



Rome, 25 June 2019

Dear Mayor,

the International Day: "Cities for life/ Cities against the death penalty" has got to its 18th edition. By means of this initiative the Community of Sant'Egidio has been committed to the abolition penalty for some decades and wants to value the Municipalities' role in keeping attention high on human rights and on life value.

In spite of the steps back moved by a small number of countries, however a further decrease in the use of death penalty was recorded in the world. The number of documented executions decreased by 30%, and is now at the lowest value of the last ten years. 78% of all capital punishments were executed in four specific countries. Commutations and pardons were granted in 29 countries. Last December the United Nations General Assembly approved a new resolution for a universal moratorium on the death penalty, and registered an increase in membership. It is no coincidence that recently Pope Francis has invited not only Christians but all citizens to commit themselves to spreading a sensibility contrary to war and the death penalty, re-launching "a new vision for a fraternal and supportive humanism of individuals and peoples".

For this reason, once again, we propose to your Administration to participate in the Day, continuing the commitment to respect life and human dignity, convinced of the urgency of canceling the inhuman practice of capital punishment from the law and criminal codes of Nations.

We send you, as an attachment, information on how to participate again this year in the campaign and in the initiatives for the day of November 30, 2019. You will find also the procedures for new Municipalities and the mayors who wish to join our international network against the death penalty . Waiting for your kind and prompt response, I avail myself the opportunity to address you the expressions of my consideration.

Prof. Marco Impagliazzo  
President of the Community of Sant'Egidio

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ATTACHMENT 1

## **World Day “*Cities for Life*”**

### **Cities for Life - Cities against death penalty**

In 2002, the Community of Sant'Egidio launched the first International Day **Cities for Life - Cities against the Death Penalty** on 30<sup>th</sup> November. The date was chosen in memory of the first time the death penalty was abolished, in the Grand Duchy of Tuscany on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1786. Approximately 80 cities were involved for the first edition in 2002. Now more than 2150 cities have rallied around the initiative - including 80 capitals in five continents, taking part in the event by raising public awareness, promoting educational initiatives and organising events held in symbolic monuments and squares.

The International Day **Cities for Life - Cities against the Death Penalty**, is the largest international mobilization of the abolitionist movement. Its objective is to establish a dialogue within the civil society on the topic and involve local administrators, aiming at abolishing the death penalty and making the rejection of violence the true identity of a city and its citizens.

The Colosseum in Rome, when illuminated by a special light, has become the universal place and symbol of the abolitionist efforts. The Colosseum is lit up whenever an important milestone on the road to abolition and lasting moratorium is reached in the world.

To invite your city to take part in this network of Cities Against the Death Penalty, please contact the Coordination Office ([abolition@santegidio.org](mailto:abolition@santegidio.org)). Through this channel a number of materials are made available upon request (like videos, significant international witness statements and invitations), you can also surf on the website [www.nodeathpenalty.santegidio.org](http://www.nodeathpenalty.santegidio.org) to be informed on the initiatives in the world.



## ATTACHMENT 2

### How to join the Global Campaign “Cities for Life – Cities against the Death Penalty”

1. **DESIGNATE A PERSON OR AN OFFICE AS THE CONTACT FOR THE COMMUNITY OF SANT'EGIDIO AND THE OTHER ENTITIES MEMBERS OF THE WCADP AND PROMOTE INITIATIVES IN YOUR CITY, THEN SELECT ONE OR MORE OF THE INITIATIVES MENTIONED AT POINTS 3) AND 4)**
2. **GIVE CONSENT TO ADVERTISE YOUR CITY AS A MEMBER OF THE CITIES FOR LIFE – CITIES AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY (THROUGH THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR THE MAYOR), WITHOUT ANY BURDEN, IF NOT A MORAL OBLIGATION TO AGREE WITH THE CONTENTS AND INTENTION OF THE CAMPAIGN.**
3. **DESIGNATE A SPECIAL MONUMENT, IDENTIFIABLE AS THE LIVING LOGO OF THE CAMPAIGN AND DEFINE A SPECIAL WAY TO LIGHT IT UP ON 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER AND IN THE PREVIOUS DAYS EVERY YEAR (EVEN PROJECTING ON IT SPECIAL SYMBOLS AND MESSAGES IN FAVOUR OF LIFE AND FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY)**
4. **EVERY CITY IS INVITED TO PROMOTE PUBLIC CULTURAL EVENTS (CONFERENCES, CONCERTS, VIDEOS, ETC.) IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMUNITY OF SANT'EGIDIO AND THE CAMPAIGN PARTNER ASSOCIATIONS.**

### FURTHERMORE

- Every city has the authority to declare November 30 as “Day for life/against the death penalty”, and can place the phrase “City for Life/City against the Death Penalty” beneath the name of the city or its symbols and on its website and on any statement or stationery or means it may choose (a communication of the decision is to be shared with the Community of Sant'Egidio).
- Every city can link the home page of its website (or its Facebook page) by means of a link to the international network which is connected to the online platform [www.nodeathpenalty.santegidio.org](http://www.nodeathpenalty.santegidio.org) and register the city in the online list and interactive map. It is also appropriate that every city that joins this campaign should endeavour to advertise its support of the campaign in the local press. For further information please contact our secretariat.



## CITIES FOR LIFE/CITIES AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

### THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF .....

being fully convinced that every community, through the voice of its representatives, can operate as a subject capable of improving the respect for human life and dignity all over the world;

worried for the retention of the inhuman practice of the capital punishment in many countries of the world;

upon the proposal of the Community of Sant'Egidio, founder of the network of municipalities "Cities for Life / Cities against the Death Penalty", united in Europe and in the world by a common desire to accelerate the end of capital punishment in the juridical and crime codes of countries around the world;

#### DELIBERATES

the membership of the City of ..... in the initiative "Cities for life/Cities against the Death Penalty" of the Community of Sant'Egidio and it declares 30<sup>th</sup> November the Day of "Cities for life/Cities against the Death Penalty" for the City.

The Municipal Administration commits itself to make this membership a reason for an increased sense of responsibility, ensuring, in all areas of its competency, that adequate space be given to information and awareness concerning the reasons for rejection of the practice of capital punishment and the progress of the abolitionist campaign in the world.

The Municipal Administration will ensure widespread information be given concerning its membership.



Commissione  
Europea

## CITIES FOR LIFE/CITIES AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

MAYOR MEMBERSHIP FORM

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*[TITLE] [NAME] [SURNAME]*

**MAYOR OF THE CITY OF**

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*[NAME OF THE CITY IN ITS ORIGINAL LANGUAGE]*

upon the proposal of the Community of Sant'Egidio, founder of the network of municipalities "Cities for Life / Cities against the Death Penalty", united in Europe and in the world by a common desire to accelerate the end of capital punishment in the juridical and crime codes of countries around the world;

### ADHERES

to the initiative "Cities for life/Cities against the Death Penalty" of the Community of Sant'Egidio and he/she commits him/herself to make this membership a reason for an increased sense of responsibility, ensuring, in all areas of his/her competency, that adequate space be given to information and awareness concerning the reasons for rejection of the practice of capital punishment and the progress of the abolitionist campaign in the world.

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*[SIGNATURE]*

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*[DATE]*