

NHRIs AND THE FIGHT AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY: SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

DOCUMENT

● Data collection campaigns in collaboration with the judicial and prison authorities:

Production of statistics on the use of the death penalty and profiles of death row prisoners

Publication of the data collected in reports, leaflets and on social networks

Representations to the authorities calling for annual publication of such data

● Visits to prisons and prisoners on death row:

Assessment of conditions of detention (cells, access to healthcare, contact with families and lawyers, access to work and activities, etc.)

Interviews with death row prisoners, their families, lawyers, prison administrators, NGOs working in this area

Monitoring detainees' cases
Regular contact with lawyers at the national level

● Monitoring cases of nationals facing the death penalty abroad:

Development of bilateral relations with consular authorities

Contact with the NHRI in the third State for support to monitor conditions of detention

ORGANISE COLLABORATION

● Organisation of training sessions:

For officials in the prison administration on the Mandela Rules

On the basis of this guide within the NHRI concerned

On the criminal justice system for the general public

● Regular meetings with the various actors concerned by the subject (lawyers, legal experts, judges, prosecutors, prison administration, relevant ministries, civil society organisations, parliamentarians, students, religious authorities, etc.):

Organisation of advocacy meetings with the relevant authorities

Participation in fora or meetings on abolition of the death penalty (regional seminars, Regional and World Congresses against the death penalty, etc.)

● Cooperation with peers:

Visits and exchanges of good practice with other NHRIs in favour of abolition

Working together with NHRI networks on the abolition of the death penalty

RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS

● Through the media and social networks:

Initiation of awareness-raising campaigns on social networks

Organisation of press conferences

Sending press statements, open letters, etc.

Participation in interviews or debates

● Through organisation of events, educational and cultural activities:

Conferences, seminars, roundtables, etc.

Screenings of films/documentaries, organisation of exhibitions

Support for NGOs to conduct educational presentations in schools or educational activities for young people outside the school system

● Through production, publication and dissemination of information tools:

Leaflets, flyers

Guides and educational materials for school children and young people

Reports of fact-finding missions on death row prisoners

MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE ON THE NEED FOR LEGAL REFORMS

● Preparatory work:

Regular monitoring of legislation concerning revisions and amendments to the Criminal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and the Constitution

Targeting parliamentarians who support abolition

Identifying issues to be the focus of advocacy (alternatives to the death penalty, lack of deterrent effect, reduction in number of crimes punishable by death, respect for rights of persons sentenced to death and improvement of conditions of detention, establishment of a moratorium or abolition of capital punishment)

● Implementation:

Development of legal arguments in partnership with universities and lawyers

Organisation of advocacy meetings with the authorities

Drafting reports and recommendations to Government and/or Parliament

Submission of opinions on legislative proposals or draft laws relating to the use of the death penalty

Drafting letters to address the President of the Republic or members of Government directly in urgent situations

ENCOURAGE THE STATE TO RESPECT ITS INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

● Promotion at the national level of compliance with, accession to or ratification of relevant international conventions (ICCPR, OP2, CAT, OPCAT, regional Protocols) and votes in favour of the UNGA Resolution calling for a universal moratorium:

Specific advocacy meetings with relevant authorities

Participation in the drafting of reports submitted by the State to the various United Nations bodies and committees, specifically including this issue

Participation in monitoring implementation of recommendations and observations made by the international and regional human rights mechanisms, including the Treaty Bodies monitoring implementation of the instruments ratified by the State (in particular, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and the Human Rights Committee).

● Active participation in the various bodies of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Human Rights Committee, Special Procedures, UPR, Human Rights Council):

Drafting and submission of alternative reports (UPR, Human Rights Committee)

Oral and written statements (UPR, Human Rights Council sessions)

Organisation of advocacy meetings with relevant Special Procedures on the fight against the death penalty and Human Rights Committee experts