

**10.10
2021**

**WORLD DAY AGAINST
THE DEATH PENALTY**

2021 WORLD DAY REPORT

WOMEN

**SENTENCED TO DEATH:
AN INVISIBLE REALITY**

www.worldcoalition.org

Why have a World Day Against the Death Penalty dedicated to women who are facing the death penalty, who have been sentenced to death, who have been executed, as well as those who have been pardoned or found innocent?

The aim of the **World Coalition Against the Death Penalty** ('World Coalition') is to reinforce the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Its ultimate objective is to achieve universal abolition of the death penalty. In countries where the death penalty is still applied, the World Coalition is working to reduce its use, specifically by invoking the respect for international standards. Since the creation of the World Coalition in 2002, significant progress towards the universal abolition of the death penalty has been achieved. Numerous states that had maintained the death penalty have abolished it in practice or have restricted its use.

On 10 October 2021, the World Coalition and abolitionists around the world celebrated the **19th World Day Against the Death Penalty** ('World Day'). Every year on World Day, the World Coalition highlights one problematic aspect of the Death Penalty. In 2021, the World Day explored the theme **"Women and the death penalty, an invisible reality"** to:

- 1)** Draw attention to the gender-based discrimination and intersectional discrimination that confront women facing the death penalty during in the lead-up to the offense, investigation, trial, sentencing and appeal phases. Extensive discrimination based on sex and gender, often coupled with other elements of identity, such as age, sexual orientation, disability, and race expose women to intersecting forms of structural inequalities. Such prejudices can weigh heavily on sentencing, including when women are stereotyped as an evil mother, a witch, or a femme fatale. This discrimination can also lead to critical mitigating factors not being considered during arrest and trial, such as being subjected to gender-based violence and abuse;
- 2)** Highlight the gaps in the information available on the number and status of women who have been sentenced to death, executed, had their death sentences commuted or pardoned;
- 3)** Recall that women on death row face unique challenges due to their specific needs, such as lack of gender-sensitive medical care and hygiene products, and threats of gender-based violence. This 19th World Day on Women and the death penalty is the opportunity to show how gender creates particularly precarious conditions for women sentenced to capital punishment.

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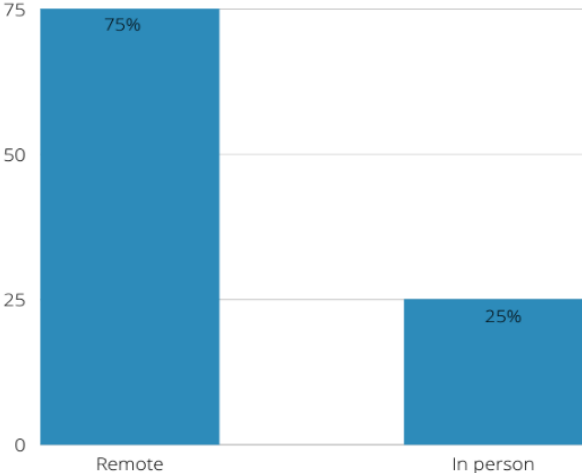
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I. The impact of COVID-19 on the 19th World Day Against the Death Penalty

World Day 2021 REMOTE AND IN PERSON EVENTS

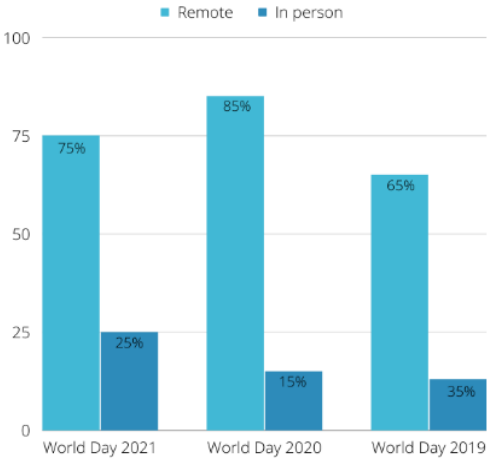
1. Remote Events Statistics versus In-person Events

In 2021, despite the serious challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, various events commemorating World Day Against the Death Penalty were held around the globe. World Day 2021 recorded a total of **741** events, a significant increase compared to the **574** events listed for World Day 2020. The increased participation demonstrates that organizations and institutions have adjusted to the present pandemic and have continued to raise-awareness for World Day.



Graph 1

REMOTE AND IN PERSON EVENTS COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS WORLD DAYS



Graph 2

On the 19th World Day, there were more in-person events than the previous year, as shown in graph number 2. While the number of in-person events has not returned to pre-pandemic levels, there is an indication that organizations are cautiously resuming in-person activities while still adhering to COVID-19 public health and security rules, which shows an overall improvement.

2. Examples of Significantly Modified Events due to the COVID-19 pandemic

While the World Day celebrated in 2021 was not as limited as the World Day celebrated in 2020, there were still some restrictions in place. Certain organizations adapted to the challenge, but significantly less than those reported in 2020.

The **Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI)** affirmed that their actions were somewhat impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As they highlighted in their polled response to World Day activities, *“Most of the activities that were to be implemented by a group of people were limited to 1 or 2 people, accessing prisons was limited too.”*

The **Collective of Youth Solidarity Organisations in Congo-Kinshasa DRC (COJESKI-RDC)** stated in the same poll that *“Out of respect for social distancing for the prevention against COVID-19, we were forced to limit the number of participants in [our] workshop to 35 people.”*

The Italian Federation for Human Rights (FIDU) also admitted organizing online activities because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

II. Main objective: Raising Awareness of the Discrimination Against Women and the Consequences that this Discrimination can have on the Pronouncement of the Death Penalty

1. Institutional Resonance of the 2021 World Day

The main objective of World Day 2021 was to raise awareness on how the treatment of gender and gender-based inequalities create particularly precarious conditions for women sentenced to capital punishment. Several intergovernmental and international organizations publicly expressed, in several languages, their opposition to the death penalty on World Day, contributing to an international resonance. The awareness-raising and information spreading activities conducted before World Day 2021 by the World Coalition towards institutional representatives bore result.

Every year, new steps are taken towards the abolition of the death penalty worldwide. On October 8, **Sierra Leone** formally abolished the death penalty. During a ceremony in the capital Freetown, the President of Sierra Leone Julius Bio declared that the West African country had “exorcised horrors of a cruel past” after a long campaign to end capital punishment. On the World Day Against the Death Penalty, the Working Group on the Death Penalty and Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions in Africa of the **African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)** issued a statement¹ on the theme of the World Day and the situation of the death penalty in States Parties to the ACHPR.

“The choice of this theme (for the World Day) is as much about condemning the perpetration of the death penalty as it is about placing special emphasis on the death penalty for women, when the century we are entering will necessarily have to consider the specificities of gender. (...) The Working Group has always condemned such a practice and called on States to establish a moratorium in the short term and to abolish the death penalty in the long term.”

Ahead of the European Day Against the Death Penalty also on 10 October, the **Secretary General of the Council of Europe**, **Marija Pejčinović Burić**, and the **European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**, **Josep Borrell**, issued a joint declaration reaffirming the two organisations’ firm opposition to capital punishment in all circumstances. This statement is translated into five languages.

The national government of many abolitionist countries such as Italy, Canada, Slovenia, Australia, Yemen and many more released publications expressing their commitment to the abolitionist cause on World Day 2021. For instance, the **Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs** issued a statement by **Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sophie Wilmès** in which she reaffirms Belgium's commitment to the universal abolition of the death penalty. The **German Foreign Minister Maas** also published a statement calling for the abolition and announcing the next **World Congress to be held in Berlin in 2022**.

¹ https://www.achpr.org/fr_pressrelease/detail?id=605

The institutional resonance of World Day goes even beyond the 10 October in 2021.

On 4 May 2022, in a press statement dedicated on the suspension of the application of the death penalty to Melissa Lucio in the United States, the **Inter-American Commission on human Rights (IACHR)** issued a graph, inspired by the World Day poster on women and the death penalty.

United States

The IACHR will continue to analyze **Melissa Lucio's** situation, and the alleged violations, under the Petition and Case System. And calls on the State to eliminate the death penalty, or to impose a moratorium on executions.

IACHR Inter-American
Commission
on human rights



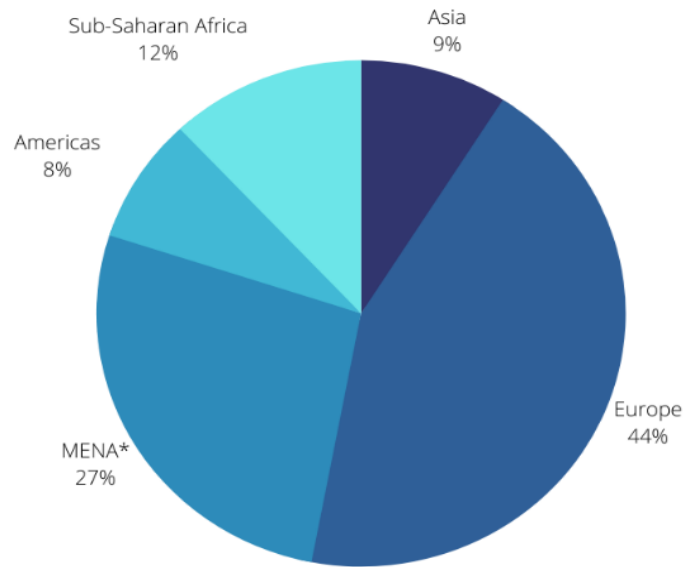
2. Awareness-Raising Work Undertaken by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

- The World Coalition used Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to carry out a **ten-day social media campaign**, which featured statistics and facts about abolitionist progress, as well as testimonies from women on death row.
- The World Coalition released a **Joint Declaration** on the Death Penalty and Women's Rights which was signed by 62 organizations in total, including **3** women's rights organizations.
- The World Coalition distributed their **Mobilization Kit** and **World Day 2021 tools** for the 19th World Day to member organizations, abolitionist partners and women's rights organizations.
- In collaboration with students at Monash University and the Abdorrahman Boroumand Center, the World Coalition published **annual videos for World Day**. The video is available with subtitles in 10 different languages, including: English, Arabic, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Hindi, Russian, Turkish, Japanese and French.
- The World Coalition dedicated its newsletter in July 2021 to calling for action on World Day and spreading awareness amongst its networks.
- The World Coalition launched an information-sharing campaign on WhatsApp amongst African member-organizations.
- The World Coalition participated in the Abolition Village, organized by ECPM (Together Against the Death Penalty), in Paris, France on Saturday 9 October to attract public attention to the World Day.

3. Media Coverage of the 2021 WD

The 19th World Day Against the Death Penalty received significant media attention as compared to the year before. The World Day was mentioned in **882 articles** in **82 countries** throughout the world. In comparison, in 2020, there were 806 articles mentioning World Day in 82 nations. Despite the ongoing pandemic, these figures suggest that media outlets are still fairly interested in World Day, at least more so than they were in 2020.

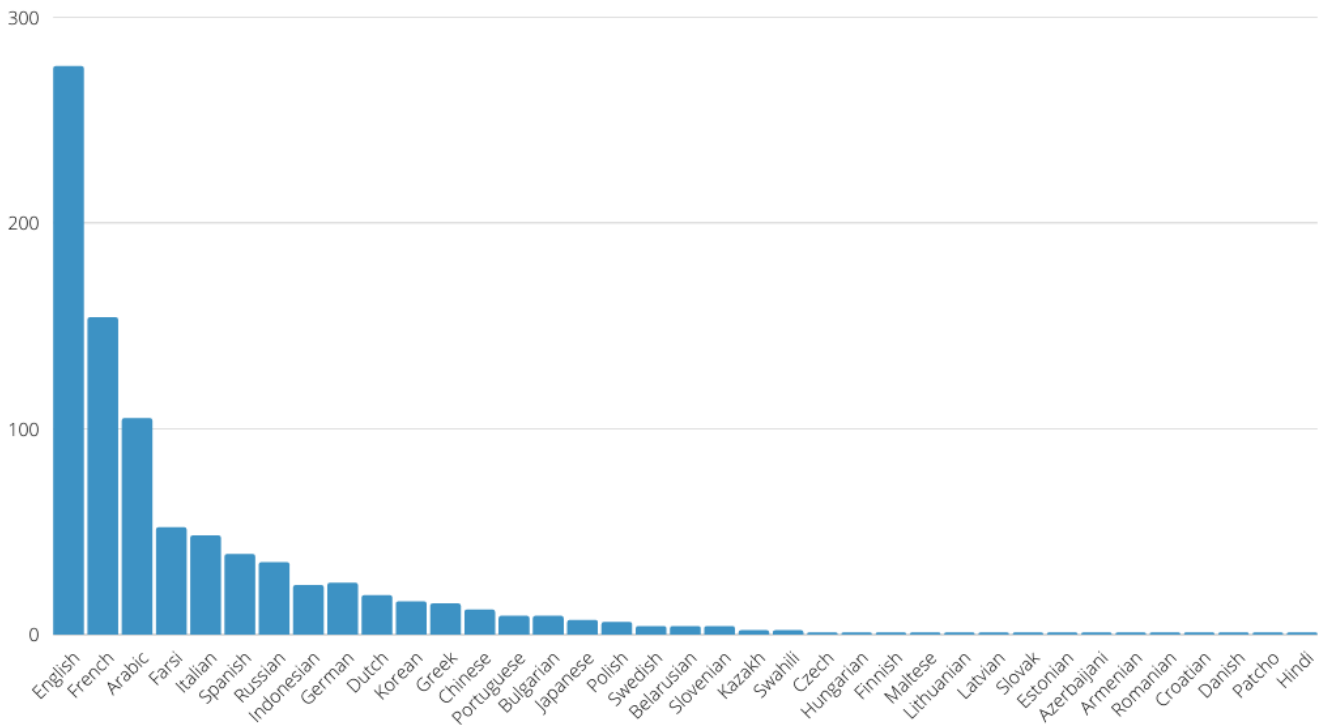
2021 WORLD DAY MEDIA COVERAGE BY REGION



Graph 3

Media covering the 19th World Day came in various forms and languages. In total, World Day was covered in **37** languages. As compared to last year, there more linguistic coverage of World Day. With **276** documented articles, the primary language of most articles collected was in English. These articles were published in upwards of **45** countries, from all 5 regions documented in previous World Coalition reports. Following English was **154** articles in French, and **105** articles in Arabic. Some articles were released in multiple languages such as the press release of the Council of the European Union which was available in **24** languages.

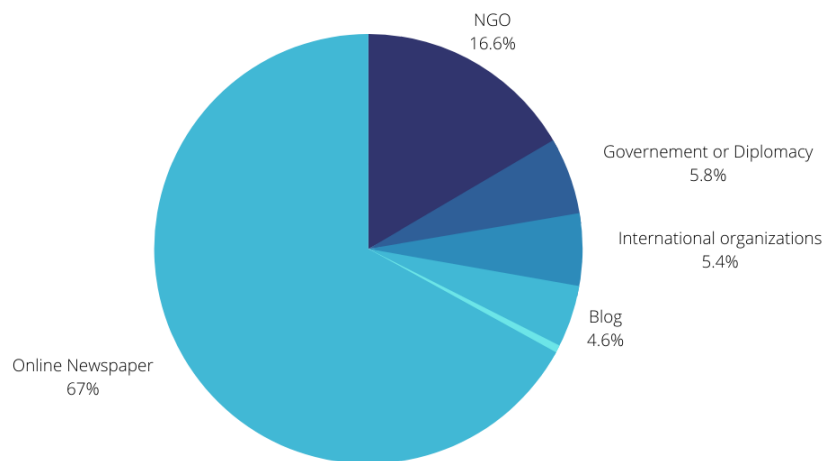
WORLD DAY ARTICLES LANGUAGES



Graph 4

As well as a broad scope of different languages covering World Day, the types of media trends were also quite diverse. This year, there was a strong trend of online newspaper outlets publishing about the day, events occurring, opinion pieces or statements by local groups. Indeed, **67%** of the articles documented were from online newspaper, **591** articles. The next most popular publications were articles and statements made by NGOs, including many member organizations such as **Amnesty International, FIDH, ECPM, Witness to Innocence** and many more. There were **146** publications of this nature showing solidarity for the World Day as well as promoting events or publications they had organized.

TYPES OF MEDIA COVERING WORLD DAY 2021



Graph 5

To account, however, for potential data bias, the majority of the World Day media research was done at a desk in one country. As such, this made accessing traditional newspapers printed in countries around the world limited, particularly when the traditional print newspapers do not have an online counterpart. Traditional newspapers had to be physically accounted for by member-organizations and partners who flagged the World Coalition's Secretariat of their existence. As such, the number of print newspapers that contained articles covering World Day may be higher than what has been reported.

4. Social Media Coverage of the 2021 World Day

The World Coalition's Secretariat attempted to track global and individual World Day-related reactions on social media for the third year in a row in 2021, mostly on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. The World Coalition organized a ten-day campaign that started on 1st October ended on 10th October. Every day, posts were published across all World Coalition channels with statistics and facts about women and the death sentence, as well as abolitionist progress.

Throughout the month of October, the World Coalition's **Facebook** page gained **18** news subscribers. The page recorded **418** people who engaged with the page at this period.

On **Instagram**, the World Coalition recorded **2,394** impressions² in total, with **241** interactions³ with the World Coalition's publications. The World Coalition was also able to record **240** touched accounts⁴, among them, **148** were followers of the Coalition's Instagram account and **92** were not.

Most social interaction was focused on Twitter. **19.4K** impressions were recorded on the World Coalition's Twitter page in the lead up to 10th October. This is a slightly less than last year (**20.7K** for World Day 2020) but still very significant. In 2021, the top tweet earned **4,842** impressions and recorded **118** engagements (please see Image 2 that shows the top tweet for 2021). In comparison, the top tweet for last year's World Day made a total of **3,424** impressions with **106** engagements.

The **Council of Europe** carried out a [social media campaign for World Day](#) with videos about the abolition of the death penalty in Europe and declarations of Member States' Permanent Representatives to the Council of Europe.

Students at **Monash University**, in collaboration with the World Coalition against the Death Penalty and the Abdorrahman Boroumand Center, published their [annual video for World Day in 10 different languages](#)⁵. The video presented case studies and narratives of women sentenced to death, and the sex-based and gender-based discrimination of which they are victims.

This year's World Day was celebrated on YouTube with the publication of at least **30 videos**. The YouTube videos included news clips, documentaries, statements, and interviews that focused on the theme of the World Day and more general abolition sentiment in general.

III. Supporting Advocacy in Favor of Abolition by Creating and Sharing Mobilization Tools

1. Creating and Sharing Tools for the World Day

To foster the widest participation possible to the World Day and to strengthen abolitionist civil society, especially in countries still implementing the death penalty, the World Coalition put together information and mobilization tools packs. They were made available to members, the media, and anyone who wanted to take part in World Day, to raise awareness and mobilize people on a local level in as many countries as possible. All tools were made available in French and in English.

- **Poster** (available in English, Tagalog, Luganda, Lingala, English, Arabic, German, Chinese, Spanish, Farsi, French, Italian, Japanese, Swahili, Russian, Houssa, and Zarma.)

² The number of times your content, whether a post or a story, was shown to users.

³ The number of times your post has been liked, saved or commented on.

⁴ The number of unique accounts that have seen one of your posts or Stories at least once

⁵ English, Arabic, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Hindi, Russian, Turkish, Japanese and French.

- **Informational leaflet** (available in French, English and Arabic)
- **Detailed factsheets on the significant patterns of arbitrariness and discrimination in the application of the death penalty to women.**
- **Facts and figures 2021**
- **Mobilization kit**
- **Testimonies Tool**
- **How-To work with Parliamentarians**
- **How-To work with the UN**
- **Transgender rights primer**
- **WD 2020 report**

2. Tool Distribution for World Day

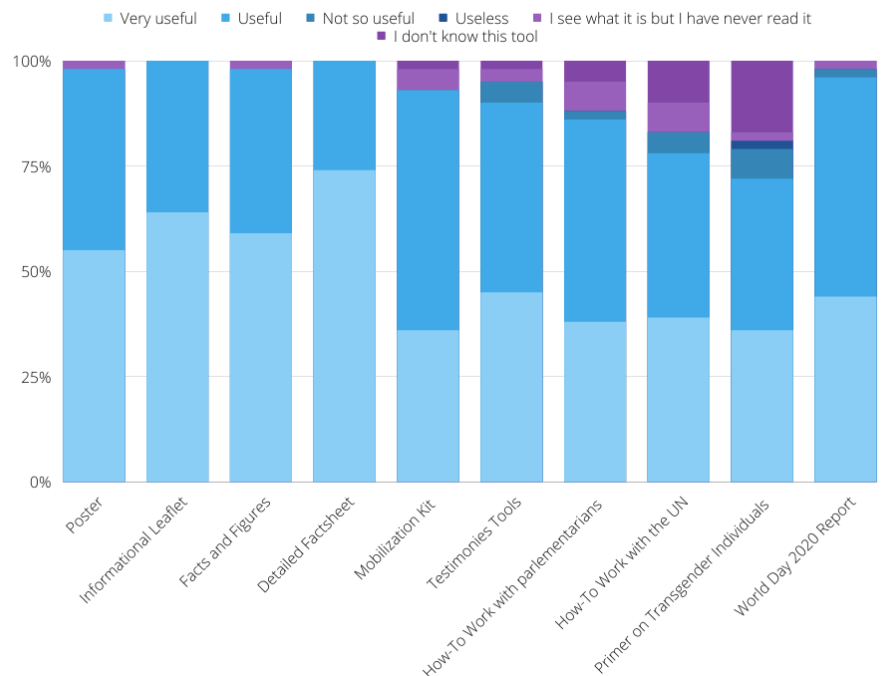
In total, between July and September 2021, **814** recipients around the world received packages of materials; overall **3 557** posters and **5 866** leaflets were distributed. In comparison, in 2020, **2 635** poster and **5 126** leaflets were distributed. Tools were distributed to many member and non-member organizations around the world, including **87** women’s rights organizations to extend the fight for abolition to organizations that act in conjunction with this year’s theme. **4,120** tools were sent Europe, **939** in the middle east and north African region, **1,770** in Americas, **1,281** in Asia, **4,293** in Africa and **299** in Oceania.

The tool packs were available upon request and could be downloaded from the World Coalition’s website.

In total, **12,965 web pages** of the World Coalition’s website were viewed by **7,355 users** between the 1st and 10th October. On 10 October 2021, **2,524 pages** were consulted and there were **1,486 visitors** to the Coalition’s website.

A survey was sent out to the World Coalition membership asking for detailed feedback on the World Day. According to the survey, the **top 5 most appreciated tools and documents** recorded from the responses were the detailed factsheet, the informational leaflet, the poster, the facts and figures document and the World Day report 2020.

GENERAL APPRECIATION OF THE DOCUMENTS AND TOOLS PROVIDED BY THE WORLD COALITION



Graph 6

3. Campaign on WhatsApp

2021 marks the third consecutive year the World Coalition has launched an information-sharing campaign on **WhatsApp** amongst members based on the African continent. This application is an easy way to distribute tools and documents within the African nations and in 2021, the World Coalition used WhatsApp to send posters in all the African languages that were developed (Luganda, Lingala, Swahili).

Even though the WhatsApp campaign was undertaken in the context of the 19th World Day, it is important to note that this campaign was minor in comparison with previous years. All statistics gathered during the campaign on WhatsApp rely exclusively on recipients self-reporting to whom they shared the messages. In 2021, consistent follow-up and reminders sent to recipients was not as regular as they were in the previous years, as such accurate measurements of the campaign were not gathered. Additionally, in 2021, it was decided it only share posters and visual tools on the WhatsApp messages than entire tools. This decision was made to preserve the short-message awareness-raising idea behind WhatsApp, and to prevent individuals from ignoring overly detailed messages.

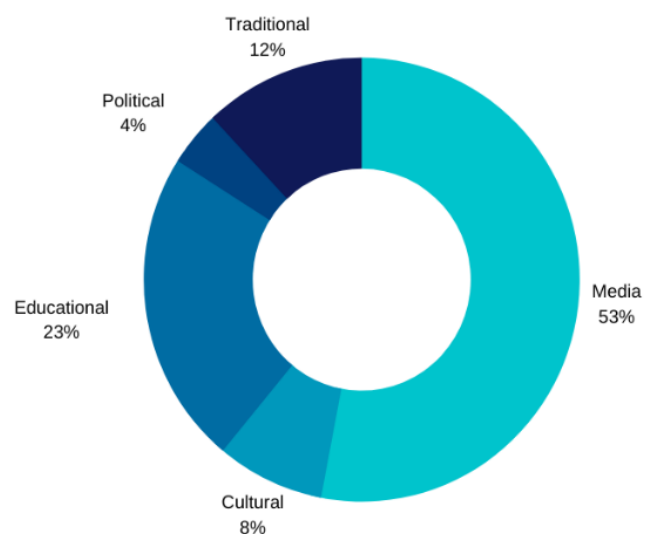
IV. Encouraging the Organization of Local Initiatives and Strengthening Abolitionist Society

1. Breakdown of World Day Events in a Range of Countries and Regions

The 19th World Day recorded a total of **741** events in **98** countries, which surpasses last year's record total of **574** events in **72** countries. In 2019 there was **746** events in **91** countries. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and encouragement to still respect social distancing, there was a strong trend of online events this year to continue World Day commemorations in a safe and sanitary manner.

This year **53%** of events (392 events) were '**media events**' such as interviews with abolitionist, press statement by abolitionist organizations, publications of articles about the World Day, or a social media campaign for World Day. The least popular type of event, **political events**, only represent **4%** of all the events (26 events) and include activities such as official statements released by a government body.

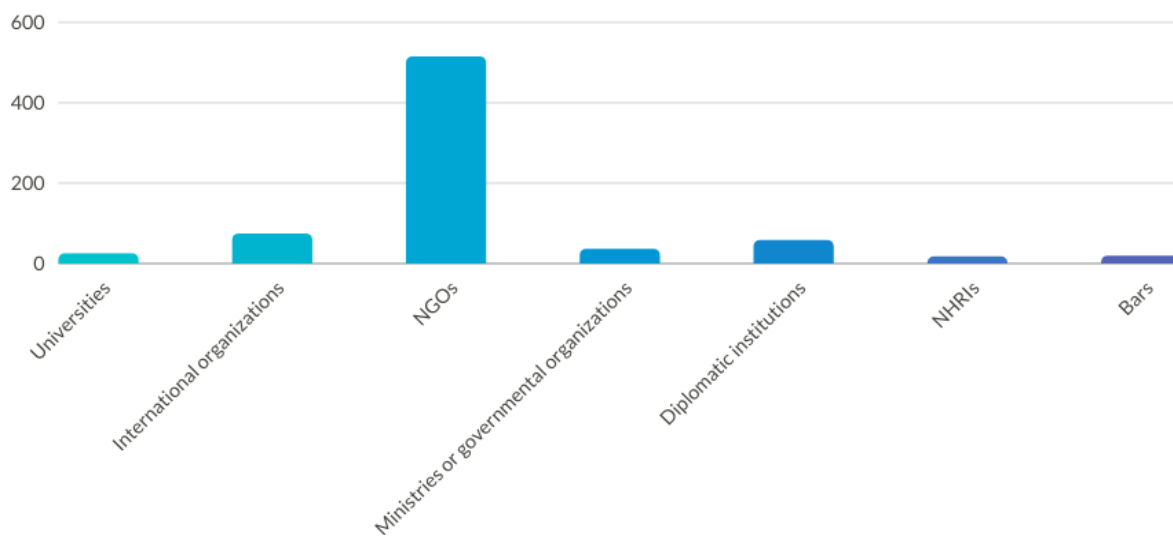
TYPES OF WORLD DAY EVENTS IN 2021



Graph 7

The events during World Day were arranged by different types of organizations. Out of all the events, **514** were organized by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). To name a few, the **Cornell Center on Death Penalty Worldwide**, an NGO, published a translated French version of their 2018 English report "**Judged for More than Her Crime**", while the **Korean Association for the Abolition of the Death Penalty** held a conference to call for the adoption of legislation abolishing the death penalty.

EVENTS BY TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS



Graph 8

2. Worldwide Mobilization to Raise Awareness on the Death Penalty

WORLD DAY 2021 EVENTS BY REGION

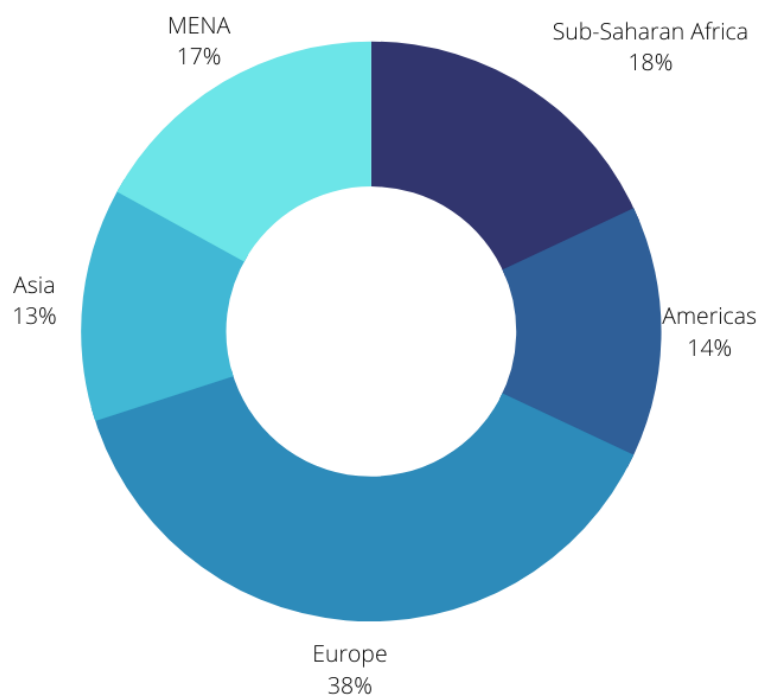


Figure 9

Americas

This year there was **62** events across North America, South America, and the Caribbean. Most of the activities were organized in the United States that is **66% of the overall activities in the Americas**.

Many online events were planned. **Death Penalty Focus** organized a webinar "**Women on Death Row**" for the World Day Against the Death Penalty. Sabrina Butler-Smith, Sunny Jacobs, and Debra Milke, three women who each spent at least a decade on death row and who were later exonerated, were invited to this webinar as speakers. **Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to Death Penalty** held an online discussion named "**The Death Penalty; Not in My Name**" where a death row survivor, Ray Krone, and a Professor of Law, Akin Adepaju, shared their personal experiences with capital punishment and how they each fight to achieve an end to capital punishment. **Greater Caribbean for Life** planned an online webinar to discuss the invisible realities of gender inequality, discrimination and inhumane prison conditions faced by women behind bars.

More traditional events were also organized for World Day. The NGO **Nebraska Alternatives to the Death Penalty (NADP)** held a rally at on 10th October at the Nebraska State Capitol. **California People of Faith and Amnesty International Group 1107 (Channing House)** sponsored a "**KICKOFF EVENT**" for the World Day Against the Death Penalty. The gathering was held at Lytton Plaza in downtown Palo Alto with speakers, information, and community involvement opportunities in support of abolishing the death penalty.

The **Puerto Rican Bar**, the **Puerto Rican Coalition Against the Death Penalty**, and the **Comité Amplio para la Búsqueda de la Igualdad** planned a law school conference tour in 3 different universities of Puerto Rico. The discovery of a script by Eugenio María de Hostos (1839-1903) addressing the issue of women and the death penalty at the end of the 19th Century was part of the presentations.

Asia

With **97** events across **17** countries, Asia was the third most active region for World Day 2021. This is a significant increase from last year's World Day which recorded **77** events across **15** countries. Abolitionist groups in the Asia region made a great effort to host activities for the day.

Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN) organized a film screening in Malaysia of "**Menunggu Masa**", a documentary about Mainthan, a man who spent 14 years on death row for a murder he did not commit. This screening was followed by a panel discussion on the death penalty with Seira Sacha and Sherrie Razak Dali, the pair behind the documentary. **Komnas Perempuan** also planned a film screening and discussion in Indonesia on "**Death Penalty and Dimensions of Gender-Based Violence and Torture against Women.**"

The NGO **KontraS** published the report "**State Consistency in Perpetuating the Death Penalty**" for World Day. **Project 39A** launched the report "**Deathworthy - A Mental Health Perspective of the Death Penalty**" and a webinar discussion on the psychological realities of death row prisoners in India.

Institute for Criminal Justice Reform published report titled "**The Overlooked, She in the Vortex of Death Penalty**" which is on the gender-based vulnerabilities for women sentenced to death in Indonesia.

Legal groups in Asia also engaged with the World Day, including the **Daini Tokyo Bar Association** who released a statement on the 10th of October. The **Commission on Human Rights of the Republic of Philippines** issued a statement calling for the abolition of the death penalty.

Europe

What remains consistent this year is that the largest number of events were hosted in the European region, with **284** events, across **25 countries** in Europe in 2021. In 2020, there were **261** events organized in Europe.

The 10th of October 2021 also coincided with the 40th anniversary of abolition of the death penalty in France. As part of France's upcoming presidency to the European Union, French President Emmanuel Macron said that France will launch a global campaign for the universal abolition of the death penalty. This event and public discourse permitted to highlight the importance of World Day on the European continent and its long-term objective which is the universal abolition of the death penalty.

Many cultural events occurred in the European region for the 19th World Day. The NGO **Iran Human Rights** set up a special screening of "**There is no devil**" by Mohammad Rasoulof at Vega cinema in Norway. This is a four-part film with four stories about how the death penalty is applied in Iran. In Paris, **Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort (ECPM)** organized a screening of the movie "**The State of Texas v. Melissa**", a film directed by Sabrina Van Tassel. This movie shares the story of Melissa Lucio, the first Hispanic American woman sentenced to death in Texas, accused of killing her two-year-old daughter. **ECPM**, along with the **World Coalition** several abolitionist organizations held the "**Abolition Village**" in Paris. Through numerous stands, visitors were able to learn more about the arguments against the death penalty through fun activities and about the participating organizations

Comunità di Sant'Egidio organized a conference titled "**Conference 'Innocent on Death Row, a testimony by Sunny Jacobs**" which is organized in Belgium, Antwerp for World Day 2021.

The Advocates for Human Rights organized a one-hour event in Switzerland, providing attendees with important information on current death penalty issues, including suggested UPR recommendations on capital punishment, for Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Sudan, Papua New Guinea, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Antigua and Barbuda, Eswatini, Trinidad and Tobago, and Thailand. Several panellists were in-country experts on death penalty issues. Audience members had the opportunity to pose questions to panellists.

As well as this, many **European Union delegations** around the world including in Yemen, Belarus and Malaysia commemorated World Day by coordinating public statements declaring the EU's opposition to the death penalty in all cases and pushing for universal abolition.

Middle East and North Africa

122 events were carried out this World Day across **18 Middle East and North African countries**.

In observation of the day and the theme this year, non-governmental organizations released reports on the death penalty. **Iran Human Rights** provided a report on the **women executed in Iran over the last 12 years** (2010-2021). The executions in this period are by no means representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran's complete history of executing women. In this report, there is ample evidence of their cruel and inhuman treatment of female prisoners. **Salam for Democracy and Human Rights** also released a report titled "**The Death Penalty in Bahrain: A System Built on Torture**". This report provides accessible and condensed information on the evolution of the death penalty in Bahrain. The report "**World Day Against the Death Penalty 2021: Sword unveils the delusion of reforms in Saudi Arabia**" is published by the **European Saudi Organization for Human Rights** and provides information about death penalty in Saudi Arabia.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan organised a theatre performance in Lahore to mark the 19th World Day Against the Death Penalty. The Artists' Assembly performed a short piece on the inherent humanity of event those convicted of the most serious crimes and the inviolability of the right to life.

On the World Day, several abolitionist organizations in Morocco (**Moroccan Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Moroccan Prison Observatory, National Council for Human Rights**) wished to raise awareness about the issue of the death penalty in the country by organizing a sit-in in front of Rabat's parliament on the 10th of October 2021. **The Moroccan Coalition Against the Death Penalty** also visited two women on death row in Morocco for World Day 2021.

Sub-Saharan Africa

The Sub-Saharan African region held **133** events across **27** countries.

Online, many of organizations choose to use the radio to share their campaign on the abolition of the death penalty. **ACAT Tchad** issued a press release on the country's private radio stations including *Radio FM Liberté, DJA fm and Radio Oxygène*. **RADHOMA** based in Goma, **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**, is one of WCADP members who received a small grant to lead activities on World Day organized, in partnership with several civil society actors, seven radio programs aimed at raising public awareness about the death penalty and urging judicial authorities not to sentence civilian and military defendants to death during the state of emergency. The World Coalition also supported the organization **COJESKI** which was able to broadcast a short video on the day of exchanges organized on October 10 as part of the World Day against the Death Penalty, and the organization **CODHAS** which held a special live radio program to collect the opinion of listeners on issues related to the World Day against the Death Penalty- both organizations also based in the DRC.

Legal Defence and Assistance Project (LEDAP) and **Human Rights Law Center (HURILAWS)**, also benefited from a small grant from the World Coalition, organized a one-day media parley to solicit support for the abolition of the death penalty in **Nigeria**. The goal of this media parley was to draw the attention of media practitioners on the urgent need to abolish the death penalty in Nigeria following the call by the Nigerian Minister of Interior urging State Governors to sign execution warrants as a means of decongesting their correctional facilities.

In Uganda, the **Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI)** organized a solidarity visit to male and female prisoners sentenced to death. During this visit, FHRI gave out items such as face masks, toothpaste, toothbrushes and cards with message of hope from their relatives.

[V. Working with Human Rights Organizations, Feminist Groups, etc that Support Abolition of the Death Penalty as a Means for Equality for All](#)

This year's theme focused on **women** who risk being sentenced to death, who have received a death sentence, who have been executed, and to those who have had their death sentences commuted, exonerated, or pardoned. This subject brought the opportunity to show that the extensive discrimination woman sentenced to death face can have unfair the consequences on the pronouncement of the death penalty.

With the idea that there should be, at some point, a convergence of a common fight; the World Coalition built partnerships with women's rights organizations in order to spread awareness about how gender-bias is present in the application of the death penalty. The World Coalition collaborated with **20 feminist organizations** who signed the [Joint Declaration on the Death Penalty and Women's Rights](#).

Here are a few examples of activities partaken in by woman centered organizations, ministry and committee for World Day. **Women's Committee of Iran NCRI** published an article on its website titled "[Death penalty for women under the misogynous rule of the mullahs](#)." The women's rights organization **Lawyhrs4Women** published a thematic newsletter on women sentenced to death for crimes committed in self-defense on the World Day against the Death Penalty. **Australian Foreign Minister and Minister for Women**, Marise Payne,

published a tweet reaffirming Australia's opposition to the death penalty. The organizations **Women Beyond Walls** and **Women Lawyers Malawi** both tweeted on World Day Against the Death Penalty.

VI. Annexes

1. About the World Coalition

The **World Coalition Against the Death Penalty**, an alliance of more than 150 NGOs, bar associations, local authorities 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 organised by the French NGO **Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM)** in Strasbourg in June 2001.

The aim of the World Coalition is to strengthen the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Its ultimate objective is to obtain the universal abolition of the death penalty. To achieve its goal, the World Coalition advocates for a definitive end to death sentences and executions in those countries where the death penalty is in force. In some countries, it is seeking to obtain a reduction in the use of capital punishment as a first step towards abolition.

Since 2003, the Coalition established the 10th of October as the World Day against the Death Penalty.

2. Link to list of all members

Please find a complete list of all World Coalition members on our website, available here:

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