has been in place since 1957.

## PRESS CONTACT

---

**Bérangère Portalier**  
**Communication Manager ECPM**  
06 87 04 79 83

[bportalier@ecpm.org](mailto:bportalier@ecpm.org)