

ACTIVITY REPORT

2020



WORLD
COALITION
— **AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY** —



(Table of Contents

I - Introduction by the President	p3
II - Objectives, Results, 2020 Indicators and Target Countries	p4
III – Programs	p6
A. World Day against the Death Penalty – 10 October 2020	p6
B. Speaking tours of death row survivors and victims’ families	p8
C. Need assessment for members	p9
D. Index of death penalty resources	p9
E. Coordinating international advocacy	p10
F. Expansion of the network	p15
G. Others	p15
IV - Internal Changes	p16
V - Financial Report by the Treasurer	p17
VI - Conclusions by the Director	p18



(I - Introduction by the President

During the past 6 years I have had the privilege of working from the Executive Board (EB) for the welfare of the Coalition and its member organizations. The last 4 years in the presidency, with the support of the Steering Committee. Along with me, the treasurer, Guillaume Colin, also reaches the maximum of three consecutive terms that we can serve at the EB; I am deeply grateful to Guillaume for those years of excellent service.

Universal abolition of the death penalty does not come alone; it is driven by the efforts of thousands of activists. Reviewing this period, one realizes the importance of teamwork and the incalculable value of our network, which naturally carries the coordination of efforts, mutual support and partnership.

When I started on the EB, we were working on a 5 year strategic plan that we have been able to see being implemented, with serious difficulties -primarily due to COVID-19-, but with great determination. Like any organization, we have experienced “growing pains”, we have not been perfect. But I can assure you that, on our way to our 20th anniversary, our struggle today is in a better position, more coordinated, mature, better informed, stronger, more integrated; and in addition to the important work at international organizations, the academia and justice courts, we have taken into account the battles of those who work and fight in every corner of the planet.

Since assuming the presidency, our Coalition has added about 15 organizations to join us in our work. In numbers, there are 3 new abolitionist countries for all crimes, 3 more countries that are abolitionist in practice and 5 states in the United States that abolished capital punishment, in addition to the moratorium on executions in California, which had the biggest death row in that country. We have added, on balance, 6 votes in the UN in favor of the Resolution for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, in a world that seems to become more polarized on this issue, and on other human rights matters. Several countries also reduced the scope of crimes for which they apply the death penalty.

And, while the trends towards victory is clear, we have faced enormous challenges, such as countries at risk of returning to execute, in particular I will mention the Philippines. We also suffered the spate of federal executions in the United States in the last 6 months of the Trump administration, but on the other hand they elected -for the first time- a president who pledged to abolish the federal death penalty in his campaign. It was with enormous disappointment that we watched the political prosecutions and large number of executions in Egypt; among other drawbacks that we collectively challenged. On top of it, this pandemic has changed everyone’s plans, including ours. Missions in many countries needed to be cancelled, others have just been postponed.

Above all that, during this time we have had the opportunity to develop partnerships with several member organizations, providing them with greater visibility and institutional support, while enhancing their ability to receive funding for specific abolitionist projects. We have also supported work (such as the survey in Iran or the stories of women and the death penalty with Cornell University), and joined with ECPM to co-sponsor a World Congress. We have also entered into agreements with private companies to receive pro-bono work from their lawyers and develop projects that will be of great benefit to the Coalition and to our collective cause. Finally, although I am sure I have missed several items, I would like to highlight the launch of our new website worldcoalition.org.

From Puerto Rico, a Caribbean and Latin American country, we embrace the universal abolition cause as human rights cause; we renew our vows of solidarity and commitment to fight for a more equitable, fairer societies and for better justice systems which transform the Peoples.

Until abolition! Jusqu’à l’abolition!
President

Kevin Miguel Rivera Medina,



(II - Objectives, Results, 2020 Indicators and Target Countries

A. SECURING ABOLITION

1) Abolition of the death penalty

- **Indicator for 2020:** at least **1** country abolishes the death penalty
- **Target countries:** Belarus, Central African Republic, **Chad**, Cuba, Dominica, Gambia, Ghana, Guyana, Niger, Liberia, Malaysia, Russia, Saint Lucia, Tajikistan, Uganda, **3 US states**, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Results:

- **Chad** abolished the death penalty for all crimes, including terrorism, in April 2020.
- **The State of Colorado in the USA** abolished the death penalty on 23 March 2020.

2) Ratification of abolitionist treaties

- **Indicator for 2020:** **2** new countries ratify
- **Target countries:** Armenia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Congo (Republic of), Cote d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, **Kazakhstan**, Morocco, Samoa, Suriname
- **Priority Countries:** Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire

Results:

- **Kazakhstan** signed OP2-ICCPR on 23 September 2020. On 29 December 2020, the Senate of Kazakhstan passed a Law for its ratification, but the instruments or ratification were yet to be deposited with the UN Secretary General.

3) Preventing the reintroduction of the death penalty

- **Indicator for 2020:** **no** country reintroduces the death penalty
- **Target countries:** Mongolia, Philippines, Turkey, US States

Result: No country reintroduced the death penalty in 2020

4) Preventing the reintroduction of the death penalty in abolitionist countries for ordinary crimes only

- **Indicator for 2020:** **no** country reintroduces the death penalty
- **Target countries:** Brazil, Israel, Peru

Result: No country reintroduced the death penalty in 2020

B. PROMOTING MORATORIA ON EXECUTIONS IN VIEW OF FULL ABOLITION

5) Contributing to the worldwide moratorium on executions

- **Indicator for 2020:** **122** countries vote in favor of the moratorium resolution
- **Target countries:** **Congo**, DRC, **Guinea**, Kenya

Result: **123** countries voted in favor of the moratorium resolution, including **Congo** and **Guinea**

6) Encouraging official moratorium

- **Indicator for 2020:** **1** country officially declares a moratorium on executions
- **Target countries:** Belarus, **the State of California in the USA**, DRC, Japan, **Malaysia**, South Korea, Taiwan

Result: Malaysia and the State of California in the US continued to observe official moratoriums on executions in 2020.

7) Preventing resumption of executions

- **Indicator for 2020:** no abolitionist in practice countries resume executions
- **Target countries:** Cameroon, Chad, Liberia, Maldives, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Tunisia

Results: no target abolitionist in practice country resumed executions in 2020

C. LIMITING THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY

8) Reducing the scope of the death penalty

- **Indicator:** at least 1 country reduces the scope of the death penalty in 2020
- **Target countries:** Antigua and Barbuda, China, Dominica, Grenada, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, USA states (Texas, Virginia, Alabama), Vietnam

Result:

- The State of California in the USA extended the ban on the death penalty for intellectually disabled individuals to include those individuals who are over 18 years of age in 2020.

9) Reducing the number of people executed

- **Indicator:** 10% decrease in 5 years (AI figure for 2016: 1,031 – excluding China)
- **Target countries:** Belarus, China, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Palestine, Pakistan, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Thailand

Results: The number of known executions decreased by 26% compared to the 2019 total, continuing the year-on-year reduction recorded since 2015 (483 people, excluding China). The significant drop in known executions was primarily linked to decreases in Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

10) Reducing the number of people sentenced to death

- **Indicator:** 10% decrease in 5 years (AI figure for 2016: 3,117– excluding China)
- **Target countries:** Algeria, Bahrain, Barbados, Bangladesh, India, Iran, Kenya, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Taiwan, Tunisia, USA,

Results: The global total of newly imposed death sentences known to Amnesty International (at least 1,477- excluding China) fell by 36% compared to 2019, partly because the Covid-19 pandemic caused disruptions and delays in criminal proceedings across the world.

11) Encouraging clemency and commutations to reduce the number of people on death row

- **Indicator:** 20% decrease in 5 years (According to Amnesty International's annual report: "at least 21 885 people were known to be under a sentence of death worldwide at the end of 2017")
- **Target countries:** Algeria, India, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, USA

Result: Amnesty International recorded commutations or pardons of death sentences in 33 countries including: India, Japan, Kenya, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the USA. Recorded commutation of death sentences increased by 87% in Sub-Saharan Africa.

12) Encouraging more transparency regarding the application of the death penalty

- **Indicator:** At least **1 retentionist country** makes available relevant information in a report to the UN (UPR, UNSG annual report, moratorium report, reports to treaty bodies...), disaggregated by sex, age, nationality and race, as applicable, and other applicable criteria, with regard to their use of the death penalty, inter alia, the number of persons sentenced to death, the number of persons on death row and the number of executions carried out, the number of death sentences reversed or commuted on appeal or in which amnesty or pardon has been granted, as well as information on any scheduled execution, which can contribute to possible informed and transparent national and international debates (2020 UNGA Moratorium Resolution A/RES/75/183, 7.c)
- **Target countries:** Belarus, China, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Japan, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, USA, Vietnam

As this new indicator was chosen in December 2020, there is no available result for 2020.



(III - Programs

(A. World Day against the Death Penalty – 10 October 2020

World Day 2020's main objective is to raise public awareness on the right to effective legal representation during all stages [of arrest and legal proceedings] and the consequences that can arise when this is not provided, to convince people that the death penalty should be abolished.

Secondary objectives include:

- Supporting abolitionist activists by sharing argument tools and information;
- Encouraging mobilization and media attention;
- Working with organizations, bar associations, etc that support the right to fair trial, quality of legal assistance and work closely with legal professionals to achieve that aim.

Activity A.1: Production and dissemination of information and mobilization tools, including:

Available in French and English, these documents were made available to members of the World Coalition and distributed in other languages. An effort was made to have the documents translated into more languages, starting with Arabic. All these tools were made available to the public on the "World Day" page of the World Coalition website and relayed by its members. The poster and leaflet were also available in hard copy, free of charge, upon request from the World Coalition Secretariat.

- The World Day Poster (available on our website in: AR, Cebuano, German, Dhivehi, EN, ES, Farsi, FR, IT, Japanese, RU, Tagalog, ZH)
- The World Day Leaflet (available on our website in: FR, EN and AR)
- Facts and figures on the death penalty worldwide (available on our website in: FR and EN)
- Detailed Fact Sheet on Right to Counsel. It provides a deep dive on the subject including useful definitions, arguments, case studies, and a summary of the of international and domestic law concerning the right to counsel. (available on our website in: FR and EN)
- A mobilization kit providing the context, suggested actions and useful resources (available in AR, EN and FR)
- Factsheet for Judges (available in FR and in EN)
- Factsheet for Defense Lawyers (available in FR and in EN)
- Factsheet for Media (available in FR and in EN)
- Factsheet for Parliamentarians (available in FR and in EN)

- ➔ Factsheet for Police (available in FR and in EN)
- ➔ Testimonies tool of experiences pertaining to this year's theme
- ➔ The report of World Day 2019 (available in FR and in EN)
- ➔ 667 parcels were sent to all the members and partners of the World Coalition on between 17 July and the beginning of October. In total ,around the world an overall 2,635 posters and 5,126 leaflets were distributed.
- ➔ An article covering World Day's theme and issues for the ACAT France's magazine "Humains" was also published in their fall issue.
- ➔ On 10 July 2020, the first special World Day Newsletter was shared, compiling all the documents produced for the World Day.

Activity A.2: Producing tailored tools in target countries

To better support its membership for the day, the World Coalition designed specific tools tailored to their needs at their request (including, but not limited to, **Eastern Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, Iran, Philippines**).

- ➔ A specific tool for the **Maldives** has been created in collaboration with Monash University and Maldivian Democracy Network (MDN). The tool was distributed to the Maldives Working Group and to the participants of the Maldives Strategic Seminar held 24 and 25 November 2020.
- ➔ A specific tool for the **Philippines** has been formatted in collaboration with the Commission on Human Rights Philippines and Monash University in Australia. This tool is a wide-sweeping brochure covering national themes related to the death penalty and the 10 October. This tool will be ready for 2021 due to the delays in translation (11 local languages).
- ➔ A survey was conducted in September 2020 by GAMAAN Institute and Iran Human Rights, sponsored by the World Coalition regarding the public opinion about the death penalty in **Iran**. The survey's results show a nuanced understanding of Iranian attitudes towards capital punishment and was published ahead of the World Day on 8 October with a press conference on 12 October.

Activity A.3 Coordination of events organized around the world

The very purpose of World Day is to encourage and stimulate decentralized local initiatives in as many countries as possible: debates, press conferences, events, petitions, exhibitions, concerts, presentations in schools or cultural centers, etc.

- ➔ Emails sent calling for members to start planning their events on 10 June, 10 July, 10 September as well as a weekly countdown to World Day 3 weeks prior to 10 October.
- ➔ The events page on the World Coalition's website was made public on 10 September. The calendar of events and the map of events was updated daily: <http://www.worldcoalition.org/Take-Action-for-World-Day-2020.html> and had over **86** events listed on World Day.
- ➔ In the week leading up to the 10 October, schedules of online events were electronically distributed daily to encourage participation.

Activity A4: Social Media Campaign

The World Coalition has also developed strategies for using social media, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and WhatsApp to reach a wider audience.

- ➔ The social media campaign was officially launched on 1 October on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using the hashtag: #nodeathpenalty. 10 posts were published per day (same post in French and English) counting down to 10 October taken from World Day tools. The posts covered "trivia" questions on capital punishment, facts about this year's theme, and

testimonies. Facebook frames were launched for the first time on 7 October 2020. Facebook does not have an accessible way to measure the analytical success/ use of frames.

- A campaign to share World Day tools on WhatsApp for members in Africa was launched again following moderate success in 2019. 58 individuals were contacted to be part of the World Day WhatsApp campaign. One message was sent per individual with tools in the message and encouraged to share the message with co-workers and friends. After a follow up, individuals self-reported to have shared the messages with a total of 3 662 people in 29 African countries.
- A video was produced by Monash University's Anti-Death Penalty clinic on the state of capital punishment and the right to effective counsel, in spoken English and subtitled in AR, ZH, EN, FR, Hindi, Japanese, RU, ES, Turkish.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dS9K2s6ayW0&t=3s>

Activity A.5: Supporting activities of members in 10 target countries for World Day

The World Coalition supported activities which involved partners in 10 target countries to target public opinion, media, politicians, lawyers.

- Contracts were signed with 7 members and 2 partners: Observatoire Burundais des Prisons (**Burundi**), Ligue Ivoirienne des Droits de l'Homme (**Côte d'Ivoire**), International Commission of Jurists (**Kenya**), Mauritanian Coalition Against the Death Penalty (**Mauritania**), Pax Christi Uvira & Union Chrétienne pour le Progrès et la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (**Democratic Republic of Congo**, joint activity), Society for Human Rights and Democracy Organization (**Sierra Leone**), Children Education Society (**Tanzania**), Karapatan (**Philippines**), Commission of Human Rights (**Philippines**).
- Contract for the Eastern Caribbean small grants offer was signed between the World Coalition, DPP and the Greater Caribbean for Life with Amplify Caribbean (**Antigua and Barbuda**).

Activity A.6: Encouraging the organization of events with experts in the field

- A joint Statement was signed with the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute on the occasion of the 30th anniversaries of the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers and the IBA Standards for the Independence of the Legal Profession, published on 10 October.
- 102 World Day parcels were sent to organizations and law firms working on the right to effective legal counsel.
- **Indicators:** 584 events listed in 70 countries and 833 articles in 103 countries in 2020 (down from 748 events listed in 90 countries and 879 articles in 109 countries in 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic made it more difficult to organize events in 2020 and may explain this drop.)

(B. Speaking tours of death row survivors and victims' families worldwide

Activity B.1: The World Coalition contributes to a speaking tour organized by the Greater Caribbean for Life in the Eastern Caribbean.

- The activity was postponed to 2021.

- **Indicators:** at least 1 Speaking Tour is organized in 2020

Result: no speaking tours were organized in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

(C. Need assessment for members

Activity C.1: Under the leadership of the Advocates for Human Rights, the World Coalition continued to gather answers to the survey sent to all members to know about their need and their expertise. Once the World Coalition's new website is online, a members-only access will allow members to consult this catalogue of offers and requests for services and expertise between members.

Activity C.2: An exercise of “match making” will also be coordinated by the World Coalition and will lead to **joint activities, training sessions, and translation or creation of advocacy tools**, including during General Assemblies and World Congresses.

Activity C. 3: Development of three guides with members on "How to abolish the death penalty":

- ➔ The guide on “How to work with the **African Commission** on Human and Peoples' Rights to abolish the death penalty” was published on 26 March 2020.
- ➔ “How to work with **parliamentarians** to abolish the death penalty” English and French drafts were finalized at the end of December 2020. Publication is planned for spring 2021.
- ➔ The guide for “How to work with **National Human Rights Institutions** to abolish the death penalty” launched its search for an author at the end of December 2020. Development and publication of the guide is planned for autumn/ winter 2021.

Activity C.4: The World Coalition has organized training sessions on how to manage an EU grant with its 7 partners of the EIDHR program

- ➔ One training sessions about the Specific conditions of the EU grant and its management was organized in **Uganda** in February 2020. Due to the COVID-19 travel bans and sanitary measures the following training sessions took place online in May 2020.

(D. Index of death penalty resources

Activity D.1: Creating the matrix for the new database and library of resources and filling in the database.

- ➔ Under the leadership of Annemarie Pieters, (Community of Sant'Egidio), a project has started to expand the library on the World Coalition's Website with fiction and non-fiction books in English and French, with their ISBN.

Activity D.2: The World Coalition has also strengthened its collaboration with the Cornell Center on the death penalty worldwide, now a member organisation, and helped update the **death penalty worldwide database** (www.deathpenaltyworldwide.org)

- ➔ 37 articles were published on the World Coalition's website and 9 newsletters were published.
- ➔ 193 new documents were added to the online library.

Activity D.3: The new website for the World Coalition was designed for the purpose of spreading information on the death penalty and increase transparency towards the latter.

- ➔ The release date of the website has been postponed due to unforeseen and last-minute changes, and corrections of technical bugs that have been discovered when browsing the website internally. New launch date will be for spring 2021.

- A website press procedure to provide the World Coalition with guidelines regarding how to respond to media inquiries drafted by the Communications Working Group has been adopted in December 2020.

(E. Coordinating international advocacy

The International Advocacy Working Group was created in July 2018 and has met regularly throughout 2019 and 2020.

Activity E.1: Campaign for the ratification of international and regional abolitionist treaties

- On 28 May 2020, an informal meeting was held virtually with the group of the “Friends of the Protocol”. The meeting was an opportunity to check in with the group, update them regarding the newest ratifications to OP2, the World Coalition’s target countries of 2020, updates on regional protocols, provide information regarding the return to the death penalty in countries that have ratified OP2, and coordinate regarding the UNGA resolution on a moratorium in December.
- June 2020 marked the 30th anniversary of the Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty. On this occasion, the World Coalition drafted and co-signed a joint letter with the President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on the World Day, with a view to encouraging the Organization of American States member States to accede to the **American Protocol**. Specific Ratification tool kits focusing on Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Peru, and Suriname, target countries that were shortlisted by the IACHR, have been drawn up and shared with the members of the World Coalition based and/or working on the Americas, as well the Group of Friends of the Protocol.
- As of 20 December 2020, 88 of the 173 States parties to the ICCPR have ratified or acceded to its Second Optional Protocol (with **Kazakhstan** signing the OP2-ICCPR on 23 September 2020). This information was updated on the World Coalition’s webpage on the OP2 campaign.
- The Ratification Kits for the 10 target countries for 2020 have been updated and/or created then put online, namely, **Armenia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Fiji, Kazakhstan, Marshall Islands** and **Suriname**, in English, French and Spanish were updated and published on our website. They were sent to members, partners, international organizations, and Friends of the Protocol. The Ratification Kits for the remaining target countries defined for the period 2017-2022, which have not yet ratified the Second Optional Protocol, have also been updated: **Cambodia, Haiti, Morocco**, and **Samoa**, in English, French and Spanish.

Activity E.2: Campaign for a worldwide moratorium on executions

An eighth resolution for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty was debated and voted on in New York at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2020. The World Coalition coordinated international advocacy with its international member organizations, through an active working group on the UNGA moratorium resolution, and by coordinating advocacy missions to target countries.

- The Moratorium page of the World Coalition website was updated in the 7 languages of the website (ENG, FR, ZH, FAR, AR, ES, RU).

- ➔ The Moratorium Working Group met 11 times between July and December 2020 and coordinated actions on target countries. The World Coalition co-signed 37 letters or joint letters to national authorities¹ encouraging a positive vote for the moratorium resolution.
- ➔ Cosponsored by 83 States, the resolution was adopted with a record 123 votes in favor, 38 against, 24 abstentions and eight absent on 16 December 2020. Among positive vote changes, Djibouti, Lebanon, and South Korea favored the resolution for the first time, and the Philippines and Sri Lanka also supported the resolution.

Activity E.3: Reporting to the UN and regional human rights mechanisms

The World Coalition co-signed a joint civil society letter calling on the **UN Human Rights Council** member states to renew the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in **Iran**.

The World Coalition signed an oral statement to be submitted with the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute for the **45th session of the Human Rights Council** on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers and the World Day Against the Death Penalty.

The World Coalition collaborated with its members to submit reports to the **UN Human Rights Council** for the **Universal Periodic Review** of:

- ➔ **Lebanon** co-signed with the Advocates for Human Rights.
- ➔ **Mauritania** with the Association mauritanienne des droits de l'Homme (ADMH), Ensemble contre la peine de mort (ECPM) and Planète Réfugiés-Droits de l'Homme (PRDH).
- ➔ **Myanmar** co-signed with the Advocates for Human Rights.
- ➔ **Niger** co-signed with the International Federation of ACATs (FIACAT),
- ➔ **Saint Kitts and Nevis** co-signed with the Advocates for Human Rights.
- ➔ **Saint Lucia** co-signed with the Advocates for Human Rights.
- ➔ **Sierra Leone** co-signed with the Advocates for Human Rights.
- ➔ **Singapore** co-signed with the Advocates for Human Rights.
- ➔ **Somalia** co-signed with the Advocates for Human Rights.

The World Coalition also collaborated with its members to submit reports to the **UN Human Rights Committee** for the reviews of:

- ➔ **Burkina Faso** co-signed with FIACAT and ACAT Burkina;
- ➔ **Ethiopia** co-signed with the Advocates for Human Rights.
- ➔ **Haiti** submitted by the World Coalition (for list of Issues Prior to review)
- ➔ **Iran** co-signed with the Advocates for Human Rights.
- ➔ **Iraq** co-signed with the Advocates for Human Rights.
- ➔ **Kenya** submitted by the Advocates for Human rights and co-signed with ICJ Kenya and the Kenya Human Rights Commission (for list of Issues prior to review)
- ➔ **Libya** co-signed with the Advocates for Human Rights.
- ➔ **Maldives** co-signed with the Advocates for Human Rights and Reprieve.
- ➔ **Philippines**, 2 submissions regarding the List of Issues prior to review both co-signed by the World Coalition and submitted by:
 - The Advocates for Human Rights
 - HRI, IDPC, Nobox Philippines

¹ Algeria, Antigua-and-Barbuda, Bhutan, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Cuba, Dominica, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

- **Sri Lanka** co-signed with Reprieve (for list of Issues prior to review)
- **Syria** co-signed with the Advocates for Human Rights.
- **Yemen** co-signed with the Advocates for Human Rights.
- **Zambia** co-signed with the Advocates for Human Rights.
- **Zimbabwe** co-signed with the Advocates for Human Rights.

The World Coalition collaborated with its members to submit reports to the **UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women** on:

- **Indonesia** co-signed with the Advocates for Human Rights.
- **South Sudan** co-signed with the Advocates for Human Rights.

The World Coalition additionally collaborated with its members to submit reports to **the UN Committee Against Torture** on **Iraq**, co-signed with the Advocates for Human Rights (for list of Issues prior to review).

The World Coalition collaborated with its members to submit 2 reports to **the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child** with the Advocates for Human Rights on:

- **Kuwait**
- **Vietnam**

The World Coalition also submitted the following to the **OHCHR**:

- Co-signed a submission with HRI to the OHCHR's **Working Group on Arbitrary Detention** regarding the arbitrary nature of detention on death row for **drug offenses**;
- The World Coalition with the Advocates for Human Rights sent a submission for the OHCHR's Report of the Secretary-General on the **Question of the death penalty** pursuant to decision 18/117 and resolution 22/11 of the Human Rights Council.
- The World Coalition co-signed 2 submissions regarding a Call for inputs regarding the human rights situation in the **Philippines** for consideration at the OHCHR:
 - One submitted with the Advocates for Human Rights, CPJP, and Monash University;
 - One submitted with HRI

The World Coalition supported Project 39A (Dehli University) to submit communications to the UN on the risk of 4 executions in **India**.

The World Coalition has submitted two recommendations for an exchange with Human Rights and Democracy Networks with MEP Isabel Santos on the 2019 Annual Human Rights Report, to recommend **European Union** to take a stand against the return of federal executions in the United States and to encourage the EU delegation in New York to support the vote for the moratorium resolution.

The World Coalition submitted parallel reports to the **African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)** on the 66th and 67th Ordinary Sessions:

- 2 reports on **Cameroon** for its 4th-6th periodic report:
 - 1 co-signed with FIACAT and ACAT Cameroon
 - 1 co-signed with Droits et Paix, ECPM and RACOPEM
- 1 report on **Mauritius** for the 9th/10th periodic report.
- 1 report on **Malawi**, co-signed with Reprieve and the Community of Sant'Egidio for the 2nd/3rd periodic report.

- 1 report on **Niger**, co-signed with FIACAT, ACAT Niger and the Nigerien Coalition for the 15th periodic report.

Activity E.4: Advocacy missions to human rights mechanisms

- 27-29 January 2020: Mission to Geneva to partake in the observations of the **35th Session of the UPR Working Group** for **Turkey, Grenada, Guyana, and Kuwait**.
- As of 17 March 2020, all advocacy missions led by the World Coalition Secretariat were suspended until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic and reduced travel policies.
- **66th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)** was held online on 13 July – 7 August 2020, as well as at the NGOs Forum. A joint declaration was registered with the ACHPR secretariat on the death penalty co-signed with World Coalition members ECPM, FIACAT, FIDH, Reprieve, FHRI, ICJ Kenya on the impact of COVID-19 and the death penalty.
- The World Coalition participated in two remote briefings with **the UN Human Rights Committee** prior to the review of **Zambia** on 22 October 2020 (along with the Advocates for Human Rights) and **Zimbabwe** on 29 October 2020 (along with the Advocates for Human Rights and Capital Punishment Justice Project).
- In November 2020, the World Coalition co-facilitated with the Advocates for Human Rights a series of Facebook Live debriefings of the **36th session of UPR** to cover the review of States that have not done yet abolish the death penalty: **Belarus, Jamaica, Libya, Liberia, Malawi, Maldives and the USA**. The discussion between the participants (members of the World Coalition network) was held on Zoom while the debriefing was being broadcasted live on the World Coalition's Facebook page.
- **67th Ordinary Session of the ACHPR**, held on Zoom from 13 November-3 December 2020. World Coalition members REJADD Togo, the Nigerien Coalition, ASF France, Legal & Human Rights Centre and Mouvances Congo Brazzaville participated virtually in the session, as well as at the NGOs Forum from 9-11 November. A survey was launched amongst members on the African continent to better understand their capacities to join virtual meetings (internet connection, accessible computers, etc). A joint declaration was registered with the ACHPR secretariat on the death penalty co-signed with World Coalition members ECPM, the FIACAT, FIDH, ASF, LHRC, Mouvances Congo Brazzaville, Nigerien Coalition, REJADD Togo and Reprieve.

Activity E.5: Monitoring countries at risk of reintroducing the death penalty

- The World Coalition continued to monitor the situation in **Israel** and **Mongolia**.
- **Philippines**: The Working Group met regularly throughout the course of 2020 to coordinate activities, share information, and monitor the situation of the death penalty bills in Congress. President Duterte's State of the Nation address on 27 July called again for the death penalty. Following the address, in August, 27 bills were heard in the House of Representatives. None were heard in the Senate. Next steps in the house were to close the Committee that heard the bills and make a decision that could include endorsing a bill. By the end of December 2020, this had not happened.
 - Members of the Philippines Working Group participated in a round table hosted by the Commission on Human Rights Philippines on 7 August 2020 to discuss the current context surrounding reintroduction of the death penalty.
 - A letter on GSP+ was written by CPJP and submitted to the World Coalition Steering Committee on 16 September for endorsement.
- **Turkey**: The Working Group met regularly during 2020 to monitor any developments on the ground in Turkey and to try to include voices from the ground. Two local stakeholders

in Turkey, NGOs, were invited to give the much-needed perspective. No bills are currently pending in the National Assembly.

- The **preliminary study** aiming at identifying national civil society actors campaigning against the return of the death penalty in the country, assessing the risks and supporting actors in their efforts by carrying out a diagnosis of their needs in terms of capacity building, and finally supporting them by defining mobilization strategies against the death penalty was translated and is available in French and English. A 2-page hand-out is being developed to distribute summarizing the study, as it is not available to the public. Due to delays in graphic design, the 2-page handout will be ready to distribute in 2021.

Activity E.6: Monitoring countries at risk of resuming executions.

- ➔ The World Coalition has continued to monitor the situation in **Cameroon, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, South Africa, and Tanzania**. It coordinated international advocacy among international member organizations, including through active working groups and with international and regional human rights bodies.
- ➔ **Maldives:** The Working Group met regularly throughout 2020 to monitor the on-going situation on the ground regarding the safety of HRDs and to discuss steps and ideas to support abolitionist steps. As of the end of 2020, no steps have been taken actively by the Maldivian authorities to reintroduce executions, however there is a lack of political will to abolish the death penalty fully.
 - The **preliminary study** aiming at identifying national civil society actors campaigning against the return of the death penalty in the country, assessing the risks and supporting actors in their efforts by carrying out a diagnosis of their needs in terms of capacity building, and finally supporting them by defining mobilization strategies against the death penalty was translated and is available in French and English. A 2-page hand-out was developed to distribute summarizing the study, as it is not available to the public. The 2-page document was shared with World Coalition membership on 18 June 2020.
 - A **Series of 5 Webinars² on working with UN Human Rights Mechanisms** was co-lead with the Advocates for Human Rights, Reprieve and Redress. The participants invited were Maldivian NGOs, lawyers and activities who wished to know how to interact with the UN human rights mechanisms. The average number of participants in attendance for each webinar was 7 activists. For security measures, no articles or social media posts were published about the event.
 - The WG collaborated with the Maldivian Democracy Network to hold a **virtual Strategic Seminar on the Maldives** on 24 and 25 November 2020 with a total of 14 participants (of which 6 where participants from the Maldives, 3 currently based in the Maldives and 8 were regional or international NGOs). Discussion focused on the priority abolitionist goal over the next 5 years and how to broaden the abolitionist

² Webinar 1. General Overview of UN Human Rights Mechanisms held on 15 July 2020

Webinar 2. Deep dive into the UN Human Rights Committee and the Treaty Body Periodic Review Process held on 30 July 2020

Webinar 3. Universal Periodic Review: How to Lobby Before the Interactive Dialogue held on 3 September 2020

Webinar 4. Engaging the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council: Working Groups and Special Rapporteurs held on 5 October 2020

Webinar 5. Engaging the Treaty Body Complaint Mechanisms: Human Rights Committee, the Committee of the Convention Against Torture (CAT), and the Committee of the Convention of the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) held on 12 October 2020.

voices from the Maldives. For security measures, no articles or social media posts were published about the event.

- An **updated tool on civil society harassment on social media** was distributed during the seminar.
- ➔ **USA Federal Executions:** Following the resumption of federal executions on 14 July 2020 in the USA, the World Coalition co-signed a letter written by Death Penalty Action, addressed to the United States Congress condemning the executions and calling for an immediate stop. The World Coalition also drafted a statement condemning the lame-duck executions being carried out following the election of anti-death penalty President Biden. This statement was published on the World Coalition webpage.

Activity E.7: Reducing the scope of the death penalty worldwide

- ➔ The 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Kyoto, Japan, is re-scheduled to take place in a hybrid format (online/ in person) from March 7 to 12, 2021.
- ➔ **Indicators:** common strategies, joint submissions, side events, joint statements and advocacy missions are coordinated during all international and regional meetings.

(F. Expansion of the network

The World Coalition had one new member in 2020: Salam for Democracy and Human Rights (UK-Bahrain).

(G. Other

At the request of its Steering Committee members in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Coalition has undertaken other actions:

- ➔ A written statement calling for a worldwide moratorium on the death penalty during the COVID-19 pandemic was prepared and signed by 52 member organizations, then submitted to the United Nations on 4 June. It was also submitted to the Special Rapporteur on Executions and to the High Commissioner on Human Rights on the occasion of the 44th sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council (22 June).
- ➔ A second version of the statement, as an Op-Ed, focused on the impact of the COVID-19 on the death penalty has been written on the basis of the Steering Committee discussions and approved by the latter at the end of May. A press release was shared with the members of the World Coalition and has been widely spread (ACAT France, The Advocates for Human Rights, ADPAN, Coalition tunisienne contre la peine de mort, ECPM, FIACAT, Hands Off Cain, HURILAWS, Justice Project Pakistan, Magistrats européennes pour la démocratie et les libertés, REJADD-Togo, Reprieve et the Rights Practice. Both the Op-Ed and the press release have been published online on the World Coalition's website.



(IV- Internal changes

(Governance: accountable and inclusive

To improve its governance, the World Coalition carried out several actions in 2020, including: the adoption of an **Internal Control Procedures Manual** on 25 September 2020 and the development of a **Guide to Preventing Corruption Risks**. The workshop to reflect on its governance during a physical meeting of its Steering Committee was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The risk assessment plan and environmental and gender strategies were not finalized by the end of 2020.

(Monitoring and evaluation plan: result-based

In 2020, the World Coalition conducted an internal evaluation of 2 of 3 regional projects through the establishment of three specific working groups. Internal evaluation of its two regional projects (Sub-Saharan Africa and Countries at Risk) were completed and sent to membership on 22 July 2020. The internal evaluation of the project on Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean States could not be finalized.

In addition, the World Coalition continued to monitor its strategic plan to ensure that programs are running smoothly and achieving their goals. The Steering Committee, in charge of its supervision, could not meet for strategic discussions at the end of the year, but assessed the results of the mid-term strategic plan and prepare the 2021 annual action plan during an online meeting.

(Communication strategy: innovation

In 2020, the communication working group was responsible for accompanying the redesign of the website. The promotion of technological innovation and digital communications gave the World Coalition the best tools to facilitate its work and better communicate with its member organizations, including through more efficient videoconferencing systems, essentials in times of pandemic.

(Financial strategy: diversification

A working group on core funding was created in 2020 to help with the financial strategy in terms of private funding and core funding to further diversify the sources of funding of the World Coalition and ensure its long-term sustainability.

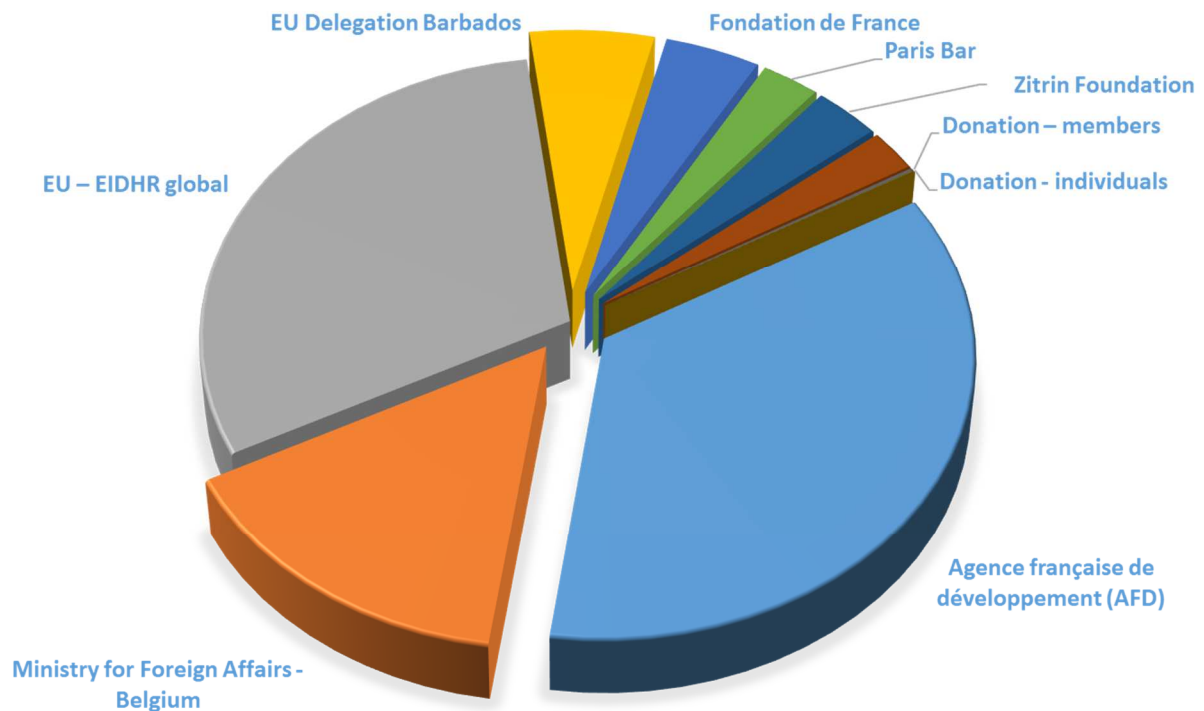


(V- Financial Report by the Treasurer

The World Coalition has a surplus of €8,583 in 2020 despite the health crisis of the past year. Indeed, the activity of the year 2020 was globally lower than that of 2019 due to the pandemic which limited international travels and physical meetings. Expenses thus represent €360,253 in 2020 (€448,446 in 2019). Salary expenses have slightly increased in 2020 from €129,004 to €161,536 due to the growth of the team from 3 to 4 employees and the replacement of Aurélie Plaçais, our Executive Director, during her maternity leave.

Membership fees for the year 2020 (€8,660) have decreased significantly compared to 2019 (€10,553) and represent only 2% of the Coalition's resources this year. Public operating grants remain the Coalition's main resources (AFD: 36%; EU: 37%; Belgium: 15%). The total income thus decreased from €450,288 in 2019 to €368,836 in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sources of funding in 2020



The Coalition's reserve fund is now €71,890.

Guillaume Colin
Treasurer



(VI- Conclusions by the Director

2020 has been a year of many challenges for the World Coalition, with the COVID-19 crisis, significant changes in the staff and in our ways of working and advocating for the abolition of the death penalty.

Being an international network, the World Coalition was better equipped than most to face the new normal and to work from a distance. However, what makes the World Coalition so successful is also the friendship and solidarity between member organizations and that has not been easy to maintain with the travel ban and social distancing induced by the pandemic in 2020.

The changes in the small secretarial team, with the recruitment of three new people and the departure of an employee who had been there since 2009, have also accentuated this feeling of isolation.

But these challenges have also been an opportunity to improve and accelerate some reforms, to adopt new internal control procedures, to invest in new technologies and develop a new Website. It has also been a year to reflect on current projects with 3 internal evaluations and prepare for the future.

The worldwide trend towards abolition has continued in 2020 and the World Coalition has been able to adapt to this new environment and continue its activities against the odds.

Aurélie Plaçais
Director



www.worldcoalition.org

World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

Mundo M - 47 Avenue Pasteur - 93100 Montreuil – France

✉ contact@worldcoalition.org ☎ +33 1 80 87 70 43

 www.facebook.com/worldcoalition  @WCADP