

## LAUNCH OF THE ECPM PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR NHRIs NHRIs AND THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY CONCEPT NOTE

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### Object

Organization of a side-event at the 43<sup>rd</sup> session of the Human Rights Council, for the release of the ECPM Practical Guide for NHRIs to work on the abolition of the death penalty

### Date and place

- **12 March 2020 from 9am to 10am**
- **Room XXIV** at the United Nations headquarter in Geneva
- **Targets:** NHRIs and their members attending the 2020 GANHRI Annual Meeting; every diplomatic delegations in Geneva; international civil society

### Context

NHRIs play a main role in the protection, promotion and monitoring of human rights standards and legislation within each State. The past few years have seen the growing influence of these independent institutions with a constitutional or legislative basis giving them strong legitimacy to conduct their activities. Since abolition of the death penalty as an indicator of respect for human rights is now well recognized, NHRIs have a key role to play in the fight for abolition of the death penalty. The 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress against the death penalty held in Oslo in 2016 dedicated one of its two plenary sessions to NHRIs, recognizing that abolition is central to their mandate.

In the framework of a three-year project entitled “Supporting members of Parliaments, NHRIs and civil society for the abolition of the death penalty in Central Africa and Southeast Asia” funded by the EU, Australia and Norway, ECPM (Together Against the Death Penalty) released a Practical Guide for NHRIs to work on the abolition of the death penalty. Preparation of the Guide was motivated by the conviction that sharing best practices and promoting dialogue between NHRIs will contribute to the promotion of abolition of the death penalty.

The Guide is primarily based on the activities and experiences of NHRIs, as described in response to a questionnaire submitted to them. A specific session on the development of the Guide was held during the 7<sup>th</sup> World Congress in Brussels in February 2019 allowing NHRIs to contribute to it. ECPM is working to develop strong relations with NHRIs in order to strengthen and support their work, cooperation and networking with key actors in their respective countries to bring about positive and sustainable changes as regards the death penalty.

### Objectives

- Promoting the Practical Guide among NHRIs from both abolitionist and retentionist countries
- Giving tools to NHRIs to fight against the death penalty
- Sharing best practices and promoting dialogue between NHRIs on the fight against the death penalty

### Material

- Practical Guide for NHRIs on the abolition of the death penalty
- NHRIs joint statement at the 7<sup>th</sup> World Congress against the death penalty

### Panelists

- Moderator : ECPM
- Opening remarks :
  - GANHRI
  - AFCNDH
- Keynote speakers :
  - CNDH-RDC (Democratic Republic of Congo)
  - CNDH (Morocco)
  - Suhakam (Malaysia)
  - CHRP (Philippines)

### Organizers

ECPM  
Sponsored by AFCNDH