



LIVING CONDITIONS ON DEATH ROW
16th World Day against the Death Penalty

MOBILISATION KIT



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For more information:

www.worldcoalition.org

[1] PRESENTATION

- **The World Day against the Death Penalty: October 10th, 2018**

Every year, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty calls for local initiatives worldwide. The events involve citizens and organisations supporting the abolition of capital punishment and comprise debates, concerts, press releases or any other action which would give the global abolition claim an international boost.

This Day is aimed at both political leaders and public opinion in countries where the death penalty has or has not yet been abolished: people have to remember the meaning of abolition and pass it down through the generations.

The World Day also unifies the abolitionist movement and gives a 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, World Day focuses on a different issue aspect of the death penalty. Including failures of justice (2006), mental health (2014), terrorism (2016), poverty (2017) and living conditions for the people sentenced to death this year.

- **The Main Objective of the 2018 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, 16 countries had abolished the death penalty in law for all crimes in 1977. Forty years later, two-thirds of all countries (142) are now abolitionist in law or in practice.

However, according to Amnesty International's 2017 annual report, at least 21,919 people were known to be under a sentence of death worldwide at the end of 2017. The Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide estimates the number of people sentenced to death around the world to be slightly less than 40,000.

Although people on death row are entitled to the same basic rights and treatment conditions as other categories of prisoners, as set out in the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela rules), many testimonies document the inhumane living conditions that people sentenced to death endure.

In addition, people on death row have very little contact with their family and lawyers, as access to death row is often very limited. Therefore, the conditions of detention affect not only the person sentenced to death but also their families and their relatives.



The main objective of the 2018 World Day is to raise public awareness on the inhumane living conditions of people sentenced to death, to convince people that the death penalty should be abolished.

To achieve it, the World Coalition and its member organisations have identified several specific objectives.

- **Secondary objectives for the 2018 World Day**

1. Supporting abolitionist activists by sharing arguments, tools and information

Every year, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty produces a number of tools to be used and disseminated by its member organisation:

- Poster of the World Day
- Leaflet of the World Day
- Facts and Figures on the death penalty worldwide
- A detailed fact sheet on living conditions for the people on death row
- A mobilisation kit for members
- The report of the World Day 2017

The Poster, Leaflet and Facts and Figures will be printed in English and French and are available on www.worldcoalition.org/worldday.

In addition, the World Coalition coordinates the events organised worldwide for 10 October as the very purpose of World Day is to encourage and stimulate local decentralized initiatives in as many countries as possible be it debates, press conferences, demonstrations, petitions, exhibitions, concerts, presentations in schools and cultural centres, etc. All citizens are called to participate. Through its networking role, the World Coalition is best placed to coordinate the events organised around the world for 10 October.

2. Overcome the isolation of the people sentenced to death and their relatives

One of the observations made by the World Coalition while doing the preliminary work for this year's World Day, is the isolation in which the people sentenced to death might live.

- In order to avoid that the people on death row sink into oblivion, we encourage you to contact those who suffer from the living conditions on death row: the person sentenced to death, the families and relatives, as well as the lawyers. There are many ways in which the civil society organisations can support the people sentenced to death and its relatives: by sending support messages, establishing a pen pal relationship with a person sentenced to death, organising a prison visit to report on the conditions of detention and meeting with the prisoners to hear about their needs...
We can help you contact people on death row, families and relatives and member organisations that have expertise in that field, having access to prisons, but also organisations that coordinate correspondence with people on death row around the world.
- We also encourage you to get in touch with journalists all over the world to report on the inhumane living conditions of the people on death row. To do so, we will create a Factsheet for journalists on how to report on this issue, over the summer.

3. Working with organisations that support survivors of the death penalty (murder victim's families, families of people on death row and exonerees)

The death penalty and the living conditions on death row have an impact not only on the person sentenced to death, but also on its families and relatives.

- We encourage you to organise events with the testimonies of survivors, to invite victims of the death penalty to speak at your events. If necessary, we may facilitate contact with the various organisations working with people sentenced to death, but also with the families of the victims.
- For example, Journey of Hope...From Violence to Healing will organise a speaking tour of death row survivors and victims' families in Kenya and Uganda. This will represent a great opportunity to raise awareness about the unfairness of the death penalty and about the inhumanity of life on death row.

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 keep society safe.

It has never been conclusively shown that the death penalty deters crime effectively than other punishments.

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 particular 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 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 five occasions, the United Nations General Assembly has called for the establishment of a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

(Résolutions 62/149 in 2007, 63/168 in 2008, 65/206 in 2010, 67/176 in 2015, 69/186 in 2014 and 71/187 in 2016).

9

It is counterproductive.

By establishing the killing of a human being as a legal solution, the death penalty promotes the idea of murder more than it fights against it.

10

It denies any possibility of rehabilitation for the criminal.

[3] 16th WORLD DAY: LIVING CONDITIONS ON DEATH ROW

On October 10th, 2018, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and abolitionists worldwide mark the 16th World Day Against the Death Penalty by drawing attention to the living conditions for the people on death row.

• Overview of the death penalty and conditions of detention

From solitary confinement in the United States, where prisoners can spend up to 23 hours per day in a cell, to the overcrowded prisons in several countries in Africa and Asia, the living conditions for the people sentenced tend to dehumanize and take away the dignity of individuals. Often nicknamed the “living dead”, many people on death row also suffer from hopelessness due to their vulnerability and the lack of opportunities to make decisions that affect the course of their lives. To that can be added overcrowded cells, such as in Malawi, where prisoners have to take shifts to sleep because of the lack of enough space, but also understaffed prisons, inadequate or lack of medical care, among others.

Nevertheless, the issue of the living conditions on death row is not only about tackling the material conditions or the long waiting periods on death row which can go up to almost 50 years in Japan as it was the case for Iwao Hakamada, the longest serving death row prisoner, but also about the lack of hope and the denial of rehabilitation for the people who have been sentenced to death. Very often, death row prisoners become human beings on which the society does not invest anymore (nor in education, nor in health, nor in welfare, nor in the possibilities to maintain a social life), as if, even before being executed, they were no longer alive, they were no longer considered as « human beings ».

Life on death row can lead to several mental trauma and physical deterioration of death row prisoners and the effects of the prolonged incarceration under harsh conditions on death row have been internationally recognized as the “death row phenomenon”, which amounts to a violation of the prohibition of cruel, inhuman and/ or degrading treatment.

In addition to the long waiting periods for death row prisoners, and the inhumane living conditions, they have very little contact with their family and lawyers, as the access to death row is often very limited. Therefore, the conditions of detention affect not only the person sentenced to death but also the families, relatives and legal team.

[4] WORLD DAY: TAKE ACTION!

The main objective of the World Day is **to encourage organisations to create events** in as many countries as possible and especially in those states that maintain the death penalty.

- **Call for initiatives!**

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

Whoever you are: NGO, teacher, lawyer, local representative, member of parliament, artist, reporter, religious leader, citizen

Whatever your plans are: Debates, concerts, press conferences, demonstrations, petitions, educational and cultural activities...

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

1. **Write** to a prisoner on death row
See Practical Worksheet n°1
2. **Send support messages** to their relatives and lawyers
See Practical Worksheet n°1
3. **Organise a visit to prison** following the World Coalition's guidelines
See Practical Worksheet n°3
4. **Organise a public debate or a movie screening** with families of people sentenced to death, exonerees, with their lawyers...
See Practical Worksheet n° 2, 4 and 5
5. **Organise an art exhibition** (drawings made by people on death row, photos of death row, posters), a **theatre performance** or a **film festival or screening**
See Practical Worksheet n°6 and 7
6. **Join events** prepared for the abolition of the death penalty worldwide
To know what has been organised, visit: www.worldcoalition.org/worldday
7. **Donate** to the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty or another group working to end the death penalty
8. Follow the social media **campaign on Facebook and Twitter: #nodeathpenalty**
See Practical Worksheet n°10
9. **Mobilise the media** to raise awareness on the issue of the death penalty
See Practical Worksheet n°8 and 9
Here is a **guide** to help you write to the editor! <http://bit.ly/cYDWol>
10. **Participate in “Cities Against the Death Penalty/Cities for Life”** on November 30, 2018.

• **10 Practical Worksheets to help you:**

1. How to send support messages to a prisoner on death row, his/her family, relatives, or lawyer

- ▶ Contact the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty to know about the organisations that work directly with the people sentenced to death and/or their families
- ▶ Get in touch with the organisation, who will guide you through the process
- ▶ Send your support messages
- ▶ Invite others to do so!

If you wish to go further and establish a pen pal relationship with a person on death row:

- ▶ First of all, you should be willing to **commit to the pen pal relationship** you are about to engage in: this means you need to write regularly, invest the time it requires, respond to the letters and if possible, not putting an end to the pen pal relationship.
- ▶ Once you have decided that you want to engage in this activity, get in contact with the World Coalition to know about the organisations that work directly with the people sentenced to death and that work specifically arranging pen pal relationships.
- ▶ Contact the organisation and enquire about requirements, the do's and the don'ts
- ▶ Write your letter

2. How to organise a conference with families of people sentenced to death or exonerees

- ▶ Plan your event in advance (at least two or three months) so that you have time to contact people and ensure that they are available.
- ▶ Define your target audience (general public, media, lawyers, students, etc.) and the scope of the event (a select group of twenty people, fifty, or one hundred people or more).
- ▶ Define the theme of your debate/conference/discussion.
- ▶ Make sure the project is clear and realistic - you will have more chance of raising interest among potential participants and will increase your chances of success.
- ▶ Contact the World Coalition to find out who to contact to invite the speakers you want.
- ▶ Once you have their agreement, fix the place and date of the conference.
- ▶ One month in advance, send out invitations and begin to publicise the event on your website, by talking to your networks, etc.
- ▶ One week in advance, send out a press release with the exact place, date and time, the theme of the conference and the name of the participants. If you are aiming for the general public, think about printing posters and displaying them around the conference location.
- ▶ The day before the event send the press release to the media again and ensure that all your contacts will indeed be present. Often, telephone reminders guarantee the availability of those who are interested but have busy diaries.

3. How to organise a prison visit to report on the living conditions of the people on death row in your country

This action is mainly for member organisations of the World Coalition which have access to the prison administration in their countries or who are regularly in contact with people on death row or member organisations that wish to do so in the future.

- ▶ Use the guidelines created by the World Coalition for World Day.

- ▶ Establish a list of your country's prisons and search for available information by the authorities.
- ▶ Identify the prison that you would like to visit
- ▶ Contact Bar Associations, Legal Aid Associations in your countries and ask if they have any data on this topic.
- ▶ Consider any restrictions on your access to prison. In some countries it is not possible to talk to the prisoners directly unless you are their lawyer or family member.
- ▶ Visit the prisons and if possible the death row detainees to conduct interviews on their living conditions on death row.
- ▶ Analyse the data.
- ▶ Write a report: it will be useful to make recommendations and call on government representatives on the conditions of the detention for the people on death row in their countries.

4. Working with victims: a guide for activists

It is important to incorporate an awareness of victims' family members' experience, perspective, and testimony into anti-death penalty materials and activities because:

- ▶ 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. It begins with a murder victim's loss of life and the devastating impact that that loss has on the surviving family members. 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 are a few suggestions. We encourage activists to consult with AfVT, Journey of Hope... From violence to Healing or MVFHR for further guidance.

- ▶ In educational or political materials about the death penalty or about a particular 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 ..."
- ▶ 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. In particular, don't assume that opposing the death penalty is the same as forgiving the offender.
- ▶ Let victims' family members speak for themselves. Work with them to develop their statements for specific situations, but don't put words in their mouths or pressure them to say something they are not comfortable saying.
- ▶ 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. AfVT and MVFHR 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.

5. How to organise an event at a university

- ▶ Contact the university and suggest organising activities for World Day (it can be anything from a 1 hour session during a class, to a two-day conference on the death penalty).
- ▶ If you are in contact with the law faculty, you may organise something for law students with lawyers defending people on death row for example.
- ▶ Make sure you agree on what the university is ready to commit to (providing a room, on campus information, official statement by the dean, etc.).
- ▶ Pay attention to security regulations within the university, opening hours (especially on weekends) and safety measures, including its insurance policy.
- ▶ Make sure you have sufficient materials (posters, leaflets, information sheets, etc.).
- ▶ Advertise the event and make sure the size of the room allows for a large amount of participants if desired.

Many events for World Day are organised in universities, which usually provide rooms free of charges and encourage students to attend.

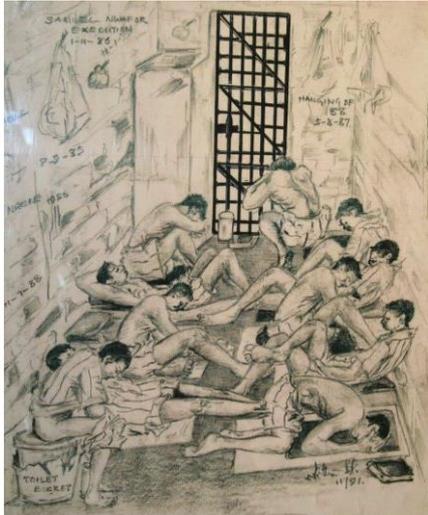
6. How to organise a film festival on the death penalty

- ▶ Plan your event in advance (at least two months before);
- ▶ Contact cinemas and other organisations in your country;
- ▶ Choose a theme for the festival with a catchy title;
- ▶ Choose a dozen films about the theme with a variety of countries and cultures (European, American, Asian films, etc.), 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 economic stakes, etc.), and genre (blockbusters, art house films, documentaries, etc.). You will find a list of films on the death penalty in this World Day mobilisation kit;
- ▶ Arrange subtitles if the films do not already exist in your language;
- ▶ Organise debates after the films to encourage discussion with the audience. Invite experts, academics and directors to interact with the audience and explore their impressions of the film and their opinion of the death penalty.

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

7. How to Organise an Art Exhibition of drawings or paintings made by a person sentenced to death or an exoneree, such as Arthur Angel (Nigeria) or Ndume Olatushani (USA)

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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 organised 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, if possible 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 don't forget to prepare drinks and a buffet.
- ▶ 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' (www.worldcoalition.org/tools) to get a better understanding of how the death penalty is depicted in art. To select the art work you would like to display, you may ask yourself:

- How does this art work make me feel? Why?
- 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 or why not?

Drawing : "Our Ugly World", Drawing by Arthur Angel, who was sentenced to death and spent 16 years in the prison of Enugu Prison in Nigeria. He was released in 2000 after all charges against him were dropped.

8. How to Guarantee Good Media Coverage of 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 maximise your chances of success, organise 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.).

9. How to Write a Press Release

- ▶ Use letterhead paper if you have it.
- ▶ Start with a short but explicit title.
- ▶ Put the notice “FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:” with the date of the public release.
- ▶ Include the name of your organisation.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ The 4th paragraph gives quotes, 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.
- ▶ Finish with a brief description of your organisation.
- ▶ The statement should not exceed one page. A long press release could discourage journalists and not be read at all.

10. How to promote World Day on Social Media

- ▶ Accept the Facebook invitation for the World Day, or create your own event, and share it with your friends!
- ▶ From 1 October contribute to **Facebook** by posting loads of messages! Below are some sample messages that can be used to promote the campaign:
 - What does the death penalty means 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, 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
- ▶ Use **Twitter** as a forum, with **#nodeathpenalty**. Below are some sample tweets that can be used to promote the campaign.
 - Spread the word! World Day against the Death Penalty on 10/10/2018! [#deathpenaltyday](http://worldcoalition.org/worldday)
 - Let's End the **#deathpenalty** visit worldcoalition.org/worldday to say **#nodeathpenalty**
 - What does the **#deathpenalty** means to you? Learn from a new perspective and share your story! <http://on.fb.me/biD2ed> **#nodeathpenalty**
 - Check out the **#nodeathpenalty** World Day: Download posters, share with friends, have your say and more. worldcoalition.org/worldday
- ▶ Using Facebook and Twitter in other languages or using other social networks? Post messages in your own language on any social networks!

• **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 organised 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
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

• Material for the 16th World Day

For World Day, the World Coalition has produced some materials; they are all available on its website: www.worldcoalition.org/worldday

Poster of the World Day

For organisers of events, copies of the poster are available at no cost from the Secretariat of the World Coalition

(contact@worldcoalition.org).



Information Leaflet

The leaflet of the 2018 World Day provides information on the impact of the living conditions for the people sentenced to death, and also for the relatives. It also gives arguments against the death penalty.

For organisers of events, copies are available at no cost from the Secretariat of the World Coalition

(contact@worldcoalition.org).

Facts and figures on the death penalty

Up-to-date information on the application of death penalty around the world in 2017 and 2018

Detailed Factsheet on the living conditions for the people sentenced to death

The detailed fact sheet provides a comprehensive overview of the conditions of detention for the people sentenced to death. It provides useful definitions, arguments, case studies and a summary of the development of international and domestic law.

Resource for lawyers

Resource to provide lawyers with legal arguments and strategic guidance in their

representation of people sentenced to the death penalty around the world.

Resource for Journalists

Resource to provide journalists with elements to report on the living conditions for the people on death row.

Resource to access prison

Resource to provide CSO's with guidance to report on the living conditions for the people on death row in their country. It will help you preparing the visit, conducting interviews and in processing the data.

Resource for prison staff

Resource to provide prison staff with key standards for treatment of prisoners and guidance on how to implement them.

[6] ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

• Websites on the death penalty

- World Coalition Against the Death Penalty www.worldcoalition.org
- Death Penalty Worldwide Database: www.deathpenaltyworldwide.org
- Amnesty International, death penalty page <http://www.amnesty.org/en/death-penalty>
- Death penalty website of the FIDH <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/death-penalty/>
- 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

Check the films available through the World Coalition's Website here: <http://bit.ly/29tikf9>, including:

Documentary films

- **“Free Men”** <https://www.fifdh.org/site/fr/programme/free-men/357192>

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? Last 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.

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

It’s his job to clean this special room, an execution chamber at a state prison in the United States. Everytime 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.

- **“The Final 24 Hours”** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkb14EcOs9U>

The Discovery Channel documentary about what happens, minute by minute, the 24 hours before the condemned of Death Row leave the world.

- **China Death Row Discovery and Documentary** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KjT3US_-CE8

Capital punishment in the People's Republic of China is usually administered to offenders of serious and violent crimes, such as aggravated murder, but China retains in law a number of nonviolent capital offenses such as drug trafficking. The People's Republic of China executes the highest number of people annually, though other countries (such as Iran or Singapore) have higher per capita execution rates.

- **“Killing time”** <http://www.vanhoewijk.nl/killing-time.html>

No one pays much attention when the road outside the prison is cordoned off. It lasts for just an hour. The relatives of the victims and the prisoner, the guards in the towers, the ministers, the few journalists, the handful of demonstrators; everyone has their own way of killing the last few hours of Elroy Chester’s life.

In a cinema direct style, Killing Time documents the killing of time during the hours leading up to the execution. Killing Time is about passing time and about the pain of having to watch someone die.

- **Into the Abyss** <http://www.wernerherzog.com/index.php?id=67>

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** <http://www.honk-lefilm.com/>

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.

- **In Prison My Whole Life** (2007) <http://inprisonmywholelife.com/>

British film directed 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.

Movies

- **Night Train** (2007) <http://www.worldcoalition.org/Filming-in-the-darkness-of-Chinas-death-row.html>

Chinese movie by Diao Yi Nan

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** (2004)

American movie by Jamie Foxx

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** (2003)

American movie by Alan Parker

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** (2000)

American movie by Frank Darabont

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** (1995)

American movie by Tim Robbins

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

Videos

- **“I will never forget the sound of a body being dropped into the pit when a man was hanged”** (2018)

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.

<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>

- **“Flight”**

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.

<http://spring96.org/en/news/60563>

- **“The Death Penalty in Numbers”**

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!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLS7MCx1F4s>

- **Exhibitions and Art work**

- **Drawings & exhibitions from Arthur J. Angel**

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.

<https://arthurangel.jimdo.com/arts-exhibitions/>

- **“Windows on death row”**

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

<http://www.windowsondeathrow.com/>

- **“Parting Words”**

A visual photographic archive of the 500+ prisoners to date executed in the state of Texas by Amy Elkins. Houston Center for Photography, May 8- July 5th, 2015, Manifest Justice, May 2015, Aperture Prize, 2014, Aperture Prize Exhibition, Dec 13th, 2014-Jan 29th, 2015

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

- **“The last Supper”**

The Last Supper illustrates the meal requests of U.S. death row inmates. Cobalt blue mineral paint is applied to second-hand plates, then kiln-fired by technical advisor Toni Acock.

<http://greenjulie.com/last-supper/>

- **“Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Decides”**

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.

http://www.whodecidesinc.org/?page_id=672

- **“The Last Meals Project”**

This series visually documents the face and last meal of a convicted killer and is without question honest and true. This will be an ongoing project as executions continue to take place in the United States.

<https://goodmenproject.com/featured-content/the-last-meals-project/>

- **“The innocents”**

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

http://tarynsimon.com/works_innocents.php

[7] JOIN THE WORLD COALITION

• The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

The WCADP, 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 organised 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 organisations and States, organising 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.



Only organisations can join the World Coalition

In accordance with article 5 of the World Coalition's bylaws, the Coalition welcomes organisations 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 organisation.

[8] CONTACT DETAILS

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contact@worldcoalition.org

• List and contact details of the members of the World Coalition:

www.worldcoalition.org/Member-organizations



For more information:

www.worldcoalition.org