

National Assembly
Parliament of Zimbabwe
Box CY 298, Causeway
Harare
ZIMBABWE

Email address: clerk@parlzim.gov.zw

Abolish The Death Penalty

Dear Honourable Members of the National Assembly,

I am writing to urge you to support and vote in favour of the Death Penalty Abolition Bill 2023 which seeks to abolish the death penalty for all crimes in Zimbabwe.

In the last decade, Zimbabwe has made good progress against the death penalty. No execution has been carried out since 2005 and the President has regularly commuted death sentences of people in prison.

The death penalty violates the right to life as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and it is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment. There is no credible and convincing evidence that the death penalty has a greater deterrent effect on crime than other punishments like prison terms. The death penalty does not make people and their communities safer, but simply entrenches further brutalization and disregard for human life in the society.

The majority of countries in the world – 113 – have abolished the death penalty for all crimes, while close to three quarters of the countries in the world – 144 – have abolished the punishment in law or practice. In Africa, 24 countries have abolished the death penalty for all crimes while two countries have abolished it for ordinary crimes only.

The abolition of the death penalty in Zimbabwe would be an important, internationally welcomed, achievement for the country. It will also demonstrate the government's commitment to promoting, protecting and fulfilling human rights for all in Zimbabwe.

I thank you for your kind consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Please send your letters to the postal and email addresses above, with copies sent by post to the Zimbabwe embassy in your country.