



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Human Rights Sub-Committee**

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 24 February 2016

*Chair: The Hon Philip Ruddock MP
Deputy: Senator Anne McEwen*

Parliamentarians for Global Action to give evidence for death penalty inquiry

The Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade will conduct a public hearing in Canberra on Thursday 25 February 2016 as part of its inquiry into Australia's advocacy for the abolition of the death penalty.

The Sub-Committee will hear evidence from Parliamentarians for Global Action, an international organisation with membership comprising like-minded parliamentarians from around the world. The PGA advocates on a range of matters including human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The Sub-Committee's inquiry is reviewing how Australia currently engages internationally to promote abolition of the death penalty and further steps Australia could take to advocate for worldwide abolition.

Australia has been an active participant in the protection and promotion of human rights, including through its support of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aimed at the abolition of the death penalty.

While there has been a global trend toward abolition, more than half the world's countries are yet to sign up to the protocol and in some countries the use of capital punishment appears to be increasing.

Details of the hearing

Time: 11:40am
Date: Thursday 25 February 2016
Location: Committee Room 1S4, Parliament House, Canberra

The hearing will be audio webcast live on: www.aph.gov.au/live.

Information on the progress of the inquiry to date, including submissions and transcripts, are available on the website: www.aph.gov.au/deathpenalty.

For media comment: Contact the Sub-Committee Chair, the Hon Philip Ruddock MP via Mr Ross Macdonald on 0417 852 209. For all other inquiries, contact the Secretary on (02) 6277 4629.