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| sismun2019 | death penalty  |

**Committee**: Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights

**Topic**: Death Penalty

1. **Description of Committee**

 Countries have different opinions on the topic of capital punishment. In this committee, there are countries which are still using death penalty as a form of exemplary punishment but also there are countries which have abolished this form of punishment years ago. This committee will focus on the matter of justness, pros and cons of having the capital punishment. OHCHR is known for contributing global awareness for safety and security by collaborating with countries. UN Human Rights chief Navi Pallay stated in an opinion piece question on the death penalty, “The death penalty is carried out in ways that violate international norms, such as the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as well as anti-discrimination standards.” OHCHR believes that death penalty is a violation of one of the most important human rights, which is the right to life. It’s mission is to slowly abolish all capital punishment policies that are still being implemented in this world.

1. **Statement of the Problem**

This topic of capital punishment is very controversial, there have been several arguments and debates over this topic. In this modern justice system of the 21st century, everything is changing, including laws and regulations concerning the death penalty. Should this form of punishment make its space in this modern world or is it not a just form of punishment that fits this modern justice system? Delegates are expected to maintain authenticity and find a unifying solution to this matter.

1. **History/Past UN Actions**

 The history of capital punishment dates back to ancient times and King Hammurabi. The death penalty has always been the brutal form of punishment for many crimes. As the years passed, people’s way of thinking changed. People now want to ban this form of barbaric punishment. The United Nations has taken some steps to address the death penalty. At an event on October 10th,2017, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres stated that, “The death penalty has no place in the 21st century.” After that the office of OHCHR called on all counties to strengthen efforts to abolish death penalty. The Europen Union has always been against the capital punishment. The EU members abolished death penalty to fight for human righs, in exception to Belarus who still hasn’t taken any decision towads changing this form of punishment.

1. **Possible Solutions**

Coming to a solution especially for this type of topic can be very challenging. In order to find a solution, delegates have to work with countries who share the same views as them. For countries who are pro death penalty, please take steps to address why your country continues to use the death penalty. Does your country support the death penalty for religious or traditional values? Do you believe it deters crime? For countries who are against death penalty, do you believe it is barbaric, or that it violates human rights, or that it can lead to execution of the innocent? Also, what steps could be taken to encourage countries still using the death penalty to move away from the practice? These are some of the points that can help countries have a meaningful dialogue on this matter.. Delegates are to stick to their position and refrain from using personal thoughts or beliefs.

1. **Questions to consider and Helpful links:**
2. What crimes, if any, warrant the death penalty?
3. How have countries, like EU member states, moved away from the death penalty, and can their process be replicated?
4. What impact does the death penalty have on the community as a whole?
5. If death penalty is abolished, will prisons be overpopulated?
6. <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/history-of-the-death-penalty/>- History of death penalty
7. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/DeathPenalty/Pages/DPIndex.aspx>- OHCHR’s document of death penalty
8. <https://sigren.weebly.com/uploads/3/9/1/9/39198123/pros_and_cons_of_the_death_penalty._1.docx> - Pros and Cons of death penalty

6. **Works Cited**

“Death Penalty in Europe and the rest of the world”

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/world/20190212STO25910/death-penalty-in-europe-and-the-rest-of-the-world-key-facts>

“The Countries that still have death penalty”

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/maps-and-graphics/countries-that-still-have-the-death-penalty/><https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/death-penalty-america-un-demands-end-capital-punishment-a7993706.html>

“History of Death Penalty”

 <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/facts-and-research/history-of-the-death-penalty>

“The Death Penalty has no place in the 21st Century- UN chief Guterres”

 [https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/10/568172-death-penalty-has-no-place-21st-century-u](https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/10/568172-death-penalty-has-no-place-21st-century-un-chief-guterres)

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“ History of Death Penalty”

 <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/history-of-the-death-penalty/>

“Working towards a world without death penalty”

 <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/AbolitionDeathPenalty.aspx>

 **7. Countries**:

1. China
2. Iran
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Iraq
5. United States
6. Pakistan
7. Yemen
8. North Korea
9. Vietnam
10. Finland
11. Indonesia
12. India
13. Germany
14. Japan
15. South Korea
16. Nigeria
17. Belarus
18. Thailand
19. Uganda
20. Bangladesh
21. United Arab Emirates
22. United Kingdom
23. Singapore
24. Afghanistan
25. Denmark
26. Canada
27. Jordan
28. France
29. Greece
30. Norway.