



## **Moratorium on Death Penalty Pending Marijuana Reclassification**

7 December 2020

Kuala Lumpur

The Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN) welcomes the recent development in the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs on 2 December 2020 where marijuana and its derivative were removed from Schedule IV of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.

The removal of marijuana from the strictest control schedule reflects the shifting trends and modern understanding of the use of marijuana as part of medical therapy and recreational use across the globe. With this change at the global level, nation states must consider this development to take positive steps to review, implement or when appropriate, expedite changes to the legal status of marijuana within their own jurisdictions.

ADPAN calls for all Asia-Pacific states to immediately take heed of the development and implement the necessary legal measures and reform to reflect the change in policy at the global level. Countries where drug laws carry the death penalty for possession or trafficking of marijuana must immediately implement a moratorium on executions and ensure individuals on death row whose cases involve marijuana possession or trafficking are not executed pending the adoption of the new classification for marijuana globally and domestically.

The death penalty has been proven to be an ineffective deterrent in addressing crimes and should not hold a place in any modern criminal justice system. Rehabilitation and harm reduction must be the key foundations of any policies on crime.

For and on behalf of ADPAN (Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network)

Email: [adpan@adpan.org](mailto:adpan@adpan.org)

Website: <https://adpan.org/>

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.