



International Commission
against the Death Penalty

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Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: ICDP warmly welcomes Ms Radhika Coomaraswamy as a new Commissioner

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission) is delighted to announce the appointment of Ms Radhika Coomaraswamy as its new Commissioner.

Ms Coomaraswamy brings with her a distinguished career in law, diplomacy, academia and human rights advocacy. She served as Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict at the United Nations from 2006 to 2012, where she worked to protect children in conflict zones worldwide. In 1994, she became the United Nations' first Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, helping to establish violence against women as an international political and human rights issue.

She co-founded the International Centre for Ethnic Studies in 1982 and has held numerous high-level positions, including as a civil representative to Sri Lanka's Constitutional Council and as a member of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar. Her career exemplifies a commitment to advancing accountability, justice, and human rights globally.

"I am honoured to welcome Radhika Coomaraswamy to ICDP," said ICDP President Navi Pillay. "I join ICDP Commissioners in our belief that her exceptional leadership, broad and highly respected expertise, and unwavering dedication to human rights will be instrumental in furthering our advocacy for the universal abolition of the death penalty."

Background

The activities of ICDP which was established in 2010, are led by 25 high-level Commissioners from all regions of the world, under the presidency of Judge Navi Pillay, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Commissioners include four former Presidents, six former Prime Ministers, ten Ministers, two U.S. Governors, ten Parliamentarians, six Judges, and seven senior UN officials — including three former UN High Commissioners for Human Rights. The work of ICDP is supported by a geographically diverse Support Group of 24 Member States who are committed to the abolition of the death penalty. Its Secretariat is based in Madrid and is responsible for the day-to-day work of the Commission.

The Commission promotes the abolition of capital punishment in law in States that observe a de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty and promotes moratoriums on executions in States that retain capital punishment.

ICDP works with the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, governments and nongovernmental organizations to advocate for worldwide abolition of the death penalty.



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