

**ANTI
DEATH
PENALTY
ASIA
NETWORK**

2024 - 2025

BIENNIAL REPORT

**ADVANCING THE ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT
ACROSS THE ASIA PACIFIC**

Prepared For The ADPAN General Assembly, December 2025

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01

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

This Biennial Report, prepared for presentation at the ADPAN General Assembly in December 2025, provides an overview of the network's key initiatives and achievements from September 2024 to November 2025. It outlines ADPAN's impact in enhancing regional collaboration, amplifying abolitionist advocacy, and deepening public and institutional engagement on death penalty reform and related human rights concerns. Throughout this period, ADPAN advanced its work on death penalty abolition, fair trial rights, and access to justice by convening conferences, leading solidarity actions, and driving intersectional campaigns that connect abolition with gender justice, migration, trafficking, and drug policy reform.

Renewed Regional Strategy Towards Abolition

ADPAN developed a participatory, member-driven regional strategy that reasserts its position as the leading platform for the abolitionist movement in Asia-Pacific. By engaging ASEAN mechanisms, UN human rights bodies, embassies, universities, and civil society partners, ADPAN amplified the collective voice of its network across multiple advocacy spaces.

With the 2025 Regional Conference in Manila marking a significant milestone, ADPAN further broadened its membership and strengthened its regional presence, advancing a unified push toward the total abolition of the death penalty.

Complementing its public advocacy, ADPAN also undertook urgent interventions for individuals facing imminent execution, working closely with partners to generate public pressure, coordinate diplomatic efforts, and advocate for clemency and the protection of Malaysian nationals on death row overseas.

Intensified Advocacy for Abolition in Malaysia

ADPAN strengthened its advocacy for the full abolition of the death penalty in Malaysia, building on the momentum created by the repeal of the mandatory death penalty. It expanded public awareness through creative and youth-driven initiatives, while closely monitoring legal and policy developments to help ensure the continued enforcement of the moratorium on executions.

Strengthened Digital Communications and Outreach

ADPAN expanded its social media presence and outreach to traditional media, using coordinated campaigns to highlight advocacy milestones, urgent appeals, and member activities. It released timely press statements responding to developments on the death penalty, regional executions, and legal reforms. ADPAN also launched the *Voices Beyond Verdicts* podcast, redesigned its website, and relaunched a members bulletin.

Building a Stronger and More Sustainable ADPAN

ADPAN strengthened its organization through registration as a non-profit in the Philippines, reinforcing its regional presence and administrative flexibility. Regular Executive Committee meetings ensured strategic oversight and timely decision-making, while internal systems for financial management, operations, and reporting were streamlined to support efficiency and accountability.

02

OUR WORK IN A SNAPSHOT

ADPAN remains focused on its mission of creating wider support for abolition in the Asia Pacific region through advocacy, education, and network building.

ADVOCACY

- Proactive and Intersectional Advocacy on the Death Penalty and Related Human Rights Issues
- Solidarity and Special Events

EDUCATION

- Arts, Culture, and Youth Engagement
- Learning Support for Incarcerated Communities
- Media and Public Visibility for Awareness

NETWORK BUILDING

- Regional Convening
- Growth in Membership, Membership Engagement, and Support
- Enhanced Partnerships
- Cross-Border Collaboration

03

GOVERNANCE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee (EC) of ADPAN provides strategic oversight and policy direction. Current members include:

1. Karen Gomez-Dumpit (Convenor, Philippines),
2. Chow Ying Ngeow (Deputy Co-Convenor, Malaysia),
3. Sara Kowal (Deputy Co-Convenor, Australia),
4. Toshi Kazama (Japan),
5. Jia Zhen Wu (Taiwan),
6. Kirsten Han (Singapore), and
7. Maitreyi Misra (India).

Adilur Rahman Khan of Odhikar served until August 2024. Zoe Liang of the Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty (TAEDP) served until July 2025.

During this reporting period, the EC held fifteen meetings on the following dates: 13 January 2024, 27 April 2024, 1 June 2024, 29 August 2024, 22 October 2024, 7 November 2024, 5 December 2024, 7 January 2025, 11 February 2025, 13 March 2025, 16 April 2025, 17 July 2025, 29 August 2025, 12 November 2025, and 4 December 2025.

SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat, constituted in the third quarter of 2024, is responsible for the day-to-day management and implementation of ADPAN's regional programmes and operations. It comprises the following:

1. Francis Tom Temprosa (Regional Director, Philippines)
2. Aderna Limen (Admin/Finance Officer, Philippines)
3. Teong Jiet Chua (Finance and Admin Project Assistant, Malaysia)

ADPAN also has funding to implement anti-death penalty actions and activities in Malaysia:

4. Janice Ananthan (Project Officer, Malaysia)

The Finance and Admin Project Assistant role also supports the administrative and financial aspects of ADPAN's operations in Malaysia.

COMPLIANCE

ADPAN strengthened its compliance framework by enhancing both internal and external accountability mechanisms. Internally, it reinforced compliance through consistent financial oversight, clear per diem and travel policies, structured remote-work procedures, defined approval and reporting processes, and regular staff coordination. Externally, ADPAN maintained full adherence to audit and tax requirements, payroll administration, and applicable labor regulations.

POLICIES/GUIDELINES

ADPAN is pleased to report significant progress in strengthening its organizational governance and operational capacity. During this period, key internal policies were developed and adopted—the Social Media Policy, Remote Work Policy, and Mission/Travel Policy—providing clearer guidance for staff and promoting more consistent, accountable practices across the organization. ADPAN is also in the process of reviewing a new Volunteer Policy to formalize volunteer engagement and ensure alignment with the network's values and standards.

PARTNERSHIPS

ADPAN continued to cultivate and strengthen collaborations with key partners, including the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP), Malaysian Centre for Constitutionalism and Human Rights (MCCHR), Amnesty International Malaysia, ECPM, Asia Pacific Forum (APF), SUARAM, PSM, Lawyers for Liberty (LFL), ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), Eleos Justice of Monash University Australia, Monash University Malaysia, and Freedom Film Network (FFN).

04

LEADING THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN THE ASIA PACIFIC

A. Events Organized / Co-Hosted by ADPAN

ADPAN - Amnesty International - Kyoto Bar Conference (ADPAN World Day Against Death Penalty Regional Event 2024)

On 18 September 2024, ADPAN convened the ADPAN–Amnesty International–Kyoto Bar Conference, in partnership with Amnesty International Malaysia and the Kyoto Bar Association. The roundtable discussion and screening of *Menunggu Masa* brought together parliamentarians, Bar Council representatives, Japanese lawyers, civil society organizations, and families affected by the death penalty. Conversations centered on Malaysia’s abolition of the mandatory death penalty, its broader regional impact, and the importance of continued advocacy and public education. The event also highlighted the urgency of cross-border efforts to protect Malaysians on death row abroad, particularly in Singapore.

Capital Punishment for Rape: Justice or Political Theatre?

On 23 March 2025, ADPAN, in collaboration with MCCHR, co-hosted the webinar “*Capital Punishment for Rape: Justice or Political Theatre?*” attended by 78 participants.

The panel featuring Swagata Raha, Samantha Chong, Ariffin Sha, and Melissa Akhir examined the intersection of punitive laws and survivor-centered justice. Drawing on ADPAN’s joint report with Eleos Justice, Monash University, and SAME Network entitled “*A Deadly Distraction: Why Death Penalty is Not the Answer to Rape in South Asia*”, the discussion revealed how the death penalty for rape often functions as political theater rather than genuine protection, and explored legal, policy, and human-rights implications across India, Malaysia, and Singapore.

Speakers highlighted the need for survivor-focused justice, systemic reform, and media responsibility in shaping informed public

discourse, emphasizing that real protection lies in rehabilitation and equality, not retribution.

Strengthening Fair Trial and Ending Torture in Malaysia and ASEAN

On 24 May 2025, the Regional Dialogue on “*Strengthening Fair Trial and Ending Torture*” was held under the #ACT4CAT campaign and the ASEAN Peoples@ASEAN2025 initiative. Co-organized by ADPAN, SUARAM, SUHAKAM, Amnesty International Malaysia, Lawyers for Liberty, KontraS (Indonesia), and CrCF (Thailand), the event brought together regional actors to explore strategies for preventing torture and reinforcing fair trial protections across ASEAN.

Moderated by ADPAN Project Officer Janice Ananthan, the panel featured Tom Temprosa, Pornpen Khongkachonkiet, Nadine Sherani Salsabila, and Nazira Abdul Rahim, who emphasized that ratifying the UN Convention Against Torture is an essential step toward safeguarding individuals from torture in Malaysia. ADPAN further highlighted that the death penalty itself constitutes cruel, inhuman, and degrading punishment. As Malaysia takes on the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2025, the dialogue underscored the region’s collective responsibility to end torture, uphold human dignity, and advance justice.

ADPAN Regional Conference 2025 (5-7 June 2025)

The ADPAN Regional Conference 2025 gathered nearly eighty participants from across Asia and the Pacific, including diplomats, parliamentarians, lawyers, human rights defenders, journalists, youth advocates, and civil society representatives. As ADPAN’s first in-person regional convening in two years, the conference created an essential space for connection, reflection, and renewed movement-building.

The programme began on 5 June with a pre-conference arrival day, where participants met informally to reconnect and welcome new members. This helped set the tone of trust, openness, and shared purpose that carried through the entire conference.

Day 1 opened with welcome remarks from Karen Gomez-Dumpit, Convenor of ADPAN, who spoke about transparency, collaboration, and ADPAN’s strengthened commitment to strategic advocacy across the Asia Pacific. The morning and afternoon sessions explored the state of the death penalty across the region, with participants sharing

national updates, political trends, reform opportunities, and ongoing crackdowns. Issues such as shrinking civic space, the disproportionate impact of capital punishment on marginalized groups, the challenges of dual legal systems, and the stalled progress on re-sentencing were extensively discussed.

Panels on freedom of expression and the safety of human rights defenders reflected the increasingly repressive environment many advocates are working in. The day ended with a screening of *"Menunggu Masa"* and a meaningful discussion with co-director Sherrie Razak Dali, who spoke about the lived realities behind legal and policy debates.

The highlight of Day 1 and of the entire conference was the Keynote Public Reception Dinner titled *"Hope, Justice, and Solidarity: Working Together Against the Death Penalty in the Asia Pacific"*. Co-hosted by ADPAN and the WCADP, the dinner brought together more than eighty guests, including diplomats, members of the Philippine Congress, legal practitioners, grassroots movements, international NGOs, and the media.

The presence of Mary Jane Veloso's family and her lawyer, Edre Olalia, was particularly powerful. Edre's keynote address centered on dignity, justice, and the systemic vulnerabilities faced by foreign nationals on death row, delivering a deeply emotional call to resist indifference and to recognize the humanity of those caught in the machinery of capital punishment. Messages of solidarity were delivered by diplomatic missions and international partners, underscoring the wide and diverse support for abolition.

The evening featured musical performances and the launch of *"Practical Guide: How to Prevent a Return to the Death Penalty"*. The dinner closed with a collective toast to solidarity, hope, and the shared struggle for a death penalty-free region.

Day 2 shifted the conference from assessment to action. Throughout the day, participants moved between open workshops and member-focused strategic discussions, developing plans for future advocacy around drug policy, treaty body engagement, and strengthening regional legal capacity. ADPAN members met in an executive session to map out a forward-looking strategy built on shared principles of trust, mutual support, and regional cooperation.

Conversations centered on how to mobilize national and regional momentum, respond to political backsliding, and keep the lived realities of persons on death row and their families, victims' families, and human rights defenders at the heart of the movement. The day concluded with an intimate closing dinner, where members and partners reflected on achievements, appreciated each other's efforts, and reaffirmed their shared commitment to abolition.

The conference closed with powerful reflections, including on Edre Olalia's reminder that "the death penalty does not kill the crime; it kills the poor, the exploited, and the silenced."

The ADPAN Regional Conference 2025 succeeded in strengthening networks, deepening understanding, and energizing collective action. With its blend of rigorous dialogue, emotional storytelling, and public advocacy, especially the moving keynote dinner, the conference marked an important moment for the abolitionist movement in the Asia Pacific.

Gender, Migration, and the Death Penalty: The Case of Mary Jane Veloso

On 30 September 2025, as part of the ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People's Forum (ACSC/APF) 2025 online convergence series, ADPAN and MCCHR co-hosted a webinar titled "*Gender, Migration, and the Death Penalty: The Case of Mary Jane Veloso*". Moderated by ADPAN Regional Director Tom Temprosa, the session featured ADPAN Convenor Karen S. Gomez-Dumpit, Ireeny Muzammel, Wiwin Warsating of KABAR BUMI (Indonesia), and keynote speaker Edre Olalia. The discussion explored the intersections of gender, migration, and justice, underscoring the heightened vulnerabilities faced by migrant women within punitive legal systems and the pressing need to reform death penalty frameworks.

Hybrid Webinar on Cross-Border Defense for Persons on Death Row in the Asia Pacific (ADPAN World Day Against Death Penalty Regional Event 2025)

On 14 October 2025, ADPAN, in partnership with MCCHR, Eleos Justice, Monash University, and the Capital Punishment Justice Project (CPJP), hosted a hybrid event titled "*Cross-Border Defense for Persons on Death Row in the Asia Pacific*". Moderated by ADPAN

Deputy Co-Convenor Ngeow Chow Ying, the panel included Justice Lex Lasry AM KC (Australia), Edre Olalia (Philippines), Edward Fitzgerald CBE KC (United Kingdom), and Zaid Malek (Malaysia, Lawyers for Liberty). Drawing on landmark cases from Singapore and the wider region—such as Van Nguyen, Flor Contemplacion, Mary Jane Veloso, and Datchinamurthy Kataiah—the discussion explored the legal and moral imperatives of cross-border defense, emphasizing the critical role of international cooperation, foreign counsel, and regional solidarity in challenging the death penalty in retentionist countries.

To watch the webinar, view [here](#).

ECPM 5th Regional Congress on the Death Penalty in East Asia, Tokyo (7-9 November 2025)

ECPM organized the 5th Regional Congress on the Death Penalty in East Asia, in partnership with the Center for Prisoners' Rights (CPR), the Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA), and ADPAN, from 7–9 November 2025. The congress served as a key platform to address key issues in the region's application of the death penalty with a focus on Japan, China, Mongolia, South Korea, North Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Singapore. ADPAN was represented on the academic committee which developed the conference program.

ADPAN Executive Committee member Toshi Kazama spoke at the Opening Ceremony, emphasizing the importance of bringing advocates together in domestic, community-based settings where conversations on abolition can have the greatest transformative impact. Drawing on his advocacy in Mongolia, he recounted how encounters with victims of crime who oppose the death penalty have prompted authorities to reconsider assumptions about retribution. Recognizing their voices can be a compelling force for abolition.

Many ADPAN members attended, presented, and engaged actively in various forums and workshops. The event also featured a moving tribute to Pannir Selvam Pranthaman, during which his sister Angelia shared his legacy and advocacy through his book *"Death Row Literature"*. Discussions throughout the congress reinforced the need for transparency, justice reform, and regional collaboration to strengthen pathways to achieving full abolition.

In a very powerful address at the Closing Ceremony, ADPAN Deputy Co-Convenor Ngeow ChowYing turned the attention towards the

work of ADPAN Members working in the Global South. The address underscored the disproportionate burdens borne by ADPAN members. It emphasized that abolitionist advocacy in the Global South unfolds amidst failing institutions, endemic corruption, post-colonial inequalities, and public pressures that make challenging the death penalty politically dangerous.

It highlighted that activists are frequently stigmatized as traitors, enemies of the state, or agents of foreign influence, and face harassment, surveillance, threats, or exile. Despite minimal resources and significant personal sacrifice—in contrast to the institutional protections available elsewhere—they persist in confronting entrenched power structures with extraordinary courage.

Chow Ying's address closed by affirming that the gathering was “not as critics of nations, but as believers in human dignity,” urging the movement to confront these difficult questions.

B. Events Where ADPAN was Represented

Regional Legal and Media Training Workshop on Drug Policy and Harm Reduction

From 15–17 November 2024, ADPAN participated in the Regional Legal and Media Training Workshop on Drug Policy and Harm Reduction in Bangkok, organized by the International Drug Policy Consortium.

The workshop brought together legal, media, and community stakeholders from across Southeast Asia to promote rights-based drug policy reform. ADPAN highlighted the connection between punitive drug laws and the death penalty, advocating for evidence-based, humane, and non-discriminatory approaches. It also emphasized the importance of cross-sector collaboration to enhance advocacy efforts and safeguard the rights and dignity of people who use drugs.

Regional Guidelines for Lawyers Representing Individuals Facing the Death Penalty and Execution in Asia

On March 13th 2025, ADPAN, represented by ADPAN member Sherrie Dali Razak, Regional Director Francis Tom Temprosa, and Deputy Co-Convenor Ngeow Chow Ying contributed to a series of regional

roundtables on the draft Professional Guidelines for Lawyers Representing Individuals Facing the Death Penalty and Execution in Asia, organized by MCCHR and The Rights Practice.

These consultations brought together lawyers, human rights experts, and bar representatives to refine the draft guidelines and strengthen fair trial safeguards in capital cases. Speakers included H.E. Edmund Bon (AICHR Representative of Malaysia), Datuk Mariati Robert, and Ravi Chandran. The roundtables form part of a multi-year civil society collaboration aimed at improving defense standards and advancing access to justice for individuals facing the death penalty across Asia.

Launch of the Amnesty International Annual Death Penalty Report 2024

ADPAN was represented at the launch of Amnesty International's annual report "*Death Sentences and Executions 2024*" by ADPAN's Deputy Co-Convenor Ngeow Chow Ying, who was invited to speak at the event.

Amnesty International's benchmark report noted that while more than half of the world has abolished the death penalty, 86 countries continue to retain this irreversible punishment. In Asia, where the majority of executions still take place, the report highlighted ongoing concerns over secrecy, unfair trials, and disproportionate use of capital punishment for drug-related offenses. Countries such as China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Yemen remained among the top executioners globally.

At the same time, only 15 countries carried out executions in 2024—the lowest number in recorded history—showing that abolition continues to gain momentum worldwide.

CLARS–Monash Human Rights Hybrid Seminar

On 17 July 2025, ADPAN participated in the CLARS–Monash Human Rights Seminar on Capital Punishment, which brought together experts from Malaysia, Singapore, and the United Kingdom to discuss comparative perspectives on the death penalty.

ADPAN contributed to cross-jurisdictional exchanges on evolving legal frameworks and advocacy approaches. ADPAN's Deputy Co-Convenor Sara Kowal delivered the closing remarks,

underscoring compassion, dignity, and the rule of law as the enduring pillars of abolitionist advocacy.

ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People's Forum 2025

On 14–15 October 2025, ADPAN presented at the ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People's Forum (ACSC/APF) 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, sharing consolidated findings and recommendations from the earlier online convergence on "*Cluster 5: Ethnic and Marginalized People and Gender Justice*". The recommendations emphasized integrating gender and migration perspectives into death penalty reform, safeguarding trafficked individuals on death row, and advancing abolition efforts across ASEAN in alignment with human rights-centered "ASEAN Vision 2045".

International Advocacy

88th CEDAW Session for Singapore and Malaysia, Geneva (15-24 May 2024)

During the 88th CEDAW session reviewing Singapore and Malaysia, a joint private meeting with CEDAW experts, including Ms. Daphna Hacker, Ms. Rosario G. Manalo, Ana Pelaez Narvaez, Mr. Elgun Safarov, and Ms. Bandana Rana was held, with ADPAN representatives Karen Gomez-Dumpit and Sherrie Razak in attendance, to update the current situation on the death penalty in Malaysia, particularly focusing on re-sentencing and its impact on women on death row, and to provide related recommendations to the Malaysian government. At the CEDAW informal public meeting, oral declarations were made by Sherrie for Malaysia.

Engagements at the United Nations General Assembly, New York (October 2024)

In October 2024, ADPAN's Convenor, Karen Gomez-Dumpit represented ADPAN in New York, where she participated in a series of high-level advocacy meetings in the lead-up to the United Nations General Assembly vote on the Moratorium on the Use of the Death Penalty.

Penholders for the UNGA Moratorium on the Death Penalty (30th October 2024)

ADPAN was also represented by our Deputy Co-Convenor, Sara Kowal, in New York. Sara held joint advocacy discussions with the Permanent Missions of Argentina and Italy, the Penholders of the UNGA moratorium resolution on the 30th of October 2024. In these meetings, she presented ADPAN's regional perspectives on the continued use of the death penalty in the Asia Pacific.

68th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Vienna (10-14 March 2025)

On 10-14 March 2025, ADPAN's Deputy Co-Convenor Ngeow ChowYing attended the 68th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs held in Vienna, where she engaged with UN agencies, diplomatic missions, and civil society partners on issues intersecting drugs and capital punishment.

AICHR Training on the Intersection of Drug Policies with Human Rights and Health in Southeast Asia, Kuala Lumpur (7 October 2025)

On 7 October 2025, ADPAN's Deputy Co-Convenor Ngeow Chow Ying represented the organization as a speaker at the "AICHR Training on the Intersection of Drug Policies with Human Rights and Health in Southeast Asia" in Kuala Lumpur. The session examined challenges, critiques, and best practices in ASEAN's current drug policies, highlighting opportunities for rights-based and health-centered approaches. Chow Ying provided an overview of the use of the death penalty in Asia, particularly for drug-related offenses, emphasizing that such practices violate international law as they do not meet the "most serious crime" threshold. These international advocacy engagements strengthened ADPAN's presence in global forums and ensured that Asia Pacific perspectives remain central to worldwide discussions on ending the death penalty.

05

CHAMPIONING THE DRIVE FOR ABOLITION IN MALAYSIA

ADVOCATING FOR MALAYSIAN ON DEATH ROW ABROAD

ADPAN remains at the forefront of efforts to protect the rights and lives of Malaysians facing the death penalty abroad, particularly in Singapore, where all were sentenced to death under a mandatory regime for drug-related offenses.

Press Conferences

Press conferences are a central component of ADPAN's ongoing advocacy, serving to raise media and public awareness and keeping the cases of Malaysians facing execution in Singapore in the spotlight. In 2025, ADPAN, in collaboration with civil society partners and Members of Parliament, organized four such press conferences to maintain visibility and urgency around these issues.

These press conferences were essential to draw attention to Malaysian nationals sentenced to death in Singapore for drug-related offences, many of which raise serious concerns regarding legal representation, access to consular support, and the disproportionate application of capital punishment for non-violent crimes. By publicizing these cases, ADPAN and its partners aimed to promote transparency, prompt government intervention, and highlight the urgent need for systemic reform—both to safeguard the rights of individuals on death row and to challenge punitive drug policies that place vulnerable Malaysians at severe risk.

On 6 February 2024, ADPAN and Amnesty International Malaysia held a joint press conference urging the Malaysian government to take immediate action to protect Pannir Selvam Pranthaman and others at risk of execution in Singapore, joined by several NGOs, YB Ramkarpal Singh, Kasthuri Patto, and Angelia Pranthaman. On 17 February 2025, just days before Pannir's scheduled execution, ADPAN participated in another press conference led by YB Ramkarpal Singh calling for urgent intervention. Later, on 22 September 2025, ADPAN, Amnesty

International Malaysia, and Transformative Justice Collective (TJC, a member of ADPAN) held a further joint press conference highlighting the imminent execution risks faced by four men on Singapore's death row—three of them Malaysians—and calling on Malaysia, as ASEAN Chair, to act decisively and champion regional abolition. Finally, on 6 October 2025, Malaysian MPs led by YB Ramkarpal Singh held a press conference in Parliament urging Singapore to halt Pannir's execution scheduled for 8 October, citing his role as a key material witness in an ongoing Royal Malaysia Police investigation into a cross-border drug syndicate.

Solidarity Events

In response to the escalating execution risks faced by Malaysian nationals in Singapore, ADPAN and its civil society partners organized a series of public actions to raise visibility, mobilise solidarity, and press both governments for urgent intervention.

On 19 February 2025, the eve of Pannir Selvam's scheduled execution, ADPAN co-organized a candlelight vigil at the Singapore High Commission, creating space for public reflection and collective support. This was followed by a 8 April 2025 gathering with SUARAM and Amnesty International Malaysia, urging Malaysia—as ASEAN Chair—to advocate for clemency in Pannir's case and to highlight Malaysia's own death penalty reforms. On 24 September 2025, ADPAN joined partners in another candlelight vigil to call for intervention to halt the execution of Datchinamurthy Kataiah, and on 7 October 2025, the eve of Pannir's second scheduled execution, ADPAN again stood with civil society and the family in a final vigil outside the Singapore High Commission.

The candlelight vigils garnered substantial media coverage and public attention, helping to keep the cases prominently in the national and regional spotlight.

Despite these, both Datch and Pannir were executed.

Handing Over of Clemency Letter to the Singapore High Commission in Kuala Lumpur

On 12 February 2025, Amnesty International Malaysia and ADPAN met with representatives of the Singapore High Commission, including the Political Secretary, to express concerns over Singapore's use of the death penalty and to hand over 170 individual letters addressed to His Excellency Vanu Gopala Menon, signed by civil society members and the public, urging the Singapore to commute Pannir's death sentence and establish an official moratorium on all executions.

Death Row Literature

"Death Row Literature: A Collection of Poems" by Pannir Selvam Pranthaman offers a rare and intimate glimpse into a life lived under the weight of a death sentence. Written from within his cell, these poems reflect moments of sorrow, faith, reflection, and quiet resilience.

Pannir's verses confront the harsh realities of confinement while holding fast to dignity, memory, and hope. His writing reminds us that even in the darkest spaces, the human spirit seeks meaning, connection, and transformation.

This collection stands as both a literary offering and a testament to courage—an invitation for readers to look beyond punishment and see the enduring humanity within.

On 30 August 2025, ADPAN, in collaboration with Gerak Budaya, Sebaran Kasih, and Amnesty International Malaysia, held the pre-launch of the poem collection, featuring Angelia Pranthaman reading his poems. The pre-launch set the stage for the official book launch.

On 27 September 2025, ADPAN, together with Gerak Budaya and Sebaran Kasih, hosted the official launch of *"Death Row Literature: A Collection of Poems"*. What unfolded was far more than a book event—it became an emotional gathering of advocates, friends, and members of the public who have walked alongside Pannir Selvam Pranthaman in his long and painful journey on death row.

The atmosphere was filled with both pride and heaviness. As the room celebrated Pannir's extraordinary resilience and artistic

courage, there was an unspoken, deeply felt awareness that his execution still looms over him. This gave every reading, every reflection, and every expression of support a sharper, more urgent meaning. His poems, written in solitude and under the shadow of death, took on an even deeper resonance as they were read aloud to an audience determined to honour his voice while he remained behind bars.

Family members, activists, and supporters shared moments of tears and quiet solidarity. Family spoke of how the book embodies not only Pannir's creativity and spiritual strength, but also the broader struggle for justice, dignity, and the abolition of the death penalty. The event grounded his literary achievement in the stark reality of a life hanging in the balance, reminding everyone present that this was not just a celebration of art, but a call for compassion and humanity.

It was an evening where literature, advocacy, and emotion converged—an affirmation that Pannir's words continue to reach far beyond the prison walls, even as time ran dangerously short

As part of the campaign, and in light of the imminent risk of execution, Malaysian writer and theater director Jo Kukathas, Artistic Director of The Instant Café Theatre Company and a panelist at the launch, delivered a powerful recital of Pannir's poem. Her performance transformed the moment into an act of artistic resistance, showing how poetry can cut through fear, bureaucracy, and silence to affirm a person's humanity.

Jo urged others to read Pannir's poems aloud and share them online, using art as a collective voice against injustice. Her call resonated deeply. Many participants recorded their own recitals, offered personal reflections, and circulated Pannir's words across social media. In doing so, they turned his poetry into a living campaign—one in which art becomes advocacy, and every shared reading becomes an act of solidarity with a man whose life hangs in the balance.

[View her recital here](#)

EXPANDING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND AWARENESS

ADPAN amplifies the abolitionist message through cultural, media, and youth-centred initiatives that humanized justice, broadened

public understanding of abolition, and inspired new constituencies to engage in the movement.

Second Chances: Ending the Mandatory Death Penalty in Malaysia (ADPAN in Malaysia World Day Against Death Penalty Event 2024)

On the 8th of October 2024, ADPAN co-hosted the webinar "*Second Chances: Ending the Mandatory Death Penalty in Malaysia*" in partnership with MCCHR, Eleos Justice, and Monash University. The session featured Malaysian youth and student representatives, along with Eleos Justice students who had participated in an international law clinic in Malaysia, sharing insights on the country's evolving legal landscape following the abolition of the mandatory death penalty. Speakers, including ADPAN's Deputy Co-Convenor Ngeow Chow Ying, reflected on the Federal Court's new resentencing jurisdiction and highlighted the lived experiences of individuals still on death row, grounding legal reforms in the human stories they aim to address.

Hidden Impact (ADPAN in Malaysia World Day Against Death Penalty Event 2024)

ADPAN, in collaboration with Amnesty International Malaysia and MCCHR, co-hosted the World Day Against the Death Penalty 2024 commemoration at Slate @ The Row, Kuala Lumpur. The two-day program featured the "*Hope and Sorrow*" photo exhibition, a solitary confinement art installation, and a youth art competition highlighting creative expressions on abolition. Participants engaged through an action booth advocating clemency for Pannir Selvam and attended the screening of "*Menunggu Masa*", followed by the panel "*Justice in the Shadows: The Human Cost of the Death Penalty in Singapore*", featuring Zaid Malek, ADPAN Executive Committee member Kirsten Han (Transformative Justice Collective), and Angelia Pranthaman. The event concluded with a candlelight vigil honoring Malaysians on death row in Singapore and reaffirming regional solidarity.

Create for Justice

On 30 November 2024, ADPAN, together with MCCHR, hosted the “*Create for Justice Winners’ Exhibition*” to celebrate youth contributions to justice and abolition advocacy. The event included a “*Voices of Change*” panel discussion exploring the intersection of art, film, and law in advancing justice reform, followed by a prize-giving ceremony recognizing outstanding youth entries in digital poster and opinion-writing categories. The occasion also marked the public launch of the “*Buku Beyond Bars*” campaign, promoting rehabilitation and access to reading materials in prisons.

Human Rights Festival 2024

On 8 December 2024, in conjunction with International Human Rights Day, ADPAN took part in the Human Rights Festival 2024 in Kuala Lumpur to advance the cause of death penalty abolition. During the festival, 78 attendees signed up for campaign updates, and ADPAN distributed a range of educational and advocacy materials. A complementary social media campaign under #HRF2024 further extended the festival’s reach and engagement. The event emphasized that people on death row and their families have fundamental human rights, while celebrating the transformative power of human rights in line with the UN Human Rights Day theme, “*Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now*”.

Status of the Death Penalty Moratorium

On 15 April 2025, ADPAN took part in a high-level meeting on the status of the death penalty moratorium, convened by YB M. Kula Segaran, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department (Law and Institutional Reform). The meeting brought together government agencies, the Bar Council, and civil society organizations to discuss the implementation and future direction of the moratorium, following the Federal Court’s review of cases involving mandatory death sentences and life imprisonment, completed by the end of October 2024.

Invisible People Documentary Exhibition

On 25–26 June 2025, ADPAN participated in the Invisible People Documentary Exhibition, organized by Sunway University, where

ADPAN hosted an interactive booth to engage the public on issues of drug laws, public safety, and the death penalty. The exhibition drew the attention of students and youth to those issues where they participated in a sticker poll activity, sharing their views on alternatives to execution and the future of Malaysia's death penalty laws.

Engaging the Bar Council Human Rights and Criminal Law Committees

On 6 August 2025, ADPAN met with the Malaysian Bar Council Human Rights Committee and Criminal Law Committee to discuss collaboration between civil society, the legal profession, and advocacy networks in promoting abolition and protecting the rights and lives of Malaysians at risk of the death penalty. The meeting also addressed recent developments, including Pannir's judicial proceedings in the Singapore Court of Appeal, with a view to exploring potential avenues for intervention.

Tried and Prejudice Film and Art Festival (ADPAN in Malaysia World Day Against Death Penalty Event 2025)

On 11 October 2025, in conjunction with the World Day Against Death Penalty, ADPAN took part in the "*Tried and Prejudice*" Film and Art Festival, which explored the human impact of punitive drug policies and the death penalty in Malaysia and Singapore, highlighting stories of justice, redemption, and the consequences of capital punishment. ADPAN's participation featured Pannir's poems and engagement with screenings of films including "*Menunggu Masa*", "*Peluang Kedua*", "*Ayahku Dr G*", "*Away from Ayah*", and "*Second Prison*", collectively reflecting themes of resilience, hope, and the urgent need for systemic reform. The festival was organized by Monash University Malaysia's School of Arts and Social Sciences in collaboration with Eleos Justice, ADPAN, MCCHR, Amnesty International Malaysia, and Freedom Film Network.

BUKU BEHIND BARS CAMPAIGN

Inspired by one person recently released from death row, ADPAN's Buku Beyond Bars (BBB) campaign, run in collaboration with MCCHR, advanced public understanding of justice reform by delivering

thousands of books to persons deprived of liberty, promoting literacy, and creating spaces for dialogue.

Launched at the Create for Justice exhibition, the campaign featured a PechaKucha storytelling event that engaged youth in creative discussions about books and justice, a roundtable on prison rehabilitation to examine gaps and reintegration strategies, and sustained partnerships with Sungai Buloh and Kajang prisons. Through meetings with prison leadership, book-donation drives, and the support of 17 publishers, the campaign succeeded in delivering more than 2,000 books to prison libraries.

The visibility and impact of the BBB campaign also garnered national attention, culminating in an exclusive interview with *Tatler* magazine, where both ADPAN and MCCHR highlighted the campaign's mission, community support, and the broader importance of humane, literacy-driven approaches to justice reform.

06

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY

ADPAN uses a range of digital platforms and media channels to amplify its advocacy against the death penalty and raise awareness of human rights issues across the region.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE PRESENCE

- LinkedIn [@ADPANetwork](#)
- Facebook [@ADPANetwork](#)
- Instagram [@adpanetwork](#)
- X (Twitter) [@ADPANetwork](#)
- YouTube [@ADPANChannel](#)
- Main website at adpanetwork.org

ADPAN recently upgraded its website to improve accessibility, user experience, and content delivery.

STATEMENTS

Throughout 2024-2025, ADPAN has issued or jointly endorsed more than 20 public statements, strengthening ADPAN's position as an opinion leader in advocacy. ADPAN's public statements can be accessed here: [ADPAN STATEMENTS](#).

PODCASTS

ADPAN launched "Voices Beyond Verdicts" to share regional perspectives on the death penalty, amplify the voices of those most affected by capital punishment, and highlight the experiences of advocates working for change.

Pilot episode features Kirsten Han (Singapore) and Ngeow Chow Ying (Malaysia) reflecting on their countries' shifting stances on the death penalty and ongoing challenges in the fight for abolition.

Available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Podbean. [Voices Beyond Verdicts on Spotify](#)

[Episode 10 of Tuesdays Against Executions](#) features ADPAN Deputy Co-Convenor Sara Kowal, discussing the ongoing anti-death penalty movement in Iran, the misuse of capital punishment, and the importance of amplifying the voices of those imprisoned.

Featured collaboration episode “Flor & Mary Jane: The Story of Two Filipino Women on Death Row” (Currents Podcast) examines the cases of Flor Contemplacion and Mary Jane Veloso as key moments in the anti-death penalty movement. [Listen here](#)

07

STRENGTHENING MEMBER ENGAGEMENT AND BUILDING THE WAY FORWARD

In 2025, ADPAN deepened member engagement through the successful launch of the ADPAN Members Seminar Series, equipping members with practical skills in financial management and social media design for advocacy.

The inaugural sessions, “Excel Essentials for Human Rights Work” and “Social Media Workshop: Designing and Producing Powerful Materials Online”, laid the groundwork for a structured programme of continuous learning.

The third session - Mental Health Awareness Workshop held on Tuesday, 25 November 2025 at 5:30 PM (KL/Manila Time)- recognising that mental health is a vital yet often overlooked aspect of death penalty advocacy. This session provides an opportunity to explore the fundamentals of self-care and mental wellbeing, while addressing the unique emotional and ethical challenges faced when supporting people on death row and their families. Led by Dr. Samuel Wong Tian Ci of the Royal College of Psychiatry and featuring reflections from ADPAN Executive Committee member Maitreyi Misra of The Square Circle Clinic, the workshop fosters open dialogue on the personal impacts of this work, the structural and social contexts that shape mental health, and strategies for sustaining resilience in a field marked by high emotional stakes.

To foster real-time coordination and peer exchange, ADPAN established a dedicated Signal group where members can share updates, upcoming events, and resources.

This is complemented by the ADPAN Members Bulletin, which delivers curated monthly updates on campaigns, capacity-building opportunities, and regional developments.

EU-Consortium and Regranting Support

ADPAN also participated as a member of an EU-funded Consortium, leveraging the allocated funds to strengthen the capacity of its members. Through this mechanism, ADPAN regranting financial support to member organizations, enabling them to implement targeted local initiatives, advocacy campaigns, and community engagement projects aligned with the network's mission of promoting abolition and human rights. This approach not only enhanced the operational reach of members but also fostered innovation and collaboration across the Asia Pacific abolitionist movement.

In June 2025, ADPAN commenced a series of power-sharing dialogues with ADPAN members and representatives from the EU-Consortium which focused on examining the uneven power structures and the need to ensure that funding for anti-death penalty advocacy is appropriately distributed to those doing the work on the ground in retentionist countries in a transparent and equitable manner.

Building on this momentum, ADPAN will continue this essential dialogue in order to ensure that ADPAN members have the capacity to undertake their critical work.

Photo Gallery

Leading the Abolition of the Death Penalty in the Asia Pacific



ADPAN - Amnesty International - Kyoto Bar Conference (ADPAN World Day Against Death Penalty Regional Event 2025)



Capital Punishment for Rape: Justice or Political Theatre?



Regional Legal and Media Training Workshop on Drug Policy and Harm Reduction



Regional Guidelines for Lawyers Representing Individuals Facing the Death Penalty and Execution in Asia



Strengthening Fair Trial and Ending Torture in Malaysia and ASEAN



Launch of the Annual Death Penalty Report 2024



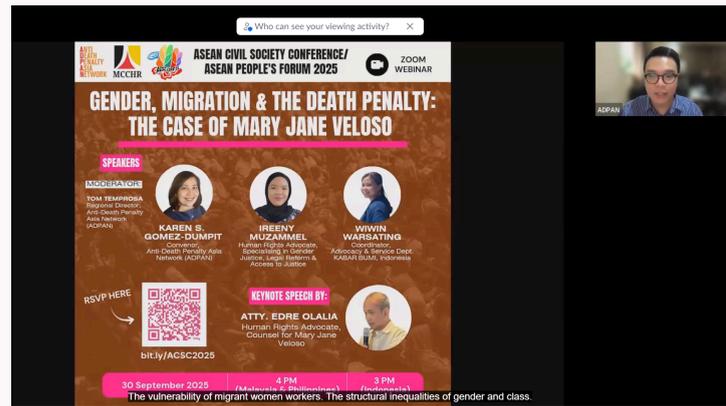
68th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Vienna



CLARS–Monash Human Rights Hybrid Seminar



ADPAN Regional Conference 2025



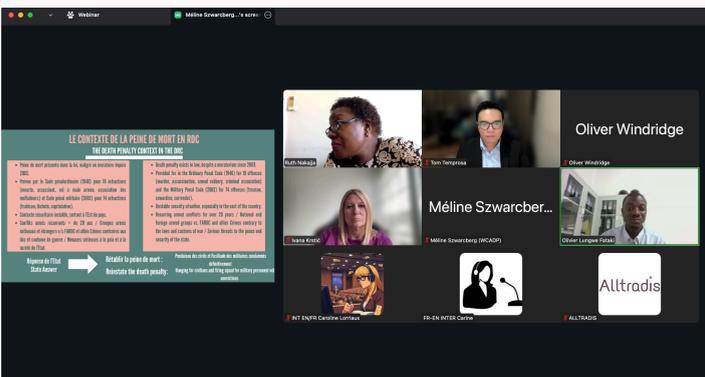
Gender, Migration, and the Death Penalty: The Case of Mary Jane Veloso



88th CEDAW session for Singapore and Malaysia, Geneva



ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ ASEAN People's Forum 2025



Death Penalty and Security - Panel Discussion



Cross-Border Defense for Persons on Death Row in the Asia Pacific (ADPAN World Day Against Death Penalty Regional Event 2025)



ECPM 5th Regional Congress on the Death Penalty in East Asia, Tokyo (7-9 November 2025)

Championing the Drive for Abolition in Malaysia



Joint Press Conference organized by YB Ramkarpal Singh to call on the Malaysian government to intervene urgently in Pannir's case



Joint Press Conference calling on the Malaysian government to take immediate and decisive action on behalf of Malaysian national Pannir Selvam Pranthaman and others at risk of execution in Singapore



ADPAN, Amnesty International Malaysia and the Transformative Justice Collective (TJC)'s joint press conference to highlight the imminent risk of execution faced by four men on death row in Singapore, including three Malaysian nationals: Datchinamurthy Kataiah, Pannir Selvam Pranthaman, Saminathan Selvaraju, and Lingkesvaran Rajendaren



Press conference by a group of Malaysian Members of Parliament led by YB Ramkarpal Singh at the Malaysian Parliament calling on the Singaporean authorities to halt the scheduled execution of Pannir



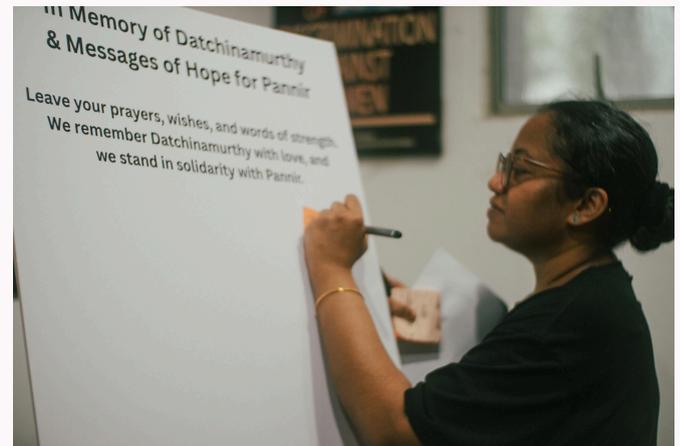
Candlelight vigil for Pannir in front of the High Commission of Singapore



ADPAN, SUARAM and Amnesty International Malaysia's public gathering outside the High Commission to call on the Malaysian government, as ASEAN Chair, to urge Singapore to commute the death sentence of Pannir



Amnesty International Malaysia and ADPAN's meeting with representatives of the Singapore High Commission to express concerns over Singapore's use of the death penalty and to hand over 170 individual letters addressed to His Excellency Vanu Gopala Menon urging the Singapore government to commute Pannir's death sentence and establish an official moratorium on all executions



Pre-launch of Death Row Literature: A Collection of Poems by Pannir Selvam Pranthaman, in collaboration with Gerak Budaya, Sebaran Kasih, and Amnesty International Malaysia

On 27 September 2025, ADPAN, alongside Gerak Budaya and Sebaran Kasih, hosted the official launch of the book.

1/4

World Day Against Death Penalty 2024



Second Chances: Ending the Mandatory Death Penalty in Malaysia



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On Hope and Resentencing:

”

What motivates me to be part of the resentencing? ... I really see how important this resentencing process gives hope to the death row inmates, to the family, to society...to have a second chance to come back to life.

”

Nyeow Chow Ying

Lawyer & Executive member of
Anti-Death Penalty Asian Network
World Day Against Death Penalty 2024

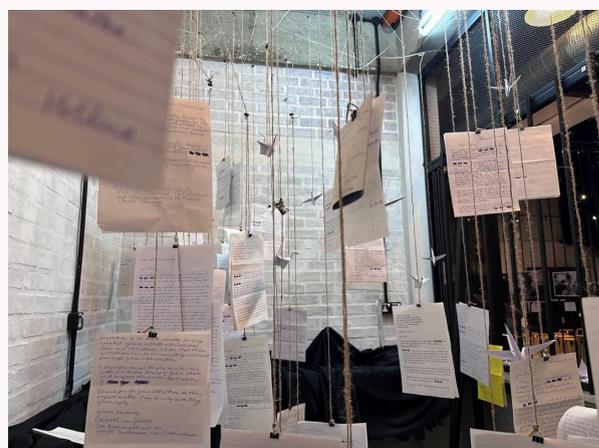




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Hidden Impact (ADPAN in Malaysia World Day Against Death Penalty Event 2024)

Second Chances: Ending the Mandatory Death Penalty in Malaysia (ADPAN in Malaysia World Day Against Death Penalty Event 2024)



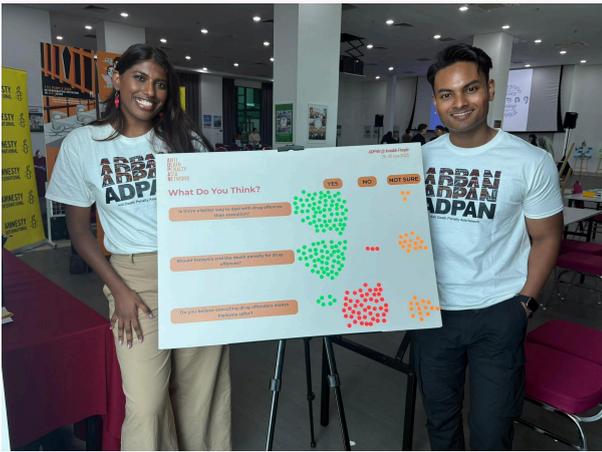
Human Rights Festival 2024



Create for Justice Winners' Exhibition



High-level meeting on the status of the moratorium on the death penalty, convened by YB M. Kula Segaran, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform)



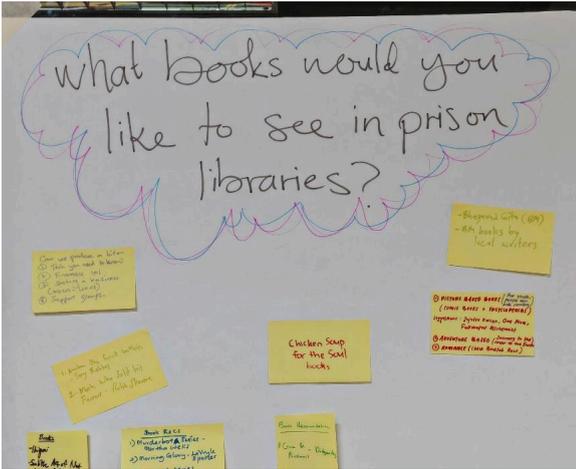
Invisible People Documentary Exhibition



*PechaKucha Presentation Party:
"A Book That Changed Me"*



Engaging the Bar Council Human Rights and Criminal Law Committees



Roundtable Discussion on Prison Rehabilitation



Tried and Prejudice Film and Art Festival (ADPAN in Malaysia World Day Against Death Penalty Event 2025)



Buku Beyond Bars at Penjara Lelaki Kajang and Penjara Wanita Kajang.



Borak-Borak: Literature & Justice Panel



Buku Beyond Bars at Sungai Buloh Prison