



24th Session of the Human Rights Council
Panel Discussion on
Human rights of children of parents sentenced to the death penalty or executed

Date and Venue 11 September 2013, 10.00-13.00 pm, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Mandate

In Human Rights Council resolution 22/18, adopted in March 2013, the Council decided to convene, at its twenty-fourth session, a panel discussion on the human rights of children of parents sentenced to the death penalty or executed, with a particular focus on the ways and means to ensure the full enjoyment of their rights.

The Council requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to organize the panel discussion and to liaise with States, relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, treaty bodies, special procedures and regional human rights mechanisms, as well as with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and national human rights institutions, with a view to ensuring their contribution to the panel discussion. The Council further requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report on the outcome of the panel discussion, in the form of a summary; and to present it to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fifth session.

Objectives

Based on the request of the Human Rights Council, the panel discussion aims to:

- (i) examine the negative impact of the imposition and carrying out of the death penalty on the human rights of children whose parents are sentenced to the death penalty or executed;
- (ii) promote better understanding of the international human rights norms and standards relevant to the rights of those children; and
- (iii) discuss the protection and assistance that those children may require in the enjoyment of their human rights, including where appropriate, to provide children or another family member, with access to the parents and to all relevant information about the situation of the parents, giving due consideration to the best interests of the child.

Chair	H.E. Ambassador Remigiusz Achilles Henczel, President, United Nations Human Rights Council
Moderator	H.E. Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrughe Permanent Representative of Belgium at the United Nations Offices in Geneva
Introductory Remarks	Ms. Flavia Pansieri, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights
Message from	Ms. Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children

Panelists

- **Mr. Jorge Candona Llorens , Member, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child:** Discuss international human rights norms and standards relevant to the human rights of children of parents sentenced to the death penalty or executed;
- **Dr. Sandra Jones, Associate Professor, Rowan University, USA:** Examine and discuss the negative impact of the imposition and carrying out of the death penalty on the human rights of children of parents sentenced to the death penalty or executed;
- **Ms. Nisreen Zerikat, National Centre for Human Rights, Jordan:** Discuss role of national human rights institutions in providing the protection and assistance that children whose parents who have been sentenced to the death penalty or executed may require, in the enjoyment of their human rights;
- **Mr. Francis Ssuubi, Executive Director, Wells for Hope, Uganda:** Share experiences, good practices, and challenges from NGO perspectives in providing the protection and assistance that children whose parents who have been sentenced to the death penalty or executed may require, in the enjoyment of their human rights.

Format

The sequence of speakers during this panel discussion will be as follows:

1. The panel discussion shall begin with introductory remarks by the moderator and co-moderator and introductory remarks by Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children and the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights.
2. The panelists will be given 5-7 minutes each to make a presentation.
3. The following discussion will adopt an interactive format, which will comprise of two rounds of discussion. Each round of discussion will be given 45 minutes for comments and questions from the floor, followed by 15 minutes for comments and replies by panelists. Member States and other Observers shall be given the floor for their statements / interventions which may comprise questions and sharing of experiences and challenges, as well as suggested recommendations on the way forward with a view to stimulating constructive debate.
4. At the end, panelists will be given 3 minutes each to make their concluding remarks, followed by final remarks of the moderator and co-moderator.

Outcome

The expected outcomes of this thematic discussion are:

- States and relevant stakeholders will learn from shared experiences.
- The Council will be better informed of issues relating to the promotion and protection of the human rights of children of parents sentenced to the death penalty or executed.
- The OHCHR and other relevant stakeholders will be better informed of the needs of States in this area.
- A report on the outcome of the panel discussion, will be submitted to the Council.

Background documents

- Human Rights Council Resolution 22/11 on the panel on human rights of children of parents sentenced to the death penalty or executed;
- Human Rights Council resolution 19/37 on the rights of the child ;
- Report and Recommendations of the Day of General Discussion on Children of Incarcerated Parents (30 September 2011), convened by the Committee on the Rights of the Child.