

**ABOLITION OF THE  
DEATH PENALTY  
IN BARBADOS & THE  
EASTERN CARIBBEAN  
ST VINCENT & THE  
GRENADINES EXPERIENCE**

**“CIVIL SOCIETY COLLABORATING TO  
EDUCATE & INFLUENCE ON ABOLISHING  
THE DEATH PENALTY” ;  
A MARION HOUSE/NGO NETWORK  
INITIATIVE**

**PREPARED & PRESENTED**

**BY**

***JEANNE OLLIVIERE***

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## 01. MAP OF ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES



## 02: THE BARBADOS/OECS DEATH PENALTY ABOLITION LAUNCH, 2018



**The Regional stakeholders Meeting materialized in Barbados during the period June 22-24, 2018. While in Barbados members of the SVG Human Rights Association executive and the Network of NGO' were informed of an emergency meeting on June 26 & 27<sup>th</sup> respectively via individual Watts App chat.**

**03. IDENTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY, RELIGIOUS & OTHER LEADERS; BEST PRACTICE SUGGESTIONS, WHAT WORKED IN SVG:**

- i. The presence/existence of an organized, functioning, legal implementing “in country” agency; St Vincent & the Grenadines Human Rights Association made this possible through meetings, emails, watts app and other medium,**
- ii. The “in country” lead agency coordinates the umbrella NGO Network, hence contributed to effective mobilization, productivity, implementation & good governance, through strategies listed below,**
- iii. The presence of an NGO Network directory of community, religious, political, Trade Union and other significant Civil Society leaders/members which constitute the Network,**
- iv. Through monthly meets to discuss individual & collective issues, which therefore facilitates continuous monitoring, discussions and review of implementation plan developed.**

#### **04: STRATEGIES APPLIED BY THE ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION IN IDENTIFYING INFLUENTIAL COMMUNITY & RELIGIOUS LEADERS**

- i. Social media, (using Watts App chat & Marion House' Facebook page to inform of ensuing meeting on June 26 and 27, 2018 with the executive of the St Vincent & the Grenadines Human Rights Association & the Network of NGO'),
- ii. Ongoing National Press releases via radio, television and newspapers,



#### **PRESS RELEASE DEATH PENALTY ABOLITION; JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2018**

The St Vincent and the Grenadines Human Rights Association as part of its ongoing thrust to address Human Rights issues nationally and across the Eastern Caribbean, is teaming up with the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Greater Caribbean for Life, the University of the West Indies; Barbados, the Death Penalty Project; UK and the European Union to develop and implement a project punned “building a platform for action: strengthening the anti-death penalty movement in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean”.

The Project goal is to create a platform for Death Penalty Reform in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, with specific objectives to educate and inform opinion leaders and the general public over a three year period, about the death penalty as a human rights issue, as well as to build a strong civil society movement that will advocate for its abolition.

The project was rolled out in Barbados during last weekend; June 24 to 26, 2018, with strategic representatives from each of the member states involved. SVG Human Rights is informing that Civil Society Organisations wishing to be involved in the process are asked to contact its office at svghumanrights@gmail.com or call 784-456-2656 for further information.

Respectfully submitted,



**Jeanie Ollivierre Msc**

**PRO/Education & Training Officer**

- iii. Telephone calls and Emails inclusive of letters to significant Community, religious, political, trade Union and other leaders,
- iv. Individual and collective meetings with executive of the SVG Human Rights Association, the Network of NGO', critical CBO' & religious leaders/Faith based organisations to share & obtain "buy in" to the national action plan developed, resulting in a national Secondary schools Public Speaking competition on the Death Penalty influenced & supported by the SVG Human Rights Association, as well as the provision of related materials,
- v. Visits/dialogue with Catholic educational institutions Principals, Parent Teachers Associations & students to share & obtain "buy in" to the Secondary schools debate & Art competition organized by two members of the NGO Network,
- vi. Interviews conducted by the UWI researcher with the Speaker of the House of Parliament, the Judge of the High Court, religious, community, political, trade Union & Bar association leaders.

#### **05. ADVOCACY TOOLS APPLIED:**

- i. pamphlet developed by the SVG Human Rights Association through two of Network members highlighting the entire Death Penalty Project; what it is, countries involved, the need for abolition, abolitionists in law & practice & retentionists,
- ii. Pope Francis' statement on the Death Penalty, (copies & circulated),
- iii. Statement of the Bishops of the Antilles Episcopal Conference, (copied & distributed),
- iv. Pre-recorded radio programmes capitalising on "Catholic Forum"; a magazine type aired on Mondays and Thursdays,
- iv. SVG National Plan re abolition,
- v. Copies & circulation of Caribbean Voices Against the Death Penalty; "STOP CRIME, NOT LIVES",
- vi. "Dignity for All" poster produced by the World Coalition Printed document, inclusive of the TEN reasons for Abolition,
- vii. World Coalition Mobilisation kit with appropriate websites.

**07. ROLE OF ADVOCACY WITH COMMUNITY, RELIGIOUS, POLICIAL & OTHERS LEADERS GENERALLY ARE TO:**

- i. Provide information, therefore educate on the Project generally, but specifically to Barbados & the Eastern Caribbean,**
- ii. Obtain “buy in”/support of critical stakeholders, particularly community, religious, political, trade union and members of the National Network of NGO”,**
- iii. Applying the multiplication process; SVG Human Rights Association has invested in a group of 2; Marion House & the Network of NGO’ & has empowered/transformed them to do the same to 2 smaller/other group**
- iv. Influence decision makers across St Vincent & the Grenadines applying every possible medium,**
- v. Ensure documentation at each step of the process.**

**08. CONCLUSION:**

- i. May I remind us all that God uses those who make themselves available, so let’s be passionate about ABOLITION, let’s be inspired & bold, let’s NOT say “ I am only one person, what can I do?” Banish that excuse, collaborate, advocate, be authentic, intrigue others,**
- ii. We have a responsibility to leave this world better than the way we found it! We have an obligation to transform so let’s believe in the process & take action as a disciple of Christ!**

**Thanks & blessings,**

**Jeanie.**