



# Mobilization Kit

21<sup>st</sup> World Day Against the Death Penalty

10 October 2023

Torture and the Death Penalty

Since 2003, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty has been organizing local initiatives and global actions that shine a spotlight on the abolition of the death penalty. The goal of this Mobilization Kit is to help local, regional and global actors understand the objectives of the 21<sup>st</sup> World Day Against the Death Penalty and organize activities that will mobilize their communities for abolition.



The World Day Against the Death Penalty (10 October) aims to raise the awareness of political leaders and the general public about the death penalty in both retentionist and abolitionist countries. The meaning of abolition and of justice without capital punishment needs to be maintained and shared, particularly for future generations. This day also unites abolitionist movements and gives global support to the sometimes-isolated action taken by its abolitionists on the ground. It encourages and consolidates the political and general awareness of the movement against the death penalty.

Every year, World Day focuses on a specific issue related to capital punishment, such as poverty (2017) and gender (2021). To keep the momentum we started in 2022, World Day 2023 will continue to explore the link between the use of the death penalty and torture or other cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment.

For more information, go to:

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

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# [1] PRESENTATION

## Main objective of the World Day 2023

While the death penalty is tolerated by international law insofar as it can be imposed only for the most serious crimes and applied in a way that causes the least possible suffering, the prohibition of torture is a peremptory norm of international law, universally accepted by states as a norm from which no derogation is permitted. Last year, we explored the link between torture and the death penalty by shedding light on how several methods of execution, as well as other aspects of capital punishment before, during and after the sentence, may amount to torture or cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment or punishment (CIDTP):

- \* Whether **physical, sexual, or psychological**, torture can be used to obtain **confessions** that are then used to charge individuals and sentence them to death.
- \* While awaiting execution, prisoners on death row face psychological torture, known as the "**death row phenomenon**," due to the long and agonizing wait, isolation, drastically reduced human contact and even the undignified physical conditions of detention.
- \* **Execution** methods - gas asphyxiation and induced hypoxia, stoning, hanging, firing squad, lethal injection, decapitation, all still used - have already been condemned by international and regional jurisprudence as torture and CIDTP.
- \* Family members of victims, family members of those sentenced to death, and other **persons who have relationships with those who are sentenced to death** are also subjected to a form of psychological torture.

**This year, our main objective is to continue the momentum that we started in World Day 2022 by diving even deeper into the link between the use of the death penalty, torture and CIDTP, and reinforcing the global consensus on the understanding of capital punishment as constituting torture before, during and after the death sentence. More broadly, World Day 2023 aims to present a stronger case for the abolition of the death penalty as the most unjust, inhumane and cruel method of punishment.**

## Specific objectives of the World Day 2023

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

- \* **Support abolitionist activities by sharing important tools for advocacy and mobilization**

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

- A **poster** for the World Day Against the Death Penalty;
- A **leaflet** on the World Day's theme with synthetic information and testimonies;
- **Facts and figures** on the use of the death penalty in the world;
- A **detailed factsheet** on torture and the death penalty ;
- **Gender** and the death penalty factsheets ;
- The **2022 World Day Report**;
- A **mobilization kit** for their members.

These tools will be printed both in English and French and will be available online on [www.worldcoalition.org/campagne/21st-world-day-against-the-death-penalty](http://www.worldcoalition.org/campagne/21st-world-day-against-the-death-penalty). Additional tools for professionals, and the sharing of existing tools will be provided as well on the World Coalition website. Furthermore, the World Coalition supports events organized worldwide on 10 October as the very objective of the World Day is to support and stimulate local initiatives and actions in as many countries as possible in the world.

- \* **Share the testimonies of survivors, executed persons and witnesses of inhuman, cruel and degrading experiences amounting to torture in the context of capital punishment.**
- \* **Work with human rights organizations fighting against torture and CIDTP.**

## **[2] ARGUMENTS AGAINST 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 or executed.
- (3)** It is **unfair**. The death penalty is applied discriminatorily and is often used disproportionately against people who are poor, people with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, and members of racial and ethnic minority groups. In some places, the imposition of the death penalty is used to target groups based on sexual orientation, gender identity, political opinion, or religion.
- (4)** It is **inhuman, cruel, and degrading**. Conditions on death row and the anguish of facing execution inflict extreme psychological and physical suffering, and execution is a physical and mental assault.
- (5)** It **denies any possibility of rehabilitation**.  
  
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 nine occasions, the United Nations General Assembly has called for the establishment of a moratorium on the use of the death penalty (resolutions No. 62/149 in 2007, No. 63/168 in 2008, No. 65/206 in 2010, 67/176 in 2012, No. 69/186 in 2014, No. 71/187 in 2016 and No. 73/175 in 2018 and No. 75/183 in 2020 and No. 463 in 2022).
- (7)** It **creates unjustifiable pain for everyone in contact with it**: particularly the relatives of the person sentenced to death, including children, with harsh transgenerational consequences.
- (8)** It is **counterproductive**, because by instituting the killing of a human being as a criminal solution, the death penalty endorses the idea of murder more than it fights it.
- (9)** It is **inefficient and does not keep society safer**. It has never been conclusively shown that the death penalty deters crime more effectively than life imprisonment.
- (10)** **Not all murder victims' families want the death penalty**. A large and growing number of crime 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.

## [3] ORGANIZE EVENTS

Below are suggestions to spark ideas for taking action during this World Day!

**Wherever you are** – in Africa, in the Americas, in Asia, in Oceania or in Europe,

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

**Whatever your project is** – concerts, cultural and educational activities, debates, demonstrations, press conferences!

### 10 things you can do to end the death penalty

\* **Organize a gathering online or in person.** It can take the shape of a **demonstration, an escape game, a webinar, a remote workshop**, or a **conversation** to create awareness (invite a speaker or read testimonies to provoke discussion), a **debate** or a **movie screening** with families of people sentenced to death, exonerees, their lawyers and experts, an **art exhibition** (of artwork made by people sentenced to death, of photographs of death row, of drawings or posters) or a **theater performance**.

See [practical worksheet No. 1](#), [practical worksheet No. 2](#) and [practical worksheet No. 4](#) and [practical worksheet No. 8](#)

\* **Organize a visit in prison** to know more about the conditions of detentions of prisoners, and monitor actions that may amount to torture or CIDTP.

See [practical worksheet No. 10](#)

\* **Build partnerships** with minority group's rights organizations (women, LGBTQIA+, religious minorities, ethnic minorities...) to raise awareness on how discrimination is an aggravating factor of the psychological and physical torture experienced by persons sentenced to death belonging to a minority group. Ask for a meeting, collaborate together for a World Day activity, radio broadcast, event, or joint declaration.

See [practical worksheet No. 3](#)

\* Participate in a **TV or radio show** to raise awareness of the need to abolish the death penalty and the realities of torture on death row.

See [practical worksheet No. 9](#)

\* **Write a letter** to death row inmates or to their families to show support and fight isolation.

\* **Join the events** prepared for the abolition of the death penalty worldwide. Visit the World Coalition page for events near you!

\* Follow the **social media campaign** on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and launch your own using: #nodeathpenalty

See [practical worksheet No. 6](#)



\* **Mobilize the media** to raise awareness on torture experienced by those who are sentenced to death both locally and worldwide. Call for interviews, testimonies from death row detainees, investigations on local cases and raising awareness campaigns.

See practical worksheet No. 8, and practical worksheet No. 9

\* **Build on existing knowledge** on the link between the use of the death penalty, torture and CIDTP by gathering local data on the physical and psychological torture faced by persons sentenced to death. Another potential research question would be the gendered nature of torture and the death penalty.

See practical worksheet No. 10

\* Participate in **Cities Against the Death Penalty/Cities for Life** on 30 November 2023.

## 10 practical worksheets to help you!

### (1) HOW TO ORGANIZE A DEMONSTRATION?

\* First, **find out information** on the legal conditions, the required authorizations for a demonstration, the prerequisite declarations or the delay, and the sanitary requirements.

\* **Define the message** you would like to spread: do you want to point a specific case out or to call on political leaders or public opinion?

\* Put an “**organizing group**” in place to welcome people and answer their questions, share materials, and explain the rules.

\* No matter what event you choose to plan, the most important is to **communicate! Before the event**, contact and invite local media (see worksheet No. 10) and/or create an event on social media to spot as many people as possible. Send an email with all the information (time, date, site, objectives). **During and after the event**, regularly share the information, photos, or short videos on Twitter by using #Nodeath penalty or share live videos on social medias (see worksheet No. 9).

### (2) ORGANIZE AN ESCAPE ROOM GAME: “ESCAPE DEATH”

\* **Identify** the place where you would like to organize it. If escape rooms are a big thing in your city, you may contact some of them for a partnership. Otherwise, you may create your own, for example, in a room at a university, in an exhibition hall, in your own office, or anywhere with sufficient space.

\* **Plan for four rooms or one room divided into four**, as shown in the graph below:

<p><b>Room 2. During interrogation</b></p> <p><u>Setting up:</u> In this second room, have some strong lights and very loud sound (only start it when you open the door to let people enter the room). Set up one chair and one table.</p> <p><u>To get out of the room:</u> People have to find the phone number of a lawyer hidden in the room. Make sure you hide the number before people enter, for example, under the table. To make it more difficult, you may also hide a phone and wait for them to call the right number. Once they have found it, open the 3<sup>rd</sup> door.</p>	<p><b>Room 1. During Arrest</b></p> <p><u>Setting up:</u> In this first room, have the beginning of different stories of people who were tortured to confess a crime displayed on the walls (you may use the testimonies tool for inspiration).</p> <p><u>Starting point:</u> One organizer is taking people in and explaining the concept of “Escape Death”. Then, the organizer puts shackles on one person.</p> <p><u>To get out of the room:</u> People have to find the key to open the shackles. Make sure you hide the key before people enter, for example, behind one of the storyboards. Once they have found it, open the 2<sup>nd</sup> door.</p>
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<p><b>Room 3. At trial</b></p> <p><u>Setting up:</u> In this third room, have a court-like setting (a huge desk or podium on one side, chairs or benches in front of it). Have the end of the same stories as in room 1 displayed on the walls. If you can, you may show a short part of a movie or documentary listed in this mobilization kit.</p> <p><u>To get out of the room:</u> People have to find a pen and a sheet of paper. They will have to take it with them to the last room. Once they find it, open the 4<sup>th</sup> door.</p>	<p><b>Room 4. On death row</b></p> <p><u>Setting up:</u> In this fourth room, have a cell-like setting (or just a mattress on the floor). Hide the address of your organization in the room (possibly in several locations)</p> <p><u>To get out of the room:</u> People have 15 minutes to find the address of your organization, and write a letter to you to help them with their case (using the pen and paper from the previous room and the address in this room).</p> <p><u>End of the game:</u> If they manage to do so in 15 minutes, they win the game.</p>
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\* **If organizing an escape room game seems too difficult**, you may transform this into a role-play activity or a more traditional exhibition.

\* **Communicate before the event**, contact and invite local media for an opening (see worksheet No. 8) and/or create an event on social media with #EscapeDeath to include as many people as possible.

*This idea was suggested by young activists during the Asia Youth Workshop in 2023.*

### (3) COLLABORATE WITH MINORITY GROUP'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

\* **Identify** the organization in your region you want to collaborate with.

\* **Request a short meeting.** Reach out to the organization, and include information about the theme of World Day 2022 and its relevance to their work as a minority group's rights organization.

\* **Invite them to your activity.** Invite a representative from that organization to attend the World Day event you are organizing, share the livestream link, the press release, demonstration information, radio show information, or any other relevant materials.

\* **Invite them to collaborate with your activity.** Ask if they would like to collaborate with your event, by participating in hosting your event be it online, on the radio or an in-person seminar or demonstration. Alternatively, a collaboration could take place by releasing a joint declaration, press release or social media campaign. Encourage communication with their networks about the topic to spread the word, perhaps develop their own working group on the topic and to get them to attend your event.

\* Nurture your good ties with them and **be willing to participate in their events** if you are invited!

### (4) HOW TO ORGANIZE A FILM FESTIVAL ON THE DEATH PENALTY?

\* Plan your event **in advance** at least two months before if it will be held in person. **Holding a film festival in person requires 2 months of preparation.**

\* **Contact cinemas** and other organizations in your country. In a virtual screening, instead, research a videoconference platform that you can use to project a film onto a shared screen.

\* Choose a **theme** for the festival with a catchy title and choose up to **dozen films**. Make sure you have the right to screen them.

\* Make sure to have a **variety of countries and cultures** (European, American, Asian movies), **content and subject matter** (cases of innocence, of forced confessions, the world of prisoners sentenced to death, social pressure faced by victims' families, etc.) **and genre** (blockbusters, art house films, documentaries...). You may find a list of films on the death penalty in this mobilization kit.



\* Arrange **subtitles** if the films do not already exist in your language, if possible. You can find some on the following website: <https://www.opensubtitles.org/fr>.

\* **Organize debates** after the films to encourage discussion with the audience. Invite experts, scholars and directors to interact with the audience and explore their impressions of the film and their opinion on the death penalty.

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

## (5) HOW TO ORGANIZE AN ART EXHIBITION?

\* **Find a place for the exhibition**, for example, a well-known art gallery, museum, garden or square, a public place, a university, a library, an underground station, a shop window, etc. Please note that often these types of places are rarely free to use

\* **More than six months are often required to reserve prestigious places** such as temporary exhibition spaces in museums, **but two or three months should suffice for a public place**. Unusual places are often very interesting, but the procedure can be more complicated. To guarantee your chances of success, **be organized in advance** and get to know the managers of the exhibition area, suggesting they sponsor the project.

\* **Contact the artists** for high-definition 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.

\* For a virtual exhibition, you need to obtain the digital versions of the art you are willing to depict in a definition as good as possible and collect the artists' identifiers for their different social media to be able to credit them and respect copyrights.

\* **Prepare the official opening of the exhibition**, with the artist or a distinguished speaker who can talk about the death penalty (contact the World Coalition if needed).

\* **Invite the media**, your network of activists, engaged artists, academics, students, and those in the artistic scene, etc.

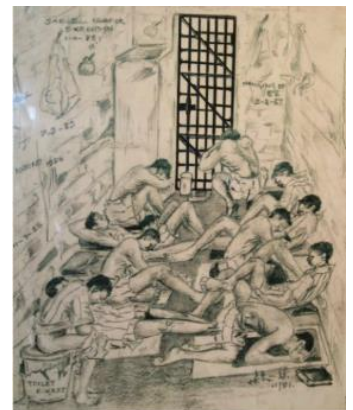
\* Prepare the exhibition and do not forget to prepare **drinks** and a **buffet** if your budget permits.

\* If you have informed the press, **prepare a press kit** with information about the exhibition, the artist and the World Day Against the Death Penalty.

Art exhibits are an out-of-the-norm way to generate public debate about the death penalty, which is why they can be so effective!

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

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



*Our Ugly World, Arthur Angel*

## (6) HOW TO PROMOTE THE WORLD DAY ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

\* Starting from 1 October, **post loads of messages!**

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

- *"What does the death penalty mean to you? Learn from a new perspective and share your story! [www.facebook.com/worldcoalition](http://www.facebook.com/worldcoalition)*

- “Check out the World Day against the Death Penalty. Download posters and tools, share with friends, have your say and more. [www.worldcoalition.org/campagne/20th-world-day-against-the-death-penalty](http://www.worldcoalition.org/campagne/20th-world-day-against-the-death-penalty)”
- “Let's end the death penalty! What are you are doing to combat this inhumane treatment? Join the discussion and the event on Facebook page”

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

- “Spread the word! The World Day Against the Death Penalty is on 10 October 2022 [www.worldcoalition.org/campagne/20th-world-day-against-the-death-penalty](http://www.worldcoalition.org/campagne/20th-world-day-against-the-death-penalty) *#nodeathpenalty*”
- “Let's end the death penalty! Visit [www.worldcoalition.org/campagne/20th-world-day-against-the-death-penalty](http://www.worldcoalition.org/campagne/20th-world-day-against-the-death-penalty) to say *#nodeathpenalty*”
- “What does the *#deathpenalty* mean to you? Learn from a new perspective, share with friends, have your say and more [www.worldcoalition.org/campagne/20th-world-day-against-the-death-penalty](http://www.worldcoalition.org/campagne/20th-world-day-against-the-death-penalty)”

\* **Publish images** on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by taking photographs and making videos!

- Add a small description: a short text, a quote, a figure.
- Use *#nodeathpenalty* and other hashtags linked to the theme of World Day 2022.
- Be aware of the quality of the photograph and of the length of the video. A 2-minute-long video has more chances to be watched and shared.

Always respect the right to the image relative to the legislation of the country where you took the photo or filmed to the video.

\* **Call out political leaders** by mentioning them with the @ to their official account. Always show respect in your message, without insult or violence.

## (7) HOW TO WRITE A PRESS RELEASE?

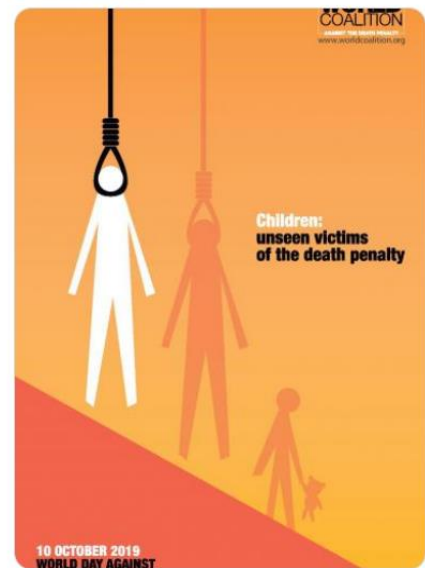
\* Use **letterhead paper** if you have it and include the name of your organization.

\* Put the notice “For immediate release” with the date of the public release.

\* Start with a short but explicit title.

\* **The 1st paragraph is the introduction.** It is the most important paragraph as journalists may not read beyond it. It answers the following questions: Who, What, Where, When and should attract the attention of journalists.

\* The following paragraphs are an explanation of this 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph. They answer the questions why and how and provide the context, stakes, and a brief historical background. Where necessary, give a **quote, facts** and **figures**. It is important to give some materials, like the World Day brochure, to the journalists. They will need a quote for their article, so if you give it to them, they are more likely to use



Tweet from ICJ Kenya for the World Day 2019

your press release. It is also important to give them accurate figures and reliable sources. By doing so, you make their work easier and increase your chances of receiving coverage.

- \* Put your **contact information** at the end of the press release with your first and last name, title, email and phone number.

- \* Include a link in the press release to your organization.

- \* **The statement should not exceed one page.** A long press release could discourage journalists and not be read at all.

- \* For more information, consult the following guide: <https://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Press-Release>

## **(8) HOW TO GUARANTEE GOOD MEDIA COVERAGE FOR YOUR EVENTS?**

- \* **Forge links with local journalists** interested in the subject: throughout the year, follow local media coverage and find the media outlets and journalists who often raise the theme of the death penalty. Also, find out how they discuss it: what news section, what angle, etc.

- \* **Contact them in the summer or September** to tell them about the World Day Against the Death Penalty (so that they put it in their schedules) 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.

- \* To maximize your chances of success, **organize an event with one or two witness accounts.** Journalists like to use personal stories and, if you provide them with the opportunity, they will talk about your event.

- \* **Send out a press release a week before your event** with the exact place, date and time, the title of the event, the names of the participants, a brief description of your event and a paragraph on the World Day.

- \* **Send it again the day before the event** if you have not had confirmation from journalists who might be interested.

- \* Specify that participants will be available for interview at the event.

## **(9) HOW TO LEAD AN AWARENESS CAMPAIGN VIA TV/RADIO SHOW**

- \* **Contact television or radio programs** to introduce your organization and to offer an opportunity to talk about the World Day against the Death Penalty. You can call them for the first contact, but it is advisable to also send an email with information about the theme of the World Day, your organization, the purpose of such a program, etc. Local radio stations may be particularly interested. **Plan this step at least 4 weeks in advance of your intended event.**

- \* **Prepare what you will say in your segment in relation to the abolition of the death penalty.** You can adapt it to your national context to make it more relevant as the more accessible your segment is, the more awareness it will create amongst people listening or watching.

- \* **After participating** in the television or radio program, ask the organizers to give you the program's recorded file. Share the program on your social networks.

## **(10) ENGAGING WITH PEOPLE ON DEATH ROW**

- \* **Acknowledge that engaging in letter-writing or meeting with people on death row is a long-term commitment.** People on death row are often in isolation for extended periods of time and need support and company on a regular and long-term basis.

\* **Contact the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty** and be connected with organizations who work directly with people who are sentenced to death and who can guide you through the process of sending messages of support to people on death row.

\* **Recognize that in some countries, it is not always possible to talk to and meet people** sentenced to death directly, unless you are their lawyer or family member.

\* **Be mindful of ethical considerations**, including the principles of informed consent, anonymity and confidentiality, and make sure to observe them all throughout the process, especially if you want to make public some information given to you privately, for example, on their living conditions on death row and experiences).

\* **Do No Harm principle:** Most people sentenced to death have had a tough life, with multiple trauma, their death sentence and their life in prison have a significant impact on their physical and mental health. You must avoid exposing them to additional risks through your action.

### Ideas for other things you can do

- \* **Donate** to a group working to end the death penalty in your country, region or worldwide.
- \* **Send out**, together with one or more NGOs, an **open letter** to an individual MP, a group of MPs or political parties on introducing private bills to abolish the death penalty
  - o You can check out our **guide** on working with parliamentarians for abolition here: <https://worldcoalition.org/document/how-to-work-with-parliamentarians-for-the-abolition-of-the-death-penalty>.

### 10 Tips for a successful event!

- 1) Plan your action at least a month before the event, more if you need to rent a place, 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 (including bar associations, parliamentarians, opinion leaders)
  - \* To know what is organized in your city [www.worldcoalition.org/campagne/20th-world-day-against-the-death-penalty](http://www.worldcoalition.org/campagne/20th-world-day-against-the-death-penalty)
  - \* To contact members of the World Coalition in your country: <https://worldcoalition.org/who-we-are/member-organizations/>
- 3) **Contact local media** a week in advance and again two days before the event. See Worksheet number 9.
- 4) Use the Internet and social networking tools to **spread the word**.
- 5) **Contact us to promote your event** on our website and on Facebook page.
- 6) A few days before, **advertise it in the streets** (posters, leaflets with title, time and place of your event).
- 7) **Tell everybody**, your friends, your family, even your grandma!
- 8) **Be ready to counter pro-death penalty arguments** (use our “10 reasons to end the death penalty” in the first part of this kit).
- 9) **Be nice** to people, even if they disagree!
- 10) **Take pictures** and write a **short report** (and send it to us).

## [4] WORLD DAY TOOLS YOU CAN USE

For World Day, the World Coalition has produced some materials. They are all available on its website: [www.worldcoalition.org/campagne/21st-world-day-against-the-death-penalty](http://www.worldcoalition.org/campagne/21st-world-day-against-the-death-penalty)

### The World Day's poster

For organizers of events, copies of the poster are available at no cost from the World Coalition Secretariat: [contactus@worldcoalition.org](mailto:contactus@worldcoalition.org)

### Information Leaflet

The 2023 World Day leaflet builds on the information shared last year and further explores the various forms of torture in the context of the death penalty. It provides arguments against the death penalty and testimonies from detainees on death row.

For organizers of events, copies of the poster are available at no cost from the World Coalition Secretariat: [contactus@worldcoalition.org](mailto:contactus@worldcoalition.org)

### Facts and figures on the death penalty

Up-to-date information on the application of the death penalty around the world in 2022 and 2023.

### Detailed factsheet on torture and the death penalty

This detailed factsheet provides a precise overview of the reality of torture in the context of the death penalty. It provides useful definitions, arguments, and a summary of relevant international and regional law.

### Gender and the death penalty factsheets

Starting this World Day, we will be releasing factsheets that present key information, case studies, and testimonies shedding light on the experiences of women and LGBTQIA+ persons on death row.

**Individualized Resource Tools for professionals (lawyers, judges, media, etc) and others are also available on the World Coalition World Day page.**

## [5] ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

### Website on the death penalty

- \* World Coalition Against the Death Penalty's website: [www.worldcoalition.org](http://www.worldcoalition.org)
- \* Worldwide database on the use of the death penalty: [www.deathpenaltyworldwide.org](http://www.deathpenaltyworldwide.org)
- \* Amnesty International, death penalty page: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/death-penalty/>
- \* Fédération internationale des droits de l'Homme, death penalty page : <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: <https://worldcoalition.org/who-we-are/member-organizations/>

## Film Selection

Browse available films on the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty's website by searching "movie", "film" or "video" on the search toolbar: <https://worldcoalition.org/resources/library/>

To view the recommended videos below, please click on the title of the video.

### Non-fiction

- \* *The State of Texas vs. Melissa* (United-States) – 2020 – 1h42  
*Melissa Lucio was the first Hispanic woman sentenced to death in Texas. For ten years she has been awaiting her fate, and she now faces her last appeal.*
- \* *The Resurrection Club* (United-States) – 2016 – 26 minutes  
*This short tells the story of four men who - after spending years of their lives on Death Row for crimes they did not commit - were exonerated. When they were freed, they promised the friends left behind that they would work to end the death penalty. Traveling across America in the 'Witness to Innocence' tour, they try to educate people on the realities of death row.*
- \* *Sweet Destiny* (Iran) – 2021 – 55 minutes  
*An animated film filled with poignant music that takes the audience on a journey through the history of Iran since 1853 and highlights the issues surrounding the death penalty and human rights in the country.*
- \* *Lindy Lou, juror number 2* (United-States) – 2017 – 1h25  
*Documentary about the jurors in a murder trial who handed out the death sentence to the defendant, and how their attitudes have changed 20+ years later.*

### Fiction

- The Life of David Gale* (United-States) – 2003 – 2h10A college professor and anti-capital punishment activist in Texas, Dr. David Gale, is wrongly sentenced to death for the rape and murder of activist Constance Harraway. In his cell, he receives Elizabeth Bloom, a journalist who will do everything possible to prove his innocence. But will she succeed?
- \* *Night train* (China) – 2007 – 1h34  
*A woman employed performing state-sanctioned executions unknowingly becomes romantically involved with the husband of the last woman she executed.*
- \* *Shepherds and Butchers* (South Africa) – 2016 – 1h46  
*A lawyer takes on a case of a prison guard in South Africa who is traumatized by the executions he's witnessed.*



- \* *There is no evil* (Iran) – 2020 – 2h30

*The four stories that comprise There Is No Evil are variations on the crucial themes of moral strength and the death penalty that ask to what extent individual freedom can be expressed under a despotic regime and its seemingly inescapable threats.*

## Videos

- \* *Failed Justice: Innocent on Death Row* (United-States) – 2018 – 3min09

*This video tells the story of one prisoner, Anthony Ray Hinton, who spent 30 years on death row in Alabama for a crime he did not commit.*

- \* *ASEAN's legacy of hope* (Asia) – 2017 – 7min35

*Using dramatic footage from famous cases, told by the priests and lawyers who experienced them, this video portrays the death penalty as a cruel and inhumane practice that persists even though weaknesses in our legal systems may mean that we kill innocent people when there is no evidence that the death penalty is a deterrent.*

- \* *Voices and video from death row- Ghezelhesar mass-executions* (Iran) – 2015 – 6min45

*Between 6. May and 10. June 2015 at least 77 prisoners executed in Ghezelhesar prison outside Tehran. All were charged for drug offences. Testimonies of torture. Last farewell of a prisoner.*

- \* *Women Sentenced To Death FHRI Documentary* (Uganda) – 2021 – 14min28

*The untold stories of women sentenced to death. Learn more about their lives, hopes and dreams, and what FHRI is doing to fight against the death penalty.*

Many other videos are available on the YouTube channel of the World coalition:  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/WorldcoalitionOrg>

## Art exhibitions and Artwork

- \* *Windows on death row* (United-States)

*A Unique and collaborative art exhibit by political cartoonists and death-row inmates designed to expand the conversation on capital punishment in the U.S.*

- \* *« The right to live » exhibition* (Morocco)

*For the World Day against the Death Penalty 2021, the exhibition "The right to live" gathering the works of thirteen Moroccan visual artists took place at the MACMA (Museum of Art and Culture of Marrakech).*

- \* *Songzhuang art exhibition* /// The judges judgment (China)

*The artist wants to express the opinion that the death penalty is the result of a mahjong game, and is not as fair, just and shocking as people think.*

## [6] JOIN US !

### The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, an alliance of more than 160 NGOs, bar associations, local bodies and unions, was created in Rome on 13 May 2002. It was founded as a result of the commitment made by the signatories of the Final Declaration of the 1st World Congress against the Death Penalty, which was organized by the French NGO Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) in Strasbourg in June 2001. The aim of the WCADP is to strengthen the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Its ultimate objective is to obtain the end of death sentences and executions in those countries where the death penalty is in force.



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

### Join the movement for the universal abolition of the death penalty!

In accordance with article 5 of the World Coalition's bylaws, the Coalition welcomes organizations who are sharing the aim of the universal abolition of the death penalty. To join us, you may fill in the application form and send it to the Secretariat of the World Coalition: <https://worldcoalition.org/who-we-are/become-a-member>. Every member of the Coalition must pay an annual subscription fee of 50 to 150 euros according to the resources of the organization.

## [7] CONTACT US !

### Secretariat of the World Coalition:

World Coalition Against the Death Penalty  
Mundo M – 47, avenue Pasteur  
93100 Montreuil,  
France  
[contactus@worldcoalition.org](mailto:contactus@worldcoalition.org)

### World Coalition Member list and contact:

<https://worldcoalition.org/who-we-are/member-organizations/>

### For further information:

<https://worldcoalition.org/>