



Pakistan: Accountability and Conviction of Perpetrators to Achieve Justice for Victim-Survivors, Not The Death Penalty

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Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN) expresses its deepest concern over the recent announcement of the government of Pakistan to introduce the death penalty as a mean to address the rising incidents of rape and child sexual abuse in the country.

The debate around the use of public execution and castration of offenders in the wake of violence against women and children suggests the willful ignorance of the state of its international obligations under various human rights treaties that it has ratified. The narrative adopted by the state can be seen as an attempt to deflect public scrutiny of the state's failure in protecting victim-survivor of sexual offences and the criminal justice system that is unable to achieve justice against perpetrators

ADPAN believes that the death penalty is cruel, inhuman and against all norms of civility. The punishment has also failed to show any effectiveness in deterring future crimes. Pakistan's continued and unabated use of death penalty in the past echoes the global trend where it is not the severity but the certainty of punishment that reduces crime in society.

Pakistan penal code is already replete with more than 27 offences that carry the death penalty and prescribing the death penalty for yet another offence will not deter and prevent future crimes. Introduction of the death penalty to sexual offences will only violate international human rights and it will not bring justice to the victim-survivors.

ADPAN calls upon Pakistan to learn and adopt the studies conducted globally on the application of the death penalty and its futility. ADPAN reiterate the global call for Pakistan to impose an immediate moratorium on the use of the death penalty for all offences in the country.

ADPAN also urge Pakistan to introduce widespread educational reform and improvement to the criminal justice system as part of its policy agenda to protect and respect the rights of women and children in the country.

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ADPAN

ADPAN is the peak regional body for organisations committed to the abolition of the death penalty across Asia-Pacific, with members from approximately 22 countries within the region. As such, ADPAN maintains that the death penalty violates the right to life, that it is the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and that the death penalty should be entirely abolished internationally.