The World Day Against the Death Penalty (World Day) is celebrated every 10 October. It was first conceptualized during the First World Congress Against the Death Penalty, organized by Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) in Strasbourg, France in 2001. The idea behind the World Day was to launch a world-wide day for the universal abolition of the death penalty.

Since 2003, the participation has increased by 294%, from 188 initiatives in 63 countries in 2003 to 741 initiatives in 98 countries in 2021.

World Day & Abolition Achievements

The World Day & Abolition Achievements report published since 2003 includes initiatives to denounce the application of the death penalty where it is still practiced, to put pressure on the States that retain it to abolish the death penalty, and to raise awareness of the inhumanity and cruelty of death penalty, which is recognized as a violation of human rights.

Each World Day gives the opportunity to bring together abolitionist actors and activists around a common campaign.

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Abolition in Kazakhstan (18th World Day)

A high-level conference was organized by the Kazakh Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Commission against the Death Penalty to support the initiative to create a death-penalty-free zone in Central Asia and Mongolia. Kazakhstan abolished the death penalty in 2019.

Abolition in Sierra Leone (19th World Day)

On 23 July 2021, the Parliament of Sierra Leone voted in favour of a Bill abolishing the death penalty. For the 19th World Day, President Julius Maada Bio signed the bill into law on 8 October 2021.

20 YEARS OF RAISING AWARENESS 2003 - 2022

The 20th World Day Against the Death Penalty celebrates the international and institutional dimension of the struggle of those who sometimes fight against the tide of public opinion to deny the urgency of abolition and the indefensible character of capital punishment.