



Declaration by the Worldwide Steering Committee of the International Prison Chaplains Association, adopted in its session on September 11, 2020

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The Declaration of the 6th Worldwide Conference of the International Prison Chaplains Association, held on August 20-25, 2010 in Stockholm, Sweden, included a

“CALL on all sectors that value life and have a high regard for it, to join efforts, to increase public awareness on the evils of the death penalty.”

Mindful of this Declaration, IPCA reiterates its opposition to the death penalty:

- We believe that the death penalty is both an inhuman and degrading form of punishment for an offender, thus violating a person’s inherent dignity, irrespective of any crime they may have committed. We firmly believe that while alive, a person still has the capacity to change for the better if given the chance to undergo a rehabilitation or correctional programme. True justice should aim to be restorative, not solely punitive.
- Once carried out, the death penalty is irrevocable; there is no chance for review if an innocent person is executed.
- While respecting the authority of sovereign states to sanction crime, we believe that the exercise of justice should take human dignity into consideration.
- As a Christian organization, we uphold the principles taught by our Lord Jesus Christ: to seek justice and righteousness, and in doing so to exercise mercy, compassion, and forgiveness towards those who sin against us.

We therefore express our whole-hearted support for those in the Philippines who are members of the Coalition Against Death Penalty (CADP) in their actions to oppose the reintroduction of the death penalty in their country, and wish them the blessing of Jesus Christ, the Lord of Life, in their commitment to this end.

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