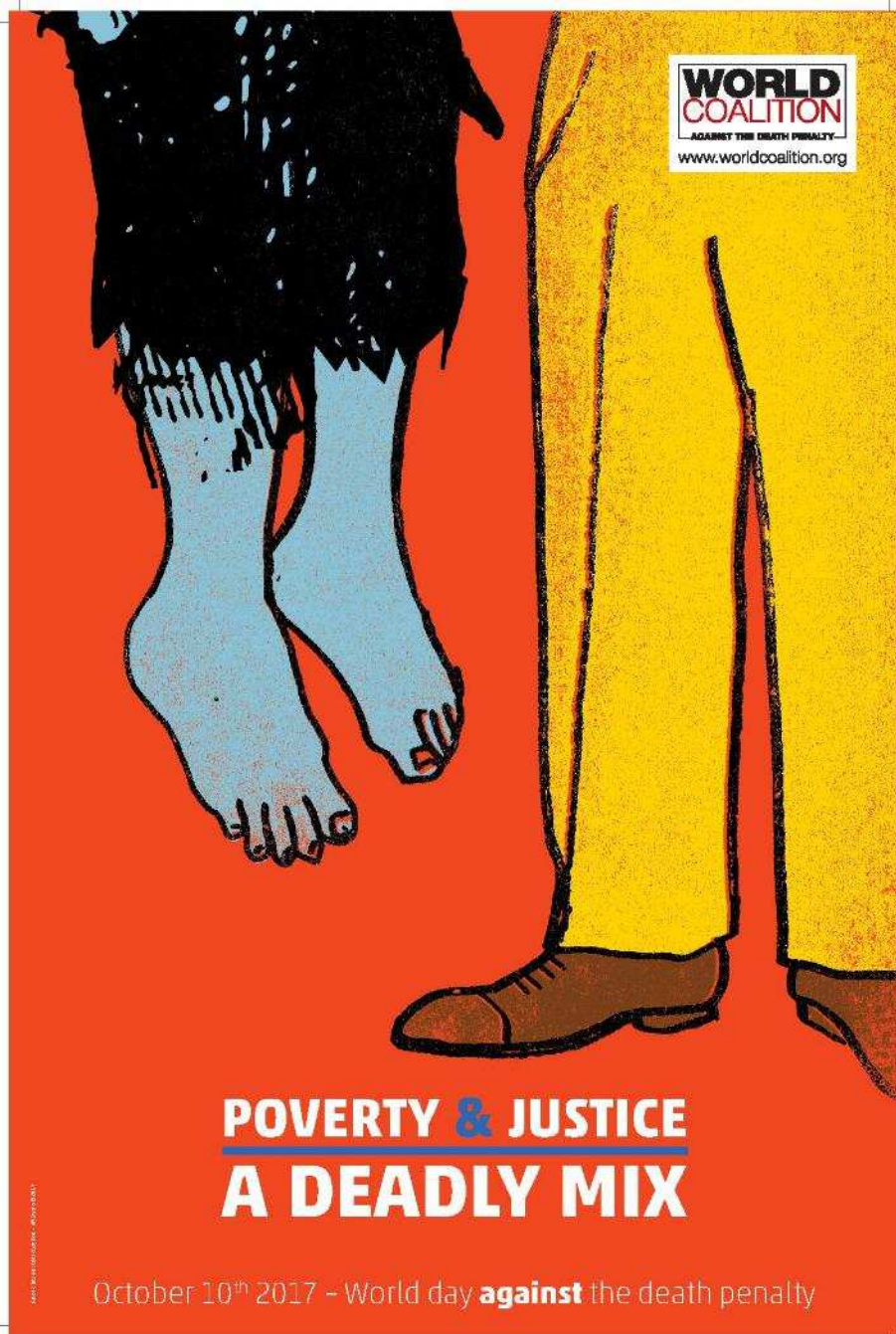




**DEATH PENALTY AND POVERTY**  
15<sup>th</sup> World Day against the Death Penalty

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## MOBILISATION KIT



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For more information:

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

## [1] PRESENTATION

- **The World Day against the Death Penalty: 10 October 2017**

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 abolitionist 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 problematic aspect of the death penalty. Including failures of justice (2006), mental health (2014), terrorism (2016) and poverty for 2017.

- **The Main Objective of the 2017 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 (141) are now abolitionist in law or in practice.

However, an ongoing feature on the application of the death penalty is that it is inextricably linked to poverty. Social and economic inequalities affect access to justice for those who are sentenced to death for several reasons: defendants may lack resources (social and economic, but also political power) to defend themselves and will in some cases be discriminated against because of their social status.



**The main objective of the 2017 World Day is to raise public awareness of the reasons people living in poverty are at greater risk of the death penalty, and to thereby build support for abolition.**

To achieve it, the World Coalition has developed several tools (poster, leaflet, facts and figures, detailed factsheet and mobilization kit) and will coordinate the mobilisation for 10 October all over the world.

- **Secondary objectives for the 2015 World Day**

### **Enrich the knowledge on the socio-economic condition of people sentenced to death all over the world**

One of the observations by the World Coalition while doing research for the 15<sup>th</sup> World Day was the lack of data on the socio-economic status of the people on death row worldwide.

- ▶ In order to fill in this gap, the World Coalition would like to encourage its member organisations to conduct a fact-finding research on death row in their countries by providing them with a methodology which includes recommendations and a step by step guide to conduct a study on the topic.

### **Strengthen advocacy for the abolition of the death penalty by mobilising the argument of socio-economic discrimination**

The research on the socio-economic status of people sentenced to death around the world, as well as the distribution of the tools developed by the World Coalition and its partners for World Day will help to strengthen advocacy for abolition: No one can ignore the often discriminatory aspect of the application of the death penalty. **This data and the stories collected will make it possible to confront the governments of the retentionist countries to a reality that they can't deny.**

- ▶ To this end, the World Coalition developed a model letter to call on governments of retentionist countries on the application of the death penalty, which is often applied to the most economically vulnerable population. Although the World Coalition opposes the death penalty in all circumstances and calls for its complete and final abolition, it calls upon governments to ensure that the socio-economic status of the defendant is taken into account as a mitigating factor during the trial.

### **Contributing to strengthen the defense of the people sentenced to death**

As long as the death penalty continues to exist, people living in poverty are the most likely to be sentenced to death. The effectiveness of the defense that these people will have access to will often determine their fate. Often defense lawyers in retentionist countries work under difficult conditions and face many obstacles, including financial ones. Several members of the World Coalition are lawyers and encouraged the Coalition to support them.

- ▶ To this end, the World Coalition in partnership with the Paris Bar Association developed a new tool to help lawyers to build the defence of people sentenced to death, focusing on their socio-economic status and by providing practical guidance on how to work to defend the people living in poverty who are sentenced to death.

## [2] ARGUMENTS

# 10 reasons to end the use of the death penalty

- 1 No state should have the power to takes 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 does not keep society safe.** It has never been conclusively shown that the death penalty deters crimes more 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 from racial and ethnic minority group. In some places, the imposition of the death penalty is used to target particular groups based on sexual orientation, gender identity, 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.** The death penalty inflicts pain on the families of people on death row and causes great pain to the family members of people who have been executed.
- 7 It is inhuman, cruel and degrading.** Conditions on death row 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 (resolutions 62/149, 63/168, 65/206, 67/176,69/186 and 71/187, adopted in December 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016).
- 9 It is inefficient.** It diverts time and money from other more efficient law enforcement measures.
- 10 It denies any possibility of rehabilitation for the criminal.**

### [3] 15<sup>th</sup> WORLD DAY: POVERTY

On 10 October 2016, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and abolitionists worldwide mark the 15<sup>th</sup> World Day Against the Death Penalty by drawing attention to the death penalty and poverty.

- **Overview of the death penalty and poverty**

In **India**, a study conducted by the National Law University of New Delhi found that 74.15% of those sentenced to death (370) belong to the economically vulnerable population. In the United States, in 2007, according to the Equal Justice Initiative, 95% of people on death row have disadvantaged economic backgrounds.

A study led by Amnesty International and the Legal Defense and Assistance Project (LEDAP-Nigeria) in October 2008 suggests that the overwhelming majority of the death row population in **Nigeria** is also comprised of economically disadvantaged people.

In **Saudi Arabia**, according to Amnesty International, foreign nationals in Saudi Arabia —particularly migrant workers from disadvantaged economic backgrounds from the Middle East, Asia and Africa— are at great disadvantage in their experience of the criminal justice system.

In **Belarus**, according to the Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, individuals with limited financial resources have difficulty keeping their court-appointed lawyer because the lawyer may refuse to participate in hearings if the accused has not paid the lawyer during prison visits.

- **The right to a fair trial and to a legal assistance: issues at the core of the death penalty and poverty.**

The right to a fair trial includes the right to equality before tribunals and courts of justice, the right to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial court, the right to be informed promptly of the charges against the accused, the right to be legally defended and tried without delay, and the right of a convicted person to have his or her verdict re-examined. (Articles 14 and 15, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights).

**Fair trial guarantees must be respected from the time of arrest and throughout the trial and appeals.**

However, the expenses related to access to justice are a major obstacle for people living in poverty, as they simply can't cover the costs. These obstacles are amplified in capital cases, where each stage of the legal process involves an additional cost, such as hiring a competent lawyer to handle legal and evidentiary matters specific to capital proceedings. These accumulated expenses are one of the main reasons people living in poverty have trouble making use of the remedies available to them in the criminal justice system.

In addition, the legal representation for defendants from vulnerable backgrounds is often of lesser efficacy; appointed attorneys are often underpaid, lack adequate means to lead their own investigations, and lack the trial experience required for death penalty cases. The inferior effectiveness of legal representation places defendants living in poverty at a serious disadvantage, thereby increasing their likelihood of being sentenced to death.

## [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. **Organize a public debate or a movie screening** with exonerees, murder victims' families, and experts, to raise awareness on the reality of the death penalty  
**See Practical Worksheet n°1, 3, 4 and 5**
2. **Conduct a fact-finding study on the socio-economic status of the people on death row in your country**  
**See Practical Worksheet n°2**
3. **Organise an art exhibition** (photos, drawings, posters) or a **theatre performance**  
**See Practical Worksheet n°6**
4. **Organise a public demonstration**, a 'sit-in', a 'die-in', a 'flash mob'...  
**See Practical Worksheet n°7**
5. **Join events** prepared for the abolition of the death penalty worldwide  
To know what has been organized, visit: [www.worldcoalition.org/worldday](http://www.worldcoalition.org/worldday)
6. **Call upon your governments** to follow the recommendations for World Day  
**See Material for the World Day in this mobilisation kit**
7. Follow the social media **campaign on Facebook and Twitter: #nodeathpenalty**  
**See Practical Worksheet n°10**
8. **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>
9. **Write to a prisoner on death row** or visit him in prison.
10. **Participate in "Cities Against the Death Penalty/Cities for Life"** on November 30, 2017.

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

**1. How to organise a conference with an expert on the death penalty and the rights of economically vulnerable populations.**

- ▶ 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 interesting 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.

**2. How to conduct a fact-finding study on the socio-economic status of the people on death row in your country**

*This action is mainly for member organizations 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 organizations that wish to do so in the future.*

- ▶ Use the methodology sheet to establish the socio-economic profile of the death row population created by the World Coalition for World Day.
- ▶ Before engaging in this kind of research, evaluate the financial resources and the time that you will need for this study.
- ▶ Identify the number of prisoners sentenced to death in your country, that is to say, the number of people you can potentially interview or otherwise learn about.
- ▶ Establish a list of your country's prisons and search for available information by the authorities.
- ▶ Contact the State authorities to collect existing data: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Home Affairs, prison administrations, state legal services authorities, etc.
- ▶ Ask for court registers that might include the number of people sentenced to death.
- ▶ Contact Bar Associations, Legal Aid Associations in your countries and ask if they have any data on this topic.
- ▶ Visit the death row detainees to conduct the interviews
- ▶ Prepare the interviews with the help of the questionnaire in the methodology factsheet.
- ▶ Interview the people sentenced to death and if possible, their families.
- ▶ Analyse the data.
- ▶ Write a report: it will be useful to make recommendation and call on government representative on the death row population situation in their countries.
- ▶ To go further:
  - You can also send a letter to your representatives asking them to consider the economic status of the defendant as a mitigating factor in death penalty judgements, following the World Coalition's model letter.
  - You can use the practical sheet for defence lawyers providing legal representation to the economically vulnerable people sentenced to death to bring them an effective defence at low cost



### **3. 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 and 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.

### **4. 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.*

## 5. 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.*

## 6. How to Organise an Art Exhibition, such as “Poster for Tomorrow”

- ▶ 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 World Coalition for electronic copies of the posters.
  - ▶ Print the posters 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 an 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 Poster for Tomorrow competition 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](http://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?

*Photo : « Adieu ! », Poster 4 Tomorrow, Jochen Schievink, Germany*

## 7. How to Organise a Flash Mob

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

*Photo: Flash Mob in Paris, October 10, 2010*



- ▶ A month in advance find a rousing piece of music and choreography which is easy to follow while still retaining meaning. If needed, ask for help from a choreographer.
- ▶ Work on the choreography with a small group to see if it works. It should last between 2 to 5 minutes.
- ▶ Find a busy place where the Flash Mob will take place. If need be, make an official request to use it.
- ▶ When the choreography is working well, ideally two weeks in advance, film yourselves and put a tutorial online for people to start practising at home.
- ▶ Start to publicise the event, using social media such as Facebook and Twitter but also through the usual channels (emails, newsletters, etc.)
- ▶ Before the official Flash Mob, plan two meetings with a sufficiently large group to be able to initiate the movement on the day.
- ▶ Choose the date, if possible depending on the weather (it always works better if the sun is shining).
- ▶ Announce the exact time and place only a few days beforehand to maintain suspense (particularly if you do not have official authorisation).
- ▶ You can also choose a dress code.
- ▶ Plan access to electricity or a generator and speakers so that the music is loud enough.
- ▶ Scrupulously respect the time and place of the meeting.
- ▶ Film the Flash Mob and put the video online quickly (if possible the same day) to create buzz on the internet.
- ▶ At the end, if you want, explain why you have organised the event and be ready to answer questions from journalists.

## 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](http://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](http://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 10/10/2017!  
[worldcoalition.org/worldday](http://worldcoalition.org/worldday) #deathpenaltyday
  - Let's End the **#deathpenalty** visit [worldcoalition.org/worldday](http://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](http://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](http://www.worldcoalition.org/worldday)
  - To contact members of the World Coalition in your country: [www.worldcoalition.org/Member-organizations](http://www.worldcoalition.org/Member-organizations)
3. **Contact local media** a week in advance and again two days before the event
  - **See Practical Worksheet n°9**
4. Use the **Internet** and social networking tools to spread the word
5. **Contact us** to promote your event on our website and on Facebook page
6. A few days before, **advertise it in the streets** (posters, leaflets with title, time and place of your event)
7. **Tell everybody**, your friends, your family, even your grandma!
8. Be ready to **counter pro death penalty arguments** (use our “10 reasons to end the death penalty” in the first part of this kit)
9. **Be nice** to people, even if they disagree!
10. **Take pictures** and write a short report (and send it to us)

## [5] WORLD DAY: TOOLS

- **Material for the 15<sup>th</sup> World Day**

For World Day, the World Coalition has produced some materials; they are all available on its website:

[www.worldcoalition.org/worldday](http://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](mailto:contact@worldcoalition.org)).

### **Information Leaflet**

The leaflet of the 2017 World Day provides information on the death penalty for terrorism. 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](mailto:contact@worldcoalition.org)).

### **Facts and figures on the death penalty**

Up-to-date information on the application of death penalty around the world in 2016 and 2017

### **Detailed Factsheet on the death penalty and poverty**

The detailed fact sheet provides a comprehensive overview of the death penalty and poverty. It provides useful definitions, arguments, and a summary of the development of international and domestic law.

### **Resources for lawyers**

Resources to provide lawyers with legal arguments and strategic guidance in their representation of economically vulnerable defendants at risk of being sentenced to the death penalty around the world to help them build a strong defence at low cost.

### **Fact-finding methodology sheet to conduct a study on the socioeconomic status of the people on death row**

This fact-finding methodology sheet will allow you to conduct a study on the situation of the people on death row in your country. It will help you preparing the questionnaire, conducting the research and in processing the data.

### **Model letter for retentionist countries**

With this letter, you will be able to call upon the government officials of retentionists countries to request that the socio-economic situation of the defendants facing the death penalty is taken into account as a mitigating factor

## [6] ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

### • Websites on the death penalty

- World Coalition Against the Death Penalty [www.worldcoalition.org](http://www.worldcoalition.org)
- Death Penalty Worldwide Database: [www.deathpenaltyworldwide.org](http://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](http://www.worldcoalition.org/Member-organizations).

### • Filmography

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

#### Documentary films

- “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](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=wkbl4EcOs9U>

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

- **“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**

- **« From death row »**

An exhibition of the artwork of Myuran Sukumaran, an Australian man was on death row in Indonesia and facing executed, was hold at Amnesty International's London headquarters, in Shoreditch in April.

<http://www.amnesty.org.uk/paintings-indonesias-death-row-exhibition-myuran-sukumaran>

- **“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](http://www.whodecidesinc.org/?page_id=672)

- **« Poster for Tomorrow »**

Poster for Tomorrow is an independent, non-profit international project whose goal is to encourage people, both in and outside the design community, to make posters to stimulate debate on issues that affect us all.

2010 was dedicated to « Death in not justice » for the abolition of the death penalty worldwide.

<http://www.posterfortomorrow.org/en/projects/death-is-not-justice>

- **“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.

<http://www.lastmealsproject.com/pages.html>

- **“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](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 140 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](http://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

- **Secretariat**

### **World Coalition Against the Death Penalty**

69 rue Michelet

93100 Montreuil, France

[contact@worldcoalition.org](mailto:contact@worldcoalition.org)

- **List and contact details of the members of the World Coalition:**

[www.worldcoalition.org/Member-organizations](http://www.worldcoalition.org/Member-organizations)

For more information:

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