



British
High Commission
Georgetown

The Delegation of the European Union
and the British High Commission

**Caribbean Regional Conference
on the
Abolition of the Death Penalty**

**Arthur Chung International Conference Centre
Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 November 2015**

Programme

Monday 23 November

Registration 17:30 hrs

Opening Remarks 18:00 hrs

His Excellency Jernej Videtič
Ambassador of the European Union

Representative of the Government of Guyana

Ambassador Irwin LaRocque
Secretary-General, Caribbean Community

Mr Fernando Ponz Cantó
Deputy Head of Division for the Caribbean, European External Action Service

Dr. Asunta Vivó Cavaller
Secretary General, International Commission Against the Death Penalty (ICDP)

Lord Navnit Dholakia
UK All Party Parliamentary Committee on Abolition of the Death Penalty

Reception 19:00 hrs

Tuesday 24 November

Death Penalty in the Caribbean

09:30 hrs

Chair: Dr Asunta Vivó Cavaller (ICDP)

Panellists: Dr Lloyd Barnett (Greater Caribbean for Life)

Ms Prithima Kissoon (Deputy Solicitor General of the Ministry of Legal Affairs, Guyana)

Mr Leo Bradley Jr (Human Rights Commission Belize)

Ms Merle Mendonca (Guyana Human Rights Association)

Pause/Coffee Break

Experiences of other countries in the Abolition of the Death Penalty

11:30 hrs

Chair: Dr Ruth Wijdenbosch

Panellists: Ms Marie Yolene Gilles (Réseau National de Défense des Droits Humains, Haiti)

Mr Rajiv Narayan (ICDP)

Mr Edgardo Román (World Coalition for the Abolition of the Death Penalty)

*** Lunch ***

The Death Penalty as a deterrent; does it work?

14:30 hrs

Chair: Lord Navnit Dholakia

Panellists: Ms Melinda Janki (Justice Institute)

Ms Leela Maria Goretti Ramdeen (Greater Caribbean for Life)

Mr Andrew Pilgrim (Barbados)

Conclusions

16:00 hrs

Mr Derek Lambe

Head of Political, Press and Information, EU Delegation Guyana

Dr. Asunta Vivó Cavaller

Secretary General ICDP



EU Policy on the Death Penalty

The European Union holds a strong and principled position against the death penalty; its abolition is a key objective for the EU's human rights policy. Indeed, the EU is the leading institutional actor and largest donor to the fight against the death penalty.

The EU supports the call that all United Nations agencies, intergovernmental regional bodies and NGOs should continue to support States in abolishing the death penalty through their advocacy, monitoring and technical cooperation activities.

All European Union Member States are fully committed to the abolition of the death penalty. Abolition is also a precondition for candidate countries seeking accession to the EU.

The European Union has a strong and unequivocal opposition to the death penalty at all times and in all circumstances. Therefore, and encouraged by the growing momentum towards abolition of the death penalty worldwide, the EU will continue its long-standing campaign against the death penalty.

The death penalty is cruel and inhuman, and has not been shown in any way to act as a deterrent to crime. Furthermore, any miscarriage of justice could lead to the intentional killing of an innocent person by state authorities.

The European Union regards abolition of the death penalty as essential for the protection of human dignity, as well as for the progressive development of human rights.