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## **46th Human Rights Council – February Mars 2021**

### **Biennial High-level panel on death penalty**

We are extremely glad that HRC set a panel on death penalty.

Whether it is through beheading, shooting, hanging, lethal injection, electrocution, gas inhalation, crucifixion or crushing by elephant, both ancient and modern methods of capital punishment only show how inhumane, cruel, and degrading state-sanctioned murder can be. It violates the right to life as enshrined in Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights while banalizing and generalizing violence through legalized killings.

There is no evidence whatsoever that death penalty prevents murder or has any effect on the crime rate. There is a wealth of evidence, on the other hand, that reducing socio-economic inequalities, investing in education and training of youth and embracing diversity can go a long way towards crime reduction and building safer societies.

It is unfortunate some Member States voted against resolution 42/24 thus going against United Nations moratorium on the death penalty. We hope that next resolution on death penalty will pass unanimously. Civil society has played a crucial role in the campaign to abolish capital punishment across different nations, and we believe grassroots will eventually triumph where states still fail to abolish death penalty.