



# 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 resource list in this toolkit.
- **Sign Up for E-mail Alerts.** Sign up for news and action information on the death penalty from these groups:
  - Death Penalty Information Center [deathpenaltyinfo.org/rss-feed](http://deathpenaltyinfo.org/rss-feed)
  - The National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty [ncadp.org](http://ncadp.org)
  - World Coalition Against the Death Penalty [worldcoalition.org/Activists-Alerts.html](http://worldcoalition.org/Activists-Alerts.html)
  - Amnesty USA [amnestyusa.org/death-penalty](http://amnestyusa.org/death-penalty)
- **Sign a Petition.** Help to advocate for the abolition of the death penalty by signing relevant petitions:
  - [worldcoalition.org/Petition.html](http://worldcoalition.org/Petition.html)
  - [change.org/petitions/ratify-second-optional-protocol-to-the-international-covenant-on-civil-and-political-rights](http://change.org/petitions/ratify-second-optional-protocol-to-the-international-covenant-on-civil-and-political-rights)

IF YOU HAVE  
**A Few Hours**

- **Investigate Cases.** Learn about current capital punishment cases in the U.S. and around the world.
  - Death Penalty Information Center [deathpenaltyinfo.org/home](http://deathpenaltyinfo.org/home)
  - Center on Wrongful Convictions [law.northwestern.edu/wrongfulconvictions/](http://law.northwestern.edu/wrongfulconvictions/)
  - Witness to Innocence [witness-to-innocence.org](http://witness-to-innocence.org)
- **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 for 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 [congress.org/congressorg](http://congress.org/congressorg).

IF YOU HAVE  
**A Month**

- **Host a Film Screening.** Visit [deadlinethemovie.com](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. Visit [theexonerated.com](http://theexonerated.com) to learn about "The Exonerated," a film that tells the true stories of six exonerates sent to prison for crimes they did not commit. Additional resources can be found by visiting [nyadp.org/content/books-movies-documentaries](http://nyadp.org/content/books-movies-documentaries).
- **Start a Book Club.** Select a death penalty-related book (for example, *The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town* by John Grisham or *Bloodworth: The True Story of One Man's Triumph over Injustice* by Tim Junkin). More books can be found here: [deathpenaltyinfo.org/books-death-penalty](http://deathpenaltyinfo.org/books-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 near you that advocate for death penalty abolition and ask how you can help. Go to [volunteermatch.com](http://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.
  - World Coalition Against the Death Penalty [worldcoalition.org](http://worldcoalition.org)
  - Death Penalty Information Center [deathpenaltyinfo.org](http://deathpenaltyinfo.org)
  - Death Penalty Focus [deathpenalty.org](http://deathpenalty.org)
  - National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty [ncadp.org](http://ncadp.org)
  - Amnesty International [amnesty.org](http://amnesty.org)



# DEATH PENALTY NATIONAL RESOURCES



## **The Advocates for Human Rights**

[theadvocatesforhumanrights.org](http://theadvocatesforhumanrights.org)

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

## **American Bar Association**

[abanet.org/deathpenalty/](http://abanet.org/deathpenalty/)

[americanbar.org/groups/individual\\_rights/projects/death\\_penalty\\_moratorium\\_implementation\\_project.html](http://americanbar.org/groups/individual_rights/projects/death_penalty_moratorium_implementation_project.html)

The Death Penalty Representation Project raises awareness about the lack of representation for death row inmates and seeks to remedy this problem by recruiting and training attorneys to represent death row prisoners through all stages of the proceedings. The Death Penalty Moratorium Implementation Project carries out the ABA's goal of a nationwide moratorium unless and until problems within the administration of capital punishment are rectified.

## **American Civil Liberties Union**

[aclu.org/capital/index.html](http://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**

[amnesty.org/en/death-penalty](http://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 on Wrongful Convictions**

[law.northwestern.edu/cwcl](http://law.northwestern.edu/cwcl)

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

## **Death Penalty Focus**

[deathpenalty.org/](http://deathpenalty.org/)

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

## **Death Penalty Information Center**

[deathpenaltyinfo.org/](http://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 Penalty Worldwide, Center for International Human Rights, Bluhm Legal Clinic**

[deathpenaltyworldwide.org/](http://deathpenaltyworldwide.org/)

Provides detailed and transparent information regarding the application of the death penalty in law and in practice in every country that retains it via the database.

## **Death Penalty Action Network**

[antideathpenalty.net/](http://antideathpenalty.net/)

Supports the worldwide campaign against capital punishment and brings people together to support the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

## **Equal Justice U.S.A**

[ejusa.org/](http://ejusa.org/)

Works to end the death penalty at the state level by partnering with organizations to build effective grassroots campaigns that increase public understanding of the death penalty's flaws. Also provides services to families of murder victims.

## **FIDH**

[fidh.org/Death-Penalty,650-](http://fidh.org/Death-Penalty,650-)

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

## **Hands Off Cain**

[handsoffcain.info/](http://handsoffcain.info/)

HOC works by as a source for news, campaigns and action updates. Provides a searchable database on the death penalty worldwide.

## **The Innocence Project**

[innocenceproject.org/](http://innocenceproject.org/)

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

## **The Innocence Network**

[innocencenetwork.org/](http://innocencenetwork.org/)

Provides pro bono legal and investigative services to individuals seeking to prove innocence of crimes for which they have been convicted and works to redress causes of wrongful convictions.

## **Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights**

[mvfhr.org/](http://mvfhr.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**

[mvfr.org/](http://mvfr.org/)

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

## **National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty**

[ncadp.org/](http://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.

## **Penal Reform International**

[penalreform.org/themes/death-penalty](http://penalreform.org/themes/death-penalty)

Works on penal and criminal justice reform worldwide.

## **Reprieve**

[reprieve.org](http://reprieve.org)

Assists in the provision of effective legal representation and humanitarian assistance to impoverished people facing the death penalty at the hands of the state; produces and publishes information about the use of the death penalty and raises awareness more generally concerning human rights.

## **Resurrection After Exoneration**

[r-a-e.org/](http://r-a-e.org/)

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

## **The Southern Center for Human Rights**

[schr.org/](http://schr.org/)

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

## **UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

[ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx](http://ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.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**

[worldcoalition.org/modules/accueil](http://worldcoalition.org/modules/accueil)

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