



COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**Transcript of the Video Statement of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines
on the Biennial High-Level Panel Discussion on the Question of the Death Penalty**

23 February 2021 | Video Statement delivered by Commissioner Karen S. Gomez Dumpit

Excellencies,

The Commission thanks the Human Rights Council for dedicating time to once again discuss the death penalty. While the Philippines' recent vote in favor of the UNGA Resolution on the Moratorium on the Use of Death Penalty is welcomed, legislators continue to show interest in reinstating the death penalty in the country. In order to prevent its resurgence in the justice system, the Commission has engaged in advocacy and research with several non-government organizations including the academe.

Our national survey on public attitudes towards the death penalty found that without alternatives, fifty-nine percent showed support for it. We found that this support decreases when respondents are presented with alternative punishments. Results showed that for selected crimes, over about seventy percent would not choose the death penalty.

On deterrence, Filipinos believe that death penalty would have some deterrent effect despite lack of evidence supporting this. It also showed that support for death penalty is associated with the fear of crime: over 70 percent of respondents were very worried about being a victim of crime even though less than three percent of households have actually been victimized.

With all these, we acknowledge the need to spread facts about the death penalty which led us to develop the Right to Life Website.*

We remain fully committed to ensuring that the death penalty remains abolished in the Philippines, and eventually, the whole world.

Maraming salamat po.

* <https://righttolifeph.online/>