

**CHILDREN OF PARENTS
SENTENCED TO DEATH OR
EXECUTED**

**17th World Day Against
the Death Penalty**

MOBILIZATION

KIT



**10 OCTOBER 2019
WORLD DAY AGAINST
THE DEATH PENALTY**

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For more information:

www.worldcoalition.org

INTRODUCTION

- **The World Day Against the Death Penalty: 10 October 2019**

For 17 years, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty calls for local initiatives worldwide. These events involve citizens and organizations supporting the abolition of the death penalty. They may include concerts, art exhibitions, public meetings and any other actions that boost the global abolitionist goal.

The World Day is aimed at political leaders and public opinion in both countries where the death penalty has not yet been abolished and countries where it has been abolished. The meaning of abolition and of justice without the death penalty needs to be maintained and shared, particularly to the future generations.

This Day also unifies the abolitionist movement and gives global support to the sometimes-isolated action taken by its abolitionists on the ground. It encourages and consolidates the political and general awareness of the movement against the death penalty.

Every year, the World Day focuses on a specific issue of capital punishment, such as failures of justice (2006), mental health (2014), poverty (2017) or living conditions on death row (2018). This year, the focus is on children who has a parent who has been executed or sentenced to death.

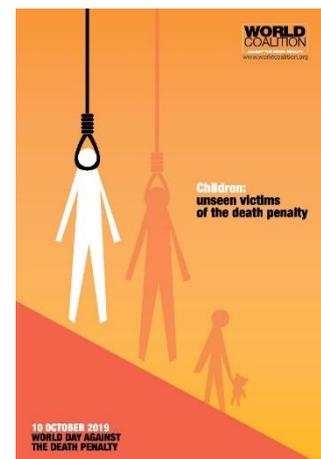
- **Main objectives of the 2019 World Day**

Since the 1980s, there has been a global trend towards the abolition of the death penalty, a trend which continues to this day. According to Amnesty International, only 16 countries had abolished the death penalty for all crimes in 1977 – roughly 40 years later, more than two third (142) of the countries in the world have now abolished the death penalty!

In its 2018 global report on death sentences and executions, Amnesty International recorded at least 19,336 people were to be known under a sentence of death by the end of 2018 and 690 individuals were executed. How many of those individuals have or had children? How many children have a parent on death row? These statistics are difficult to find. Nonetheless, many studies recognize that children of people sentenced to death often come from poor families and/or from minority groups. As they are almost absent in statistics, these children are more likely exposed to abuses and victims of violations of their rights.

By virtue of the principle of non-discrimination, all children should legitimately enjoy the rights enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (celebrating its 30th anniversary this year) regardless their status or the status of their parents. The best interests of the child should be a paramount consideration to take into account the effects of every decision on the welfare of the child – including the death sentence of a parent.

The main objective of the 2019 World Day is to give more visibility to the children who have (a) parent(s) who has been sentenced to death or executed, to convince people that the death penalty should be abolished.



To do so, the World Coalition and its member organizations have identified specific objectives.

- **Secondary objectives of the 2019 World Day**

- 1. Support the advocacy in favor of the abolition by sharing arguments and information tools**

Every year, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty produces many tools that are shared and used by its member organizations.

- A **poster** for the World Day Against the Death Penalty;
- A **leaflet** on the World Day's theme with synthetic information and testimonies;
- **Facts and figures** on the use of the death penalty in the world;
- A **detailed factsheet** on the rights of the child in a context of the death penalty;
- The 2018 World Day **Report**;
- A **mobilization kit** for their members.

The poster, the leaflet and the facts and figures sheet will be printed both in English and French and will be available online on: <http://www.worldcoalition.org/worldday.html>

Furthermore, the World Coalition supports events organized worldwide on 10 October as the very objective of the World Day is to support and stimulate local initiatives and actions in as many countries as possible in the world. Events such as debates, conferences, demonstrations, petitions, art exhibitions, concerts, presentation in schools... All citizens are called to participate in a great moment of solidarity towards children and their human rights, and a world without the death penalty. Thanks to a network of made of 159 members, the World Coalition is best placed to encourage and promote the events organized around the world on 10 October.

- 2. Overcome the exclusion of children whose parents are condemned to death**

One of the main observations made by the World Coalition during its preliminary work on the World Day has been the high discrimination children are subjected to when one of their parents is sentenced to death. Both active discrimination, as well as a lack of individual and social empathy on the part of others, can lead them to isolation and exclusion from the community they live in

You can get involved with organizations that provide psychological support to children of those sentenced to death or executed. Some organizations also try to answer to their basic needs, such as educational issues.

The situation of children with a parent under a death sentence needs to be brought to the media as their voices are most of the time not heard. Children often carry with them the heavy burden of the death sentence of their parent and might be treated with suspicion as well. We strongly encourage you to get

in touch with journalists and use all the communications means to share their testimonies and raise awareness on the inhumanity of the death penalty.

3. Work with organizations that support victims of the death penalty, particularly their families

The death penalty does not only affect the person who is sentenced. Her/his family are collateral victims. They are often forgotten or even badly regarded in the communities they live in. Children face a particular challenge as they are especially vulnerable due to their young age and dependency on parents, and may face a host of psychological, emotional, and physical harms which may prove long-term. A parent coping with the execution of a spouse may suffer diminished capacity to nurture children. Furthermore, families deprived of a breadwinner are faced with financial difficulties which can affect a child's access to education, housing, and well-being.

We encourage you to organize events with testimonies of people condemned to death or of their children or to invite victims of the death penalty to have a word. If needed, we can help you get in touch with different organizations working with people on death row as well their families or victims' families.

ARGUMENTS

10 reasons to end the use of the death penalty

1

No State should have the power to take a person's life.

2

It is irrevocable.

No justice system is safe from judicial error and innocent people are likely to be sentenced to death.

3

It is inefficient and does not make society safer.

It has never been conclusively shown that the death penalty deters crime more effectively than life imprisonment.

4

It is unfair.

The death penalty is discriminatory and is often used disproportionately against people who are poor, people with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, and members of racial and ethnic minority groups. In some places, the imposition of the death penalty is used to target groups based on sexual orientation, gender identity, political opinion, or religion.

5

Not all murder victims' families want the death penalty.

A large and growing number of victims' families worldwide reject the death penalty and are speaking out against it, saying it does not bring back or honor their murdered family member, does not heal the pain of the murder, and violates their ethical and religious beliefs.

6

It creates more pain,

particularly for the relatives of the person sentenced to death, including children, who will be subjected to the violence of forced mourning.

7

It is inhuman, cruel, and degrading.

Conditions on death row and the anguish of facing execution inflict extreme psychological suffering, and execution is a physical and mental assault.

8

It is applied overwhelmingly in violation of international standards.

It breaches the principles of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that everyone has the right to life and that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. On seven occasions, the United Nations General Assembly has called for the establishment of a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

(Resolutions 62/149 in 2007, 63/168 in 2008, 65/206 in 2010, 67/176 in 2012, 69/186 in 2014, 71/187 in 2016 and 73/175 in 2018).

9

It is counterproductive,

because by instituting the killing of a human being as a criminal solution, the death penalty endorses the idea of murder more than it fights it.

10

It denies any possibility of rehabilitation.

[3]

17th WORLD DAY: CHILDREN WHO HAVE A PARENT WHO HAS BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH OR EXECUTED

On 10 October 2019, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and abolitionist organizations worldwide will celebrate the 17th World Day Against the Death Penalty during in which the focus will be on children of people sentenced to death and their human rights.

- **Global view on children who have a parent sentenced to death or executed parent in context of the death penalty**

Frequently forgotten, children of parents sentenced to death or executed carry a heavy emotional and psychological burden that can amount to the violation of their human rights and to a bright future. This trauma can occur at any and all stages of the capital punishment of a parent: arrest, trial, sentencing, death row stays, execution dates, execution itself, and its aftermath. The repeated cycles of hope and disappointment that can accompany all of these stages can have a long-term impact and can persist well into adulthood.

The capital punishment endangers heavily the welfare of the child. From the arrest to the sentence to the execution of her/his parent, a child may face repeated anguishes, incertitude, eating or sleeping disorders, a loss of interest for school or for playing while her/his social relations are weakened.

The experience of the parental death penalty impacts each child, including children within the same family, individually, depending on factors like their personality and circumstances of e.g. gender, age and class, the reaction of those around them, and the wider public response to the situation, including the extent of media scrutiny and moral sentiment regarding the crimes for which the parent was sentenced to death. Children may make choices during initial trauma that then affect them long term, such as engaging with criminal activities or developing a dependency on alcohol or drugs, and they may endure the consequences of the experience long into adulthood.

Stigmatization from the community in which they live and the loss of a parent at the hands of a state all reinforce deep instability in the child's day to day life. In line with the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (20 November 1989), the focus of this World Day is on children and their human rights.

[4]

ORGANIZE EVENTS!

The main objective of the World Day is to stimulate local initiatives in as many countries as possible, especially in the last retentionist States in the world that still hand down or carry out the death penalty.

- **Call for initiatives!**

Wherever you are: in Africa, in Americas, in Asia, in Oceania or in Europe

Whoever you are: NGOs, teachers, lawyers, elected representatives, members of Parliament, artists, journalists, religious leaders, citizens...

Whatever your project is: Debate, concerts, press conferences, demonstrations, cultural and educational activities...

- **10 things you can do to end the death penalty**

1. **Organize a demonstration:** a sit-in, a 'die-in', a flash mob. Include teddy bears and toys in your demonstration to represent the unseen victims of this World Day

→ See [practical worksheet No. 1](#) and [practical worksheet No. 2](#)

2. **Take action in a school or university** to create awareness amongst similar age groups (invite a speaker or read testimonies to provoke discussion, etc)

→ See [practical worksheet No. 3](#)

3. Encourage people to **draw images** or **write letters** as if they were addressing children who have a parent who has been executed or sentenced to death. Publish them online using *#nodeathpenalty*

→ See [practical worksheet No. 4](#)

4. **Organize a public debate** and a **movie screening** with families of people sentenced to death, exonerees, their lawyers and experts

→ See [practical worksheet No. 5](#) and [practical worksheet No. 6](#)

5. Organize an **art exhibition** (of art work made by people sentenced to death, of photographs of death row, of drawings or posters) or a **theatre performance**

→ See [practical worksheet No. 7](#)

6. **Join the events** prepared for the abolition of the death penalty worldwide

7. **Donate** to a group working to end the death penalty
8. Follow the **social media campaign** on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter: *#nodeathpenalty* (in the picture or video, display a teddy bear or a toy to represent the unseen victims of this World Day)
 - ➔ See **practical worksheet No. 8**
9. **Mobilize the media** to raise awareness on the issue of the death penalty
 - ➔ See **practical worksheet No. 9** and **practical worksheet No. 10**
10. Participate in **Cities Against the Death Penalty/Cities for Life** on 30 November 2018.

- **10 practical worksheets to help you!**

1. How to organize a demonstration?

- ▶ First, **find out information** on the legal conditions and the required authorizations of a demonstration, on the prerequisite declarations or the delay.
- ▶ **Define the message** you would like to spread: do you want to point a specific case out or to call on political leaders or the public opinion?
- ▶ **A manifestation can take many forms**: a silent or a night walk, a “die-in” during which people sit down on the ground, a flash-mob. **Adapt it to your message and to your means**. The needs will not be exactly the same depending on the manifestation you have chosen.
- ▶ Put an “organizing group” in place to welcome people and answer their questions, share materials, explain the rules.
- ▶ Before the event, **communicate around you**: contact and invite local medias (see worksheet No. 10) or create an event on Facebook to reach more people.
- ▶ During the event, **make encourage media to provide coverage** : **regularly relay information**, photos or short videos on Twitter, using *#nodeathpenalty*, or **make a live video on social networks** (see worksheet No. 9).
- ▶ **Ask people to come with a teddy bear or a toy** to remind spectators that children, in line with the theme of this year.

2. How to organize a “flash-mob”?

A flash-mob is a group of people who assemble suddenly in a public place, perform an unusual and sometimes seemingly pointless act for a brief time, and then disperse.

- ▶ A month in advance, find a rousing piece of music and choreography which is easy to follow while still retaining meaning and even a musical link to children. You can try to illustrate a story linked to the death penalty or a testimony. If need, you can ask for help from a choreographer.
- ▶ Work on the choreography with a small group to see if it works. It should last between 2 to 5 minutes.

- ▶ Find a busy place where the flash-mob will take place. If needed, make a official request to be allow to use it.
- ▶ When the choreography is working well, film yourselves and put a tutorial online for people to start practicing at home – ideally two weeks in advance.
- ▶ Start publicizing the event by using the social networks: create an event on Facebook, relay your message on Twitter or share the backstage on Instagram!
- ▶ Before the official flash-mob, plan two meetings with a sufficiently large group to be able to initiate the movement on the day.
- ▶ Choose the date, depending on the weather if possible (it is always better on a sunny day!)
- ▶ Plan access to electricity or a generator, as well speakers so that the music can be loud enough.
- ▶ You can eventually choose a dress code (a single color, an accessory).
- ▶ Announce the exact time and place only a few days beforehand to maintain suspense (particularly if you do not have official authorization).
- ▶ Scrupulously respect the time and place of the meeting.
- ▶ **Film** the flash-mob and put the video online quickly (the same day if possible).
- ▶ At the end, if you want so, explain why you have organized the event and be ready to answer questions from journalists;

3. How to organize an event at school or at a university?

- ▶ **Contact** the school or the university and suggest organizing activities for the World Day (it can be anything from a two hour session during a class, to a full day conference on the death penalty).
- ▶ **Adapt your project to your audience.** If your event will be held in law school, you can organize a speaking event made for law students (or sociology or psychology students, or other subjects) with lawyers defending people on death or for something more playful, you can encourage 'what if' scenarios with role playing. If you are holding an event with a school, with a younger audience, you can organize an education session on human rights, or small workshops to raise awareness (it may be games, or readings from the witness testimonies tool followed by discussion).
- ▶ Make sure you agree on what the school or the university is ready to commit to (providing a room, projection and other event material that is in working order, access to the campus, information, official statement...)
- ▶ **Pay attention to security rules**, opening hours and safety measures, including insurance policies.
- ▶ **Make sure you have sufficient materials** for the event (posters, leaflets, information sheets *etc.*) and **have invited the right person** if you are going to have a speaker.
- ▶ Check if the room is big enough to welcome a large amount of participants.
- ▶ **Advertise** your event.

4. How to draw images or write letters as if you were addressing children who have a parent who has been executed or sentenced to death

- ▶ First **define** if this is an activity that you are doing individually or in a group (of friends, at an event, etc).
- ▶ You can **draw inspiration** from representations of the death penalty in pieces of artwork (you may find examples in this mobilization kit) or testimonies (for instance in the leaflet or testimony tool). Ask yourself the following questions:
 - What does this testimony inspire in me? What feeling(s) does it bring up?
 - If this exercise is done with a young audience: What would you say to your friend who was going through this?
 - If I have had an experience with the death penalty, is the representation of the death penalty's experience different from the one I had? Why so?
- ▶ **Be sensitive of not talking in place for a child** or to transpose feelings that are not theirs.
- ▶ Have a positive message **that highlights children's voice** and message.
- ▶ If you write a letter, chose simple words and clear sentences to be available to everyone. If you draw, do not represent a child under a way that deprives her/him of her/his dignity.
- ▶ **Get in touch** with organizations that work with families of people sentenced to death and/or with children of people that have been incarcerated.
- ▶ Spread your message on social network with *#nodeathpenalty*. You can tag political leaders or call out medias.

5. How to organize a film festival on the death penalty?

- ▶ Plan your event **in advance** (at least two months before).
- ▶ **Contact cinemas** and other organizations in your country.
- ▶ Choose a **theme** for the festival with a catchy title and choose up to **dozen films** about it.
- ▶ Make sure to have a **verity of countries and culture** (European, American, Asian movies), **content and subject matter** (cases of innocence, the world of prisoners sentenced to death, social pressure faced by victims' families, political executions, the abolitionist movement, the social and economics stakes...) **and genre** (blockbusters, art house film, documentaries...). You may find a list of films on the death penalty in this mobilization kit.
- ▶ Arrange **subtitles** if the films do not already exist in your language, if possible.
- ▶ **Organize debates** after the films to encourage discussion with audience. Invite experts, scholars and directors to interact with the audience and explore their impressions of the film and their opinion on the death penalty.

Since 2004 Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty has organized a film festival on the death penalty every three years.

6. Work with victims, their families and their loved ones

It is very important to incorporate the experience, the point of view and the testimony of victims' family member in tools and other activities against the death penalty. It is particularly the case for the theme of this year because the death penalty also affects victims' children: criminal procedures are long, the outcome may be uncertain and the death sentence do not repair the crime or give closure neither relief to victims unlike a large spread idea.

- **Every death penalty story is also the story of a crime that occurred.** A death penalty story does not begin with an execution or a death sentence or even with an arrest. In capital homicide cases, it begins with a murder victim's loss of life and the devastating impact that that loss has on the surviving family members. In other circumstances, it begins way before the capital crime, to the arrangement and distribution of resources that may drive crime. Including victims' stories when talking about the death penalty is the right thing to do.
- The common assumption is that all victims' family members support the death penalty. We cannot expect to abolish the death penalty without presenting an alternative view. **Victims' voices have a powerful effect** - lawmakers have voted against the death penalty as a result of hearing victims' testify for abolition. Including victims' stories when working for abolition is strategically wise and is essential to bringing new people into the abolition movement.

Here a few suggestions. We encourage you to consult with Association française des Victimes du Terrorisme (AfVT), Murder Victim's Families for Human Rights (MVFHR), or Journey of Hope... from Violence to Healing for further guidance.

- ▶ In educational or political materials about the death penalty or about a prisoner's case, acknowledge the original murder. Give the victim's name. For example, instead of saying "*Eric Jones, who is facing a death sentence*", say "*Eric Jones, who was convicted of the murder of John Smith, is now facing a death sentence*"
- ▶ **Do not speak in victims' place** but let them talk for themselves. Work with them to produce their statement on specific cases but do not push them to say something they do not want to do
- ▶ **Realize that victims' family members who oppose the death penalty will have many different reasons for holding that view.** Don't assume that their reasons are all the same. Don't assume that opposing the death penalty is the same as forgiving the offender.
- ▶ Invite victims' family members to be **an integral part of your anti-death penalty efforts** and activities.
- ▶ Know that the best person to reach out to a victim's family member is another victim's family member: MVFHR or Journey of Hope can help with this.
- ▶ **Support legislation**, programs, and services that help to meet the needs of victims' family members in the aftermath of a murder. Build relationships with victims' groups and demonstrate that your work against the death penalty is rooted in a desire to prevent murder in all cases.
- ▶ **Create relations with victims' groups** and explain to them how your work against the death penalty is linked to your willingness to prevent any further murder and to support programs related to families of the victims.
- ▶ **Promote dialogue** to help families and children feel free to speak.

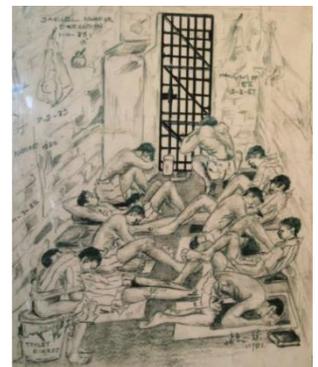
7. How to organize an art exhibition?

- ▶ **Find a place for the exhibition**, for example a well-known art gallery, museum, garden or square, a public place, a university, a library, an underground station, a shop window, etc. Please note that often these types of places are rarely free to use, so it's a good practice to find out more about the space prior.
- ▶ **More than six months are often required to reserve prestigious places** such as temporary exhibition spaces in museums, **but two or three months would suffice for a public place**. Unusual places are often very interesting, but the procedure can be more complicated.
- ▶ To guarantee your chances of success, **be organized in advance** and get to know the managers of the exhibition area, suggesting they sponsor the project.
- ▶ **Contact the artists** for electronic copies of the posters (see section 7, for existing exhibitions).
- ▶ Print the drawings or the paintings depending on where they will be exhibited (if outside cover them in protective plastic, if in a museum think about hanging, etc.).
- ▶ **Prepare the official opening of the exhibition**, with the artist or a distinguished speaker who can talk about the death penalty (contact the World Coalition if necessary).
- ▶ **Invite the media**, your network of activists, engaged artists, academics, students, and those in the artistic scene, etc.
- ▶ Prepare the exhibition and do not forget to prepare **drinks** and a **buffet** if your budget permits.
- ▶ If you have informed the press, **prepare a press kit** with information about the exhibition, the artist and the World Day Against the Death Penalty.

Art exhibits are an out-of-the-norm way to generate public debate about the death penalty, which is why they can be so effective! You may also look through the World Coalition's website section 'Tools', subsection 'Working With Artists' (<http://www.worldcoalition.org/tools.html>) to get a better understanding of how the death penalty is depicted in art.

To select the artworks you would like to display, you may ask yourself:

- How does this piece of artwork make me feel?
- How does this work depict the death penalty? In what way is it framing the death penalty debate?
- What human aspect does this art work reveal in relation to the death penalty?
- Does this work change the way I consider the death penalty? Why?



Our Ugly World, Arthur Angel

After 16 years spent on death row in the prison of Enugu, Nigeria, Arthur was released in 2000 after all charges against him were dropped.

8. How to promote the World Day on social media?

- ▶ From 1 October, **post loads of messages!**

Use **Facebook** to share the information with your friends and know more on the event around you. Here are a few examples of messages you can write to promote the online campaign.

- “What does the death penalty mean to you? Learn from a new perspective and share your story! www.facebook.com/worldcoalition”
- “Check out the World Day against the Death Penalty. Download posters and tools, share with friends, have your say and more. www.worldcoalition.org/worldday”
- “Let’s end the death penalty! What are you are doing to combat this inhumane treatment? Join the discussion and the event on Facebook page”

... and also use **Twitter** with *#nodeathpenalty*. Here are a few examples of tweets you can post to promote the online campaign.

- “Spread the word! The World Day Against the Death Penalty is on 10 October 2019 www.worldcoalition.org/worldday *#notdeathpenalty*”
- “Let’s end the death penalty! Visit www.worldcoalition.org/worldday to say *#nodeathpenalty*”
- “What does the *#deathpenalty* mean to you? Learn from a new perspective, share with friends, have your say and more: www.worldcoalition.org/worldday”

- ▶ Publish images on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by taking photographs and making videos!
 - Add a small description: a short text, a quote, a figure.
 - Use *#nodeathpenalty*.
 - Show yourself or display a teddy bear or a toy to evoke children, in line with the theme of this year.
 - Be aware of the quality of the photograph and of the length of the video. A 2-minute-long video has more chances to be watched and shared.
 - Always respect the right to the image relative to the legislation of the country where you took the photo or filmed to the video.
- ▶ You want to know more on *#nodeathpenalty* ? Downloads tools, share and get involved on www.worldcoalition.org/fr/worldday
- ▶ Using Facebook or Twitter in another languages? Share your messages in your own language on all the social networks!
- ▶ Call out political leaders by mentioning them with the @ to their official account. Always show respect in your message, without insult or violence.

9. How to make a press release?

- ▶ Use **letterhead paper** if you have it and include the name of your organization.
- ▶ Put the notice “For immediate release” with the date of the public release.
- ▶ Start with a short but explicit title.
- ▶ **The 1st paragraph is the introduction.** It is the most important paragraph as journalists may not read beyond it. It answers the following questions: Who, What, Where, When and should attract the attention of journalists.

- ▶ The 2nd and 3rd paragraphs are an **explanation of this 1st paragraph**. They answer the questions why and how and provide the context, stakes, and a brief historical background. Where necessary gives **quote, facts** and **figures**. It is important to give some materials to the journalists. They will need a quote for their article, so if you give it to them, they are more likely to use your press release. It is also important to give them accurate figures and reliable sources. By doing so, you make their work easier and increase your chances of receiving coverage.
- ▶ Put your **contact information** at the end of the press release with your first and last name, title, email and phone number.
- ▶ Include a link in the press release to your organization.
- ▶ **The statement should not exceed one page**. A long press release could discourage journalists and not be read at all.
- ▶ For more information consult the following guide: <https://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Press-Release>

10. How to guarantee good media coverage for your events?

- ▶ **Forge links with local journalists** interested in the subject: throughout the year follow local media coverage and find the media outlets and journalists who often raise the theme of the death penalty. Also, find out how they discuss it: what news section, what angle, etc.
- ▶ **Contact them in the summer or September** to tell them about the World Day Against the Death Penalty (so that they put it in their diaries) and your event as a way of making yourself known.
- ▶ **Try to become their yardstick for the subject by always responding quickly to journalists** and providing them with reliable information, particularly that provided by the World Coalition.
- ▶ To maximize your chances of success, **organize an event with one or two witness accounts**. Journalists like to use personal stories and, if you provide them with the opportunity, they will talk about your event.
- ▶ **Send out a press release a week before your event** with the exact place, date and time, the title of the event, the names of the participants, a brief description of your event and a paragraph on the World Day.
- ▶ Specify that participants will be available for interview at the event.
- ▶ **Send it again the day before the event** if you have not had confirmation from journalists who might be interested.
- ▶ Only hold a press conference if you have something specific to announce (a position taken following an execution in your country, abolition of the death penalty for some crimes, etc.).

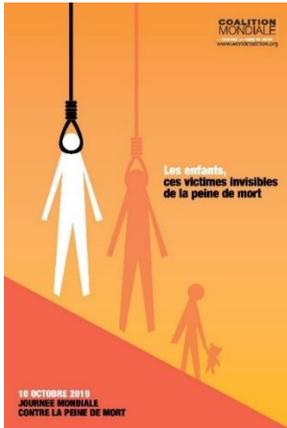
- **10 tips for a successful event!**

1. Plan it at least a month in advance, more if you need to rent a room, invite speakers or contact us for an art exhibition.
2. Try to include several local NGOs or well-known people to make it a bigger event with no additional costs or efforts.
 - To know what is organized in your city, www.worldcoalition.org/worldday
 - To contact members of the World Coalition in your country: www.worldcoalition.org/Member-organizations
3. Contact local media a week in advance and again two days before the event. See Worksheet number 9.
4. Use the Internet and social networking tools to spread the word.
5. Contact us to promote your event on our website and on Facebook page.
6. A few days before, advertise it in the streets (posters, leaflets with title, time and place of your event).
7. Tell everybody, your friends, your family, even your grandma!
8. Be ready to counter pro death penalty arguments (use our “10 reasons to end the death penalty” in the first part of this kit).
9. Be nice to people, even if they disagree!
10. Take pictures and write a short report (and send it to us).

[5]

WORLD DAY TOOLS YOU CAN USE

For World Day, the World Coalition has produced some materials. They are all available on its website: <http://www.worldcoalition.org/worldday.html>



The World Day's poster

For organizers of events, copies of the poster are available at no cost from the World Coalition Secretariat : contact@worldcoalition.org

Information Leaflet

The leaflet of the 2019 World Day provides information on how the death sentence of a parent affects the rights of the child and their welfare. It provides arguments against the death penalty and testimonies.

For organizers of events, copies of the poster are available at no cost from the World Coalition Secretariat: contact@worldcoalition.org

Facts and figures on the death penalty

Up-to-date information on the application of the death penalty around the world in 2018 and 2019.

Detailed factsheet on the rights of the child whose parent has been sentenced or executed

This detailed factsheet provides a precise overview on the rights of the child in a context of the use of the death penalty against their parent in order to explain how capital sentence deeply violates them. It provides useful definitions, arguments and a summary of relevant international and domestic law.

Individualized Resource Tools

Lawyers, Sentencers, Legislators, Educators, Prison Guards, Media

Based on the deep research by QUNO¹ and enriched by the expertise of the World Coalition's members, individualized tools have been developed for a variety of professionals to brief them on the legal standards related to children of parents sentenced to death or executed, with action points on how they can uphold children's rights and best interests in these situations.

Witness Testimony Tool

A selection of witness testimonies sent from all over the world that give personal insight and experience in the lives of children and adults who have had a parent either sentenced to death or executed.

¹ Quaker United Nations Office

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ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

- **Website on the death penalty**

- World Coalition Against the Death Penalty's website: www.worldcoalition.org
- Worldwide database on the use of the death penalty: www.deathpenaltyworldwide.org
- Amnesty International, death penalty page: <http://www.amnesty.org/fr/death-penalty>
- Fédération internationale des droits de l'Homme, death penalty page : <http://www.fidh.org/spip.php?rubrique535>
- Hands Off Cain information website: <http://www.handsoffcain.info>

For more references, please check the Coalition members' website and get in touch with them using the contact details you will find here: www.worldcoalition.org/Member-organizations.

- **Filmography**

Browse available films on the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty's website: <http://bit.ly/world-coalition-library-films>

- **Documentaries**

- **Trial by fire** <https://www.trialbyfirethefilm.com>

Trial by Fire is the true-life Texas story of the unlikely bond between an imprisoned death row inmate (Jack O'Connell) and a mother of two from Houston (Laura Dern) who, though facing staggering odds, fights mightily for his freedom. Cameron Todd Willingham, a poor, uneducated heavy metal devotee with a violent streak and a criminal record, is convicted of arson-related triple homicide in 1992. During his 12 years on death row, Elizabeth Gilbert, an improbable ally, uncovers questionable methods and illogical conclusions in his case, and battles with the state to expose suppressed evidence that could save him.

- **Free Men** <http://freemen.ch>

Swiss documentary films by Anne-Frédérique Widmann (2018) official selection of the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights

How can a human being stand up, under conditions of unjust imprisonment on death row, alone and without hope of being released? In this superb documentary film, Anne-Frédérique Widmann draws the portrait of Kenneth Reams, who wakes up every day with an unwavering desire to live, and succeeds in writing, testifying, painting and loving a woman. An unforgettable film about the art, resistance and dignity of every human life.

- **The Resurrection Club** <https://vimeo.com/184333305>

Spanish documentary films by Guillermo Abril and Alvaro Corcuera (2016)

The film follows four death row exonerees in their effort to continue normally with their lives. They call themselves The Resurrection Club. It follows them with their families where they are trying to recover from the trauma, and execution. It follows them in their struggle to find other exonerees to join the club and on their tour to speak out against the death penalty. An extraordinary story about trauma and resurrection. An epic movie with extraordinary characters. An empowering story. A celebration of life.

- **The Penalty** <http://www.thepenaltyfilm.com>

English documentary films By Will Francome and Mark Pizzey (2016)

The penalty follows three people caught in the crosshairs of capital punishment, and the political landscape that could decide their fate. Going behind the scenes of some of the biggest headlines in the history of America's death penalty, the film follows the lethal injection protocol crisis that resulted in a botched execution, the rehabilitation of a man who spent 15 years on death row for a crime he didn't commit, and the family of a young woman – brutally murdered – split by the state's pursuit of the ultimate punishment.

- **Last Day of Freedom** http://www.lastdayoffreedom.net/?page_id=659

English documentary films by Dee Hibbert-Jones and Nomi Talisman (2016)

When Bill Babbitt realizes his brother Manny has committed a crime, he agonizes over his decision-should he call the police? Las Day of Freedom, a richly animated personal narrative, tells the story of Bill's decision to stand by his brother in the face of war, crime and capital punishment. The film is a portrait of a man at the nexus of the most pressing social issues of our day – veterans' care, mental health access and criminal justice.

- **Lindy Lou, juror number 2** <http://widehouse.org/film/lindy-lou-juror-number-2>

French documentary by Florent Vassaux (2016)

For 20 years, she has lived with an unbearable feeling of guilt and no one, in this Republican and Protestant community, understood her distress. In 2006, Lindy met the man, Bobby Wilcher, who didn't have a single visitor on death row in Parchman. She sought his forgiveness and became his friend. This friendship shocked and she lost dear friends along the way. Lindy was the only visitor Bobby Wilcher had on the day of his execution and she remembers seeing him in shackles in the middle of the room, glancing one last time in her direction before passing away. Traumatized, this is how Lindy begins her journey and finds her 11 fellow jurors since they sentenced this man to death and questions the impact this experience had on them.

- **Yémen : les enfants dans le couloir de la mort** <https://info.arte.tv/fr/yemen-les-enfants-dans-le-couloir-de-la-mort>

French documentary by Thomas Dandois, François-Xavier Tregnan et Alexandra Kogan (2014)

Yemen is a country that scares. The shadow of Al Queda casts on cities and villages: attacks, kidnappings, assassination are get more numerous. In State's prisons, tens teenagers are sentenced to death, in violation with international standards.

- **Clean up** <http://www.sebastianmez.com/cleanup.html>

American film by Sebastian Mez (2008)

It's his job to clean this special room, an execution chamber at a state prison in the United States. Every time there is an execution, he has to recover this place as it was before. This experimental short film gives an abnormal view on the death penalty.

- ***Into the Abyss*** <https://www.wernerherzog.com/films-by.html>

Austrian film by Werner Herzog (2011)

We do not know when and how we will die. Death Row inmates do. Werner Herzog embarks on a dialogue with Death Row inmates, asks questions about life and death and looks deep into these individuals, their stories, and their crimes.

- ***Honk! ... to stop executions***

French film by Florent Vassaux and Arnaud Gaillard (2011)

At the heart of the United States, based on the numerous absurdities of the death penalty, the film shows through these three characters how this death sentence generates pain, unfairness, violence and inefficiency in the heart of the American society.

- ***Incendiary: the Willingham case***
<http://www.incendiarymovie.com/INCENDIARY/INCENDIARY.html>

Film by Steve Mims and Joe Bailey Jr. (2010)

In 1991, Cameron Todd Willingham's three daughters died in a Corsicana, Texas house fire. Tried and convicted for their arson murders, Willingham was executed in February 2004 despite overwhelming expert criticism of the prosecution's arson evidence. Today, Willingham's name has become a call for reform in the field of forensics and a rallying cry for the anti-death penalty movement.

- ***Toute ma vie en prison (In Prison my whole Life)***

British film by Marc Evans (film 93 minutes)

This documentary immerses us in the heart of the American prison system by addressing the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, a black journalist convicted of killing a police officer, who is still on death row. The story is told by a young British man (William Francome) who was born on the day of Mumia's arrest.

- **Fiction**

- ***Night Train*** <http://www.worldcoalition.org/fr/Filming-in-the-darkness-of-Chinas-death-row.html>

Chinese film by Diao Yi Nan (2007)

Night train tells the story of Wu Hongyan, a woman in charge of the execution of death row prisoners in Western China.

- ***Redemption: The Stan Tookie Williams story***

American movie by Jamie Foxx (2004)

Redemption tells the story of Stan "Tookie" Williams, founder of the Crips (an L.A. street gang). Story follows his fall into gang-banging, his prison term, and his work writing children's novels encouraging peace and anti-violence resolutions which earned him multiple Nobel Peace Prize nominations.

Tookie was executed by lethal injection at San Quentin State Prison, California.

- ***The Life of David Gale***

American movie by Alan Parker (2003)

Dr. David Gale, an advocate for eliminating the death penalty, is falsely accused of rape and murder. Once convicted, he ends up on death row in Texas himself, telling his story to a reporter.

- ***The Green Mile***

American movie by Frank Darabont (2000)

Death Row guards at a penitentiary, in the 1930's, have a moral dilemma with their job when they discover one of their prisoners, a convicted murderer, has a special gift.

- ***Dead Man Walking***

American movie by Tim Robbins (1995)

A caring nun receives a desperate letter from a death row inmate trying to find help to avoid execution for murder.

- **Short Films**

- ***The film of death penalty ... is a murder in the name of justice***
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdulzOXNWBU>

Directed by The Human Rights and Democracy Media Center (SHAMS), the video gives the word to different experts, activists, religious leaders or people sentenced to death on the situation of the death penalty in Palestine.

- ***"I will never forget the sound of a body being dropped into the pit when a man was hanged"***
<https://www.dawn.com/news/1362725/i-will-never-forget-the-sound-of-a-body-being-dropped-into-the-pit-when-a-man-was-hanged>

This video made by Maaz Maudood in partnership with Justice Project Pakistan plays out in Pakistan during the last hours of a death row convicts. From his last visit with his family to his execution. It enlightens the different phases through which people sentenced to death are submitted before their execution.

- ***Comprendre la peine de mort avec Nota Bene*** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ze9DfxJ6-4A>

By Amnesty International France from a series of video called "Voir pour comprendre" ("See to understand"). The video share the main arguments in favor of the abolition of the death penalty with a specific willingness to make them available to everyone. It also presents some figures on retention countries (China, Iran, Japan, USA).

- ***Flight*** <http://spring96.org/en/news/60563>

The animation film, created by talented volunteers of the campaign "Human Rights Defenders against Death Penalty", dwells on the topic of the cruelty and inhumanity of the death penalty in Belarus.

- ***La peine de mort, des origines à l'abolition*** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKofwrWfc2k>

By French Institut national de l'audiovisuel (INA). It is a respected devoted to the death penalty in France, since its origin to its finale abolition but also in the world. The video displays archive images, paintings, gravure and photographs.

- ***The Death Penalty in Numbers*** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLS7MCx1F4s>

Ever wondered which country executes the most people each year? Or when capital punishment first began? Or which countries favor which methods of execution? Well, you'll find out all the answers and a whole lot more in this video!

- **Art exhibitions and Artwork**

- **Drawings & exhibitions from Arthur J. Angel** <https://arthurangel.jimdo.com/arts-exhibitions>

Since his release, Arthur Angel's drawings have been exhibited in different African states as well as in Mongolia and the Netherlands and used for different Human Rights Campaigns.

- **Windows on death row** <http://www.windowsondeathrow.com>

Art from inside and outside the prison walls, a collaboration between political cartoonists and people on death row.

- **Parting Words** <http://www.amyelkins.com/parting-words>

A visual photographic archive of the 500+ prisoners to date executed in the state of Texas by Amy Elkins.

- **Myuran Sukumaran: Another Day in Paradise** <https://www.bendigotourism.com/whats-on/whats-on-this-month/event/8789-myuran-sukumaran-another-day-in-paradise>

The five new Australian commissioned artworks are explorations of Myuran's life and practice, the nature of incarceration and the death penalty. They respond to and build on the powerful paintings Myuran produced during his short career, and speak to justice systems in Australia and globally.

- **The Last Defense** <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/news/powerful-new-documentaries-explore-death-penalty-issues>

Oscar-winning actress Viola Davis and Julius Tennon are executive producers of The Last Defense, a new documentary series that has been premiered for the first time at the 2018 Tribeca Film Festival on April 27. The seven-episode documentary series exposes flaws in the U.S. justice system through the personal narratives of death row prisoners

- **Who Dies, Who Decides** http://www.whodecidesinc.org/?page_id=672

The objective of this initiative was to use "the product of art" as a vehicle to educate common people about the history and practice of capital punishment in America and to lift societies consciousness around the idea of endowing a National Death Penalty Museum to preserve its deep history.

- **The Innocents** <http://lemagazine.jeudepaume.org/2015/03/taryn-simon-2>

"The Innocents" documents the stories of individuals who served time in prison for violent crimes they did not commit. At issue is the question of photography's function as a credible eyewitness and arbiter of justice, by Taryn Simon

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JOIN US!

- **The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty**

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, an alliance of more than 150 NGOs, bar associations, local bodies and unions, was created in Rome on 13 May 2002. It was founded as a result of the commitment made by the signatories of the Final Declaration of the 1st World Congress against the Death Penalty, which was organized by the French NGO Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) in Strasbourg in June 2001. The aim of the WCADP is to strengthen the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Its ultimate objective is to obtain the end of death sentences and executions in those countries where the death penalty is in force.



The WCADP is striving to achieve these by lobbying international organizations and States, organizing international events, and facilitating the creation and development of national and regional coalitions against the death penalty. Since 2003, the WCADP has made 10 October the World Day against the Death Penalty.

- **Join the movement for the universal of the abolition of the death penalty!**

In accordance with article 5 of the World Coalition's bylaws, the Coalition welcomes organizations who are sharing the aim of the universal abolition of the death penalty.

To join us, you may fill in the application form and send it to the Secretariat of the World Coalition: www.worldcoalition.org/become-a-member. Every member of the Coalition must pay an annual subscription fee of 150 to 50 euros according to the resources of the organization.

[8]

CONTACT US!

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