



Greater Caribbean for Life
committed to the abolition of the death penalty



Haiti's Compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: The Death Penalty

Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights

a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1996

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

and

Greater Caribbean for Life

for the 143rd Session of the Human Rights Committee

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The Advocates for Human Rights (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based nongovernmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law. Established in 1983, The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publications. In 1991, The Advocates adopted a formal commitment to oppose the death penalty worldwide and organized a death penalty project to provide pro bono assistance on post-conviction appeals, as well as education and advocacy to end capital punishment. The Advocates currently holds a seat on the Steering Committee of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP), an alliance of more than 150 NGOs, bar associations, local authorities, and unions, was created in Rome on 13 May 2002. 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.

The Greater Caribbean for Life (GCL) is an independent, not-for-profit civil society organization, incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. GCL was constituted on October 2, 2013 with the purpose of campaigning for and working towards the permanent abolition of the death penalty in the Greater Caribbean and supporting Caribbean abolitionist activists and organizations in this region (comprised by the Caribbean Islands, Mexico, Central America, Colombia, Venezuela and the Guyanas) and collaborating with the international abolitionist community. This initiative began on October 19, 2011, when a group of organizations and individuals, from countries of the Greater Caribbean opposed to the application of capital punishment, participated in an International Conference on the Death Penalty in the Great Caribbean organized in Madrid by the Community of Sant' Edigio.

1. Haiti abolished the death penalty 23 August 1985.
2. Haiti has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Haiti has not made any progress toward the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol (OP2) to the ICCPR.

Haiti should ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR

3. In Haiti's most recent constructive dialogue with the Human Rights Committee, Haiti made no mention of the OP2 but instead expressed an interest in the possibility of acceding to the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR on individual communications.
4. Haiti's Second Periodic Report reiterates the Committee's recommendation to ratify OP2 but simply recites the history of Haiti's abolition of the death penalty in statute and in the constitution.
5. In its 2020 List of Issues, the Committee requested further information on the steps Haiti has taken regarding the Committee's recommendation to ratify the OP2.
6. In its Replies, Haiti simply reiterates information in the Second Periodic Report and makes no reference to OP2.
7. Haiti has consistently voted in favor of the UN General Assembly resolution calling for a global moratorium on the death penalty, most recently in December 2024.
8. In the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review, Haiti received 8 recommendations to ratify or accede to OP2. In May 2022, after consulting with civil society in a workshop and with ministers by email, Haitian authorities accepted all 8 recommendations. Nonetheless, Haiti has not yet ratified OP2.
9. **Suggested recommendation:**
 - **Take all necessary steps to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, without reservations.**