



Cities for Life - Cities against death penalty

30 November 2016



In 2002, the Community of Sant'Egidio launched the first International Day **Cities for Life - Cities against the Death Penalty** on 30th November. The date was chosen in memory of the first time the death penalty was abolished, in the Grand Duchy of Tuscany on 30th November 1786. Approximately 80 cities were involved for the first edition in 2002.

Now more than 2000 cities have rallied around the initiative - including 80 capitals 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 them using the model letter and the documents attached and get in touch with the Coordination Office of the Community of Saint Egidio (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 1: Model Letter

, 2016

Dear Mayor,

We shall held again on the next November the 30th the International Day: “**Cities for life/ Cities against the death penalty**”. It is the memory of the day in which the capital punishment was abolished for the first time in the Grand Duchy of Tuscany in 1786. The initiative is now at his 15th edition and this time it will be in the days when the UN General assembly vote for a universal Moratorium of executions. 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, which is widespread in many urban contexts.

This initiative responds also to the appeal of Pope Francis during the 9th International Meeting of the Ministries of Justice “For a World without the Death Penalty”.

[Paragraph about your organization]

We wish to involve once again your Administration in the framework of these initiatives, to persevere in the joint effort to respect 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 nations.

Please find attached the documentation concerning how to adhere.
Looking forward to your response, I express my feelings of appreciation.



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 30TH 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 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 30th 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

[TITLE] [NAME] [SURNAME]

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF

[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.

[SIGNATURE]

[DATE]