# THE EUROPEAN UNION **OPPOSES THE DEATH PENALTY**

The European Union opposes the death penalty in all cases and all circumstances. It is a cruel, inhumane and degrading punishment. All 27 Member States of the European Union have fully abolished the death penalty in law and practice while continuing to effectively punish the most serious criminal offenders.



Of the 193 UN Member States, 112 have abolished the death penalty and an additional 50 countries have not had executions for at least 10 years. Moreover, in 2019 no executions took place in 173 countries.

> As the EU we say NO to the death penalty and we look forward to the day when we will hear a resounding NO to the death penalty from all U.S. States.

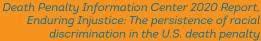




### THE DEATH PENALTY IS SOCIALLY UNJUST



The death penalty is discriminatory. It disproportionately affects minorities, the poor, and the most vulnerable. The majority of those charged with capital crimes cannot afford qualified and dedicated representation.





#### **EXECUTIONS ARE IRREVERSIBLE**



For every nine executions in America, one person sentenced to death has been proven innocent. Nearly 200 wrongly convicted people have been released from death row in the United States since 1973 after proving their innocence.



Freddie Lee Pitts, exonerated from





## **BANNING THE TRADE OF DRUGS** USED IN EXECUTIONS



The European Union has banned the export of drugs used in lethal injections. In 2017, the EU co-founded the Alliance for Torture-Free Trade, which seeks to ban trade in goods that can be used for torture or capital punishment.



Robert Dunham, Executive Director, **Death Penalty Information Center** 



## **WORKING WITH ADVOCATES**









The EU is a leading supporter of abolitionist civil society organizations around the world through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). In the U.S., the EU works to raise public awareness, support national networks, monitor the use of the death penalty, and advocate for legal reform and for the stay of executions.

Kristin Houlé Cuellar, Executive Director, The Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

