



TAKE ACTION ON THE DEATH PENALTY!



GET INFORMED, GET INVOLVED, AND GET OTHERS INTERESTED

IF YOU HAVE

10
Minutes

- **Learn the Facts.** Read our fact sheet on the death penalty and then test your knowledge with our short quiz in this toolkit. Check out the organizations on our resource list to learn more about death penalty issues.
- **Donate.** Make a donation to a national or international organization that works to end capital punishment. For ideas, check out the “Death Penalty Resources” list in this toolkit.
- **Sign Up for E-mail Alerts.** Sign up for news and action information on the death penalty from these advocacy groups.
 - Death Penalty Information Center <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/rss-feed>
 - The National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty <http://www.ncadp.org>
 - Amnesty USA <http://www.amnestyusa.org/death-penalty>

IF YOU HAVE

A Few
Hours

- **Investigate Individual Cases.** Learn about current capital punishment cases in the U.S. and around the world.
 - Death Penalty Action. http://www.deathpenaltyaction.net/take_actions
- **Write a Letter.** Write to your local newspaper on behalf of a particular case or to voice your concern about state and federal use of the death penalty.
- **Educate.** Download the lesson plan and PowerPoint in this toolkit and organize an interactive workshop for your local school, community center, or faith community.
- **Create a Petition.** Highlight death penalty issues at the state or federal level and get others to sign.
- **Contact Your Legislators.** Call or write to local legislators and public officials regarding state and federal use of the death penalty. Find your representatives at <http://www.congress.org/congressorg>.

IF YOU HAVE

A
Month

- **Host a Film Screening.** Visit <http://deadlinethemovie.com> to purchase “Deadline,” a documentary about Illinois Governor George Ryan’s decision to grant blanket clemency to 167 death row inmates because of the flaws in the state’s capital punishment system.
- **Celebrate Human Rights Day.** On December 10th, celebrate the inception of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Plan an educational event in your community about the UDHR or organize a demonstration on behalf of victims of human rights violations. Visit the resource list in this toolkit to find out which local organizations in your area are participating and how you can help.
- **Start a Book Club.** Select a death penalty-related book (for example, *The Killing State: Capital Punishment in Law, Politics, and Culture* by Austin Sarat) and coordinate a discussion among friends, schoolmates, or family members.
- **Hold a Fundraiser.** Plan a fundraising event, such as a bake sale, silent auction, or bingo night in your community for an organization that works to end the death penalty.
- **Host a Speaker.** Invite a speaker through the Campaign to End the Death Penalty or Witness to Innocence to give a presentation on capital punishment issues to your school, community center, or faith community.
- **Organize a Call-In Day.** Voice your opposition to the federal use of the death penalty by calling members of Congress. Encourage friends and fellow activists to do the same!

IF YOU HAVE

A Year
or More

- **Volunteer Regularly.** Find organizations in your area that advocate for death penalty abolition and ask how you can help. Go to <http://www.volunteermatch.com> or the resource list in this toolkit to find organizations to volunteer with.
- **Join a Campaign.** Consider how you can influence change in the criminal justice system. Get involved and volunteer your time with a death penalty abolition campaign.
 - Death Penalty Focus <http://www.deathpenalty.org>
 - National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty <http://www.ncadp.org>
 - Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org>



DEATH PENALTY NATIONAL RESOURCES



The Advocates for Human Rights

www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org

Seeks to increase awareness for issues surrounding the death penalty and conduct advocacy against the death penalty.

The ABA Death Penalty Representation Project

<http://www.abanet.org/deathpenalty/>

Raises awareness about the lack of representation for death row inmates and seeks to remedy this problem by recruiting and training attorneys.

American Civil Liberties Union

<http://www.aclu.org/capital/index.html>

Uses legislative reform, education, and advocacy to improve representation in appeals and trials and facilitate the abolition of the capital punishment.

Amnesty International

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/death-penalty>

Provides information on capital punishment in the U.S. and abroad and encourages individuals to advocate on behalf of specific death row inmates.

Center for International Human Rights

<http://www.law.northwestern.edu/humanrights/>

Provides information about the application of the death penalty worldwide as well as cases and commentary on international legal issues.

Center on Wrongful Convictions

<http://www.law.northwestern.edu/cwcl>

Focuses on identifying and rectifying wrongful convictions and miscarriages of justice through representation, research, and public education.

Death Penalty Focus

<http://www.deathpenalty.org/>

Increases awareness through education, organizing, outreach, and research.

Death Penalty Information Center

<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/>

Acts as a resource for information on capital punishment. Provides reports, briefings, analysis, and current information updates for the press and public.

Death Watch International

<http://www.deathwatchinternational.org/>

Supports the worldwide campaign against capital punishment and strengthens other groups with this same goal.

Equal Justice U.S.A

<http://www.ejusa.org/>

Provides news and action alerts and also works to mobilize individual organizations to adopt resolutions for a national moratorium on the death penalty.

European Union

http://www.eurunion.org/eulindex.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1783

Contains links to policy statements and other international agreements concerning the death penalty.

FIDH

<http://www.fidh.org/-Death-Penalty->

Promotes death penalty education through press releases and newsletters while also providing updates about upcoming action.

Hands Off Cain

<http://www.handsoffcain.info/>

HOF works by appealing to the UN and the European Union and by acting as a source for news and action updates.

The Innocence Project

<http://www.innocenceproject.org/> and <http://www.innocencenetwork.org/>

Facilitates exoneration through DNA testing and works to prevent future miscarriages of justice through reform of the criminal justice system.

The Justice Project

<http://www.thejusticeproject.org/>

The mission of The Justice Project is to promote fairness and accuracy in the justice system through campaigns on the state and national level.

Lethalinjection.org

www.lethalinjection.org

Provides information on how lethal injection is a problematic method of execution. Provides access to trial information, court orders, and news.

Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights

<http://murdevictimsfamilies.org/>

A coalition of family members of criminal murder, terrorist killings, and state executions. Aims to further the global anti-capital punishment movement by ending the death penalty in the U.S.

Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation

<http://www.mvfr.org/>

Family members of homicide victims and the executed who oppose the death penalty.

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

www.criminaljustice.org/

Advances the mission of the U.S.' criminal defense lawyers to ensure justice and due process.

National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

<http://www.ncadp.org/>

Aims to abolish capital punishment in the U.S. and abroad. Supports affiliates through training, strategic advice, and technical assistance to build and run campaigns against the death penalty.

Physicians for Human Rights

<http://www.physiciansforhumanrights.org/investigations/death-penalty/>

Published report on physician involvement in executions with accounts of botched executions and discussion on medical ethics.

The Religious Organizing Against the Death Penalty Project

<http://www.deathpenaltyreligious.org/>

Seeks to end capital punishment in the U.S. through a faith-based activism.

Resurrection After Exoneration

<http://www.r-a-e.org/>

Facilitates a smooth transition and reentry for exonerees and empowers them to advocate for reform in the criminal justice system.

The Southern Center for Human Rights

<http://www.schr.org/>

Works to end capital punishment, mass incarceration, and other injustices.

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomesPage.aspx>

Find information on treaties that provide important protections against the death penalty and cruel and inhumane treatment or punishment.

World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

<http://www.worldcoalition.org/modules/accueil/>

Strengthens the international struggle against capital punishment. Contributes to reducing and definitively abolishing death sentences and executions.