



Declaration of the Bar Associations and Law Societies of the G7 Countries against the Death Penalty

We, the representatives of the bar associations in the G7 countries, strongly oppose the death penalty in all circumstances and consider it a violation of the first right of any human being, i.e. the right to life.

The right to life is guaranteed by all main international and regional human rights treaties, including the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, European Convention on Human Rights and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

As a matter of fact, notwithstanding a variety of cultures, religions and traditions, 134 Member States of the United Nations have abolished the death penalty in law or in practice.¹

We are mindful of the impact of crime on victims and take into account the United Nations resolutions with regard to the rights of victims.

We remain deeply concerned about the persistence of the death penalty in many countries around the world.² We strongly believe that the abolition of the death penalty contributes to the fostering and protection of human dignity and the gradual development of a global culture of human rights.

We, therefore, welcome the commitment that many Bars and associations of lawyers have made towards the objective of abolishing the death penalty and urge all countries where the death penalty still exists to prioritize its abolition as a matter of urgency.

¹ See Amnesty International, Annex II: Abolitionist and Retentionist Countries as of 31 December 2018, Amnesty International Global Report: Death Sentences and Executions 2018, available at : < <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/9870/2019/en/>>

² See list: <http://web.amnesty.org/pages/deathpenalty-countries-eng>



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Signed in Paris, the 11th July 2019

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