



## **SUBMISSION COVER PAGE**

### **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

#### **Stakeholder Submission to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review**

22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Working Group on the UPR  
Human Rights Council  
April-May 2015

**Submitted in September 2015 by:**  
**The Advocates for Human Rights,**  
a NGO holding ECOSOC Special Consultative status since 1996,  
and **The Greater Caribbean for Life** (co-submitting Section IV)  
and **The Puerto Rican Coalition against the Death Penalty** (co-submitting Section IV)

**The Advocates for Human Rights** (“The Advocates”) is a volunteer-based nongovernmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law. Established in 1983, The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publications. In 1991, The Advocates adopted a formal commitment to oppose the death penalty worldwide and organized a Death Penalty Project to provide pro bono assistance on post-conviction appeals, as well as education and advocacy to end capital punishment. The Advocates currently holds a seat on the Steering Committee of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

**The Greater Caribbean for Life** is an organization constituted on October 2, 2013 to unite Caribbean abolitionist organizations and individuals, reflecting the highest respect to right to live in the struggle against death penalty. This initiative began on October 19, 2011, by a group of organizations and individuals from countries of the Greater Caribbean opposed to the application

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of the capital punishment that participated in the International Conference on the Death Penalty in the Great Caribbean organized in Madrid by the Community of Sant' Edigio. The Greater Caribbean for Life was constituted with the purpose of campaigning for and working towards the permanent abolition of the death penalty in the Greater Caribbean and supporting Caribbean abolitionist activists and organizations in this region (comprised by the Caribbean Islands, Mexico, Central America, Colombia, Venezuela and the Guyanas) and collaborating with the international abolitionist community.

**The Puerto Rican Coalition against the Death Penalty (PCADP)** is a non-party, non-sectarian organisation incorporated in Puerto Rico in March 2005 to promote the elimination of the capital punishment. The PCADP aims to join efforts among the different abolitionist organisations and activists in Puerto Rico. Its Statement of Principles emphasizes that it does not believe in the impunity of a crime and identifies with the pain of the families of both the victims and the accused. It rejects the death penalty inside and outside Puerto Rico. The PCADP aims at excluding Puerto Rico from the scope of the Federal Death Penalty Act, as is the case for other federal laws. It also intends to mark its opposition in every case in which death penalty certification is to be requested by federal prosecutors in Puerto Rico. The PCADP has been a member of the World Coalition since 2006. As of June 2007, the PCADP was composed of more than 40 religious, political, student, community, labor union, professional, and human rights advocacy organisations.