



Call for proposals

Financial support to third parties – 2026 World Day Against the Death Penalty

In early 2024, 13 abolitionist organizations, including regional networks, local organizations, and international NGOs, came together to form the Global Consortium for the Abolition of the Death Penalty. Co-funded by the European Union under the Financial Partnership Framework Convention (FFPA) and led by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, this civil society-led initiative aims to amplify the voice and influence of the abolitionist movement globally.

As part of this second phase of the FFPA which began in April 2026, the Consortium committed to supporting civil society in the target countries and providing financial support to third parties in order to move towards the universal abolition of the death penalty.

As a member of this Consortium, FIACAT is launching a **restricted call** for proposals to **support local actions related to the 24th World Day Against the Death Penalty**, which will take place **on 10 October 2026**. A total of 2700 euros will be awarded to 6 projects, in the form of small cascade grants (FSTP) not exceeding 500 euros.

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1 Who can respond to this call for projects?

The call for projects is open to all ACATs in Africa, from retentionist and abolitionist countries in fact or in law.

Particular attention will be paid to projects carried out by FIACAT members in synergy with other abolitionist organizations in their countries, such as the members and partners of the Global Consortium for the Abolition of the Death Penalty.

2 What are the objectives of this call?

The main objective of this call is to **propose one or more activities in the framework of the 24th World Day Against the Death Penalty, which will take place on 10 October 2026**, and whose theme will be announced soon.

In addition, proposals that include one or all the following complementary issues will be valued:

- The **draft Additional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the abolition of the death penalty in Africa**;
- The **resolution calling for a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty** to be put to a vote by the United Nations General Assembly in New York in December 2026.

The projects supported **must be in line with the general objectives of the programme led by the Consortium**:

1. *In retentionist countries*: contributing to reducing the use of capital punishment and encouraging more transparency regarding its application. This includes contributing to reducing the number of crimes punishable by death, abolition of the mandatory death penalty, banning death sentences and executions of juveniles, increasing respect of international human rights, achieving greater transparency, reducing cruel methods of executions, raising public awareness of the discriminatory nature of the death penalty, improving fair trial rights, and the independence of the judiciary, penal reform, increased use of pardons, clemency, and commutations of death sentences to reduce the number of people on death row and the number of people executed.
2. *In countries that are abolitionists in practice*: contributing to abolishing the death penalty in law while avoiding setbacks in countries which constitute levers for the international community to develop “new frontiers of abolition”. As specific objectives for these swing countries, it will also encourage positive votes for the UNGA moratorium resolution, legislative evolutions (drafting of abolitionist law proposals, reduction of the scope of application and/or reform of the penal code) and keeping a minimum of people on death row.
3. *For countries that are abolitionist in law*: to contribute to the ratification of abolitionist treaties and prevent the reintroduction of the death penalty. This may include encouraging votes in favour of the UNGA resolution on the moratorium, support for the draft African Protocol, ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, or ongoing outreach to decision-makers and public opinion.

3 What activities can be supported?

As part of this World Day, different types of activities are eligible for financial support (non-exhaustive list):

- inclusion and support for persons accused of capital crimes and/or sentenced to death and their families, as well as exonerated persons, through activities aimed at making their voices heard;
- advocacy at the national level for abolition, including with de facto abolitionist countries and de jure abolitionist countries, in order to increase the visibility of support for the movement against the death penalty as well as the accountability and responsibility of abolitionist countries in the event of adverse changes in legislation, policies or practices;
- awareness-raising, through media and campaigns, to mobilise non-conventional actors within the movement (e.g. youth, the private sector, the cultural or sports sector, customary or religious leaders) through actions including educational, technological and cultural activities;
- capacity building and awareness-raising of parliamentarians, government officials, judicial and administrative authorities, lawyers specialized in the defense of defendants facing the death penalty;
- the improvement of the conditions of detention of persons sentenced to death;
- activities to make visible and combat intersectional discrimination faced by women and/or LGBTQIA+ people in the judicial process leading to the death penalty

4 What are the terms of the financing?

The amount of the grant awarded will depend on the needs of the project, for a **maximum amount of €500 per project**. The same organisation can only receive one grant from this call.

Only direct costs are eligible; there will be no possibility of administrative costs. The grant may cover a coordination fee.

The project can **last a maximum of 1 month**, to take place between **15 September 2026 and 30 October 2026**.

This cascading grant (FSTP) will be **implemented under the terms and conditions of the European Union**, which provides financial support. It will also follow **the FIACAT procedures manual**, with FIACAT ensuring administrative and financial responsibility for this cascade grant, as well as the technical monitoring of the implementation of the action by the applicant.

Implementation **will be done according to a simplified management method**, which includes results-oriented reporting: payments conditional on the effective and verifiable achievement of planned results (deliverables, activities, products, indicators); rather than on the basis of actual expenditures.

A **grant agreement will be signed between FIACAT and the applicant** in order to formalise this commitment and these terms and conditions.

5 What are the eligibility criteria?

The applicant must:

- be an ACAT active in sub-Saharan Africa;
- not be in any situation of conflict of interest or have any relationship of an equivalent type with other applicants and other parties to the project;
- not be included in the EU's asset-freezing list.

6 How to apply?

Your project proposal must **be sent in English or French** and include:

- the application form (in Word format);
- the budget of the application in Excel format;
- the articles of association of your organization signed by a legal representative;
- your organisation's latest activity and financial report or any other document (no more than 2 years old) highlighting your past experience, particularly in the context of similar projects.

Any application that is incomplete or does not comply with the requested format will be considered ineligible.

Before sending the application by e-mail in Word format, please make sure to indicate in the subject line: *"FSTP World Day 2026 Call for Proposals"* and the name of the organization.

Please send your application by e-mail to: appels@fiacat.org

The call **will close on 1 July at 11:59 p.m. (your country time)**. Submissions must be submitted **before this date, or they will be considered ineligible**. Applications will be **examined from 2 July 2026** according to the terms set out in part 7 below.

Any questions relating to this call for projects can be sent **by email** to the address indicated above **before 10 June 2026 at 2 pm (Paris time)**, indicating the reference *"Questions relating to the FSTP World Day 2026 call for proposals"* in the subject line of the email. FIACAT is not obliged to provide clarification on questions received after this date. In order to ensure equal treatment of candidates, FIACAT cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of applicants for a specific action or activity. No individual answers will be given to the questions submitted. All **questions and answers will be published** on the FIACAT website, **no later than 17 June 2026**.

7 What are the evaluation and selection criteria?

Proposals will be examined first by FIACAT. The best rated proposals will then be submitted by FIACAT to the Consortium's Independent Advisory Panel. The final decision to approve the winning proposals will be taken by the Consortium Board, based on the pre-evaluation by FIACAT and the opinion of the Advisory Panel.

Applications will be reviewed by FIACAT, the Advisory Panel and the Consortium Board according to the following criteria:

1. The activities are well explained and realistic;
2. The activities are in line with the objectives of the call. The design of the proposal is coherent; The proposal indicates the expected result and the logic for achieving these results through the activities.
3. Activities are relevant to the target audience and objectives; Targets are clearly defined and strategically chosen. Their needs and constraints have been clearly defined and the proposal responds appropriately. Added value is given to projects that target bondholders;
4. The planning is realistic;
5. The budget is realistic (the costs presented seem consistent with the reality on the ground);
6. The budget is in line with the activity(ies);
7. The budget is efficient (the budgeted funds are proportionate to the expected impact, each item of expenditure is justified by a specific activity);
8. Projects that consider gender and intersectionality, meaningfully integrate the voices of exonerated people and young people, and humanize people on death row will be valued;
9. Projects that collaborate with new allies and/or create intergenerational, interregional and intersectoral alliances will be preferred;
10. Projects in synergy with other activities within the Consortium and beyond the Consortium will also be valued;
11. Projects proposing an activity on the occasion of the World Day Against the Death Penalty in order to reach new allies will be preferred;
12. Priority will be given to innovative projects;
13. Projects that promote information exchange, debunk misconceptions or misinformation, or fill information gaps will be prioritized;
14. Projects with the potential for replicability and sustainability will be preferred.

These **criteria will be scored from 0 to 5, with 5 being the best score**. The proposals will therefore be **scored out of a total of 70 points**.

8 Indicative timetable

- **2 June:** Launch of the call for applications
- **10 June at 2 p.m. (Paris time):** deadline for sending questions

- **1 July at 23:59 (your country time):** Deadline for submission of proposals
- **2-15 July:** internal pre-evaluation by FIACAT
- **16-30 July:** Evaluation by the Consortium's Independent Advisory Panel
- **31 August at the latest:** final decision of the Consortium Bureau on the selection of third parties
- **15 September 2026 at the latest:** signature of the grant agreements and transfer of funds
- **10 October 2026:** World Day Against the Death Penalty
- **30 October 2026:** Deadline for all activities to end