



Commissione Europea

Rome, 2 July 2015

Dear Mayor,

Last December 18<sup>th</sup> at the UN General Assembly 117 Countries voted in favor of the resolution "moratorium on the use of death penalty".

The Community of Sant'Egidio has been committed for a long time in this field, has organized two relevant public initiatives in Japan and in the Philippines, and has strengthened youth educational activities and support to inmates in the death rows, in many Countries of the world. The organization of the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Day "Cities for Life / Cities against the Death Penalty" is in full activity and it will be held also this year on 30<sup>th</sup> November, in memory of the first abolition of the capital punishment by the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1786.

The initiative aims at stressing the role that Municipalities can play in the abolitionist process through the organization and dissemination of educational and cultural initiatives that focus attention on this crucial issue, connected - unfortunately - to the phenomenon of violence, widespread in many urban contexts.

We wish to involve your Administration in the framework of these initiatives, supported jointly by the Community of Sant'Egidio and the European Commission, to persevere in the joint effort for the respect for life and human dignity, and to raise awareness on the urgent need of abolishing the inhuman practice of death penalty from the juridical and penal context in US.

Please find attached the documentation concerning how to adhere.

Looking forward to your response, I express my feelings of appreciation.

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Presidente della Comunità di Sant'Egidio

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## ATTACHMENT 1

### World Day “*Cities for Life*”

#### Cities for Life - Cities against death penalty



2002. Now more than 1950 cities have rallied around the initiative - including 75 capitals in



In 2002, the Community of Sant'Egidio launched the first International Day **Cities for Life - Cities against the Death Penalty** on 30<sup>th</sup> November. The date was chosen in memory of the first time the death penalty was abolished, in the Grand Duchy of Tuscany on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1786. Approximately 80 cities were involved for the first edition in five continents, taking part in the event by raising public awareness, promoting educational initiatives and organising events held in symbolic monuments and squares. The International Day **Cities for Life - Cities against the Death Penalty**, is the largest international mobilization of the abolitionist movement. Its objective is to establish a dialogue within the civil society on the topic and involve local administrators, aiming at abolishing the death penalty and making the rejection of violence the true identity of a city and its citizens.

The Colosseum in Rome, when illuminated by a special light, has become the universal place and symbol of the abolitionist efforts. The Colosseum is lit up whenever an important milestone on the road to abolition and lasting moratorium is reached in the world.

To invite your city to take part in this network of Cities Against the Death Penalty, please contact the Coordination Office ([abolition@santegidio.org](mailto:abolition@santegidio.org)).

Through this channel a number of materials are made available upon request (like videos, significant international witness statements and invitations), as well as information on the many initiatives held worldwide.



## ATTACHMENT 2

### How to join the Global Campaign “Cities for Life – Cities against the Death Penalty”

*Designate a person or an office as the contact for the Community of Sant’Egidio and the other NGOs that have moine the WCADP and promote initiatives in your city, then select one or more of the initiatives listed below*

1. GIVE CONSENT TO ADVERTISE YOUR CITY AS A MEMBER OF THE CITIES FOR LIFE – CITIES AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY (THROUGH THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR THE MAYOR), WITHOUT ANY BURDEN, IF NOT A MORAL OBLIGATION TO AGREE WITH THE CONTENTS AND INTENTION OF THE CAMPAIGN.
2. DESIGNATE A SPECIAL MONUMENT, IDENTIFIABLE AS THE LIVING LOGO OF THE CAMPAIGN AND DEFINE A SPECIAL WAY TO LIGHT IT UP ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER AND IN THE PREVIOUS DAYS EVERY YEAR (EVEN PROJECTING ON IT SPECIAL SYMBOLS AND MESSAGES IN FAVOUR OF LIFE AND FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY)
3. EVERY CITY IS INVITED TO PROMOTE PUBLIC CULTURAL EVENTS (CONFERENCES, CONCERTS, VIDEOS, ETC) IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMUNITY OF SANT’EGIDIO AND THE CAMPAIGN PARTNER ASSOCIATIONS.

### FURTHERMORE

- Every city has the authority to declare November 30 as “Day for life/against the death penalty”, and can place the phrase “City for Life/City against the Death Penalty” beneath the name of the city or its symbols and on its website and on any statement or stationery or means it may choose (a communication of the decision is to be shared with the promoters of the Campaign).
- Every city can link the home page of its website (or its Facebook page) by means of a link to the international network which is connected to the online platform [nodeathpenalty.santegidio.org](http://nodeathpenalty.santegidio.org) and register the city in the online list and interactive map, with photos, videos and other information concerning the Campaign initiatives. It is also appropriate that every city that joins this campaign should endeavour to advertise its support of the campaign in the local press.



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## CITIES FOR LIFE/CITIES AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

### THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF .....

being fully convinced that every community, through the voice of its representatives, can operate as a subject capable of improving the respect for human life and dignity all over the world;

worried for the retention of the inhuman practice of the capital punishment in many countries of the world;

upon the proposal of the Community of Sant'Egidio, founder of the network of municipalities "Cities for Life / Cities against the Death Penalty", united in Europe and in the world by a common desire to accelerate the end of capital punishment in the juridical and crime codes of countries around the world;

### DELIBERATES

the membership of the City of ..... in the initiative "Cities for life/Cities against the Death Penalty" of the Community of Sant'Egidio and it declares 30<sup>th</sup> November the Day of "Cities for life/Cities against the Death Penalty" for the City.

The Municipal Administration commits itself to make this membership a reason for an increased sense of responsibility, ensuring, in all areas of its competency, that adequate space be given to information and awareness concerning the reasons for rejection of the practice of capital punishment and the progress of the abolitionist campaign in the world.

The Municipal Administration will ensure widespread information be given concerning its membership.



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## CITIES FOR LIFE/CITIES AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

MAYOR MEMBERSHIP FORM

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*[TITLE] [NAME] [SURNAME]*

**MAYOR OF THE CITY OF**

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*[NAME OF THE CITY IN ITS ORIGINAL LANGUAGE]*

upon the proposal of the Community of Sant'Egidio, founder of the network of municipalities "Cities for Life / Cities against the Death Penalty", united in Europe and in the world by a common desire to accelerate the end of capital punishment in the juridical and crime codes of countries around the world;

### **ADHERES**

to the initiative "Cities for life/Cities against the Death Penalty" of the Community of Sant'Egidio and he/she commits him/herself to make this membership a reason for an increased sense of responsibility, ensuring, in all areas of his/her competency, that adequate space be given to information and awareness concerning the reasons for rejection of the practice of capital punishment and the progress of the abolitionist campaign in the world.

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*[SIGNATURE]*

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*[DATE]*