

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Ending the Death Penalty in Asia: Reform Pathways, Comparative Perspectives, and Path Forward

Date: Monday 26 October 2026 | **Venue:** PJ Hilton, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | **Hosted by:** Monash University Malaysia; Eleos Justice – Monash Law; Rashid Zulkifli Advocates and Solicitors; United Nations OHCHR; Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
8.00am	Registration	
8.45am	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Professor Dato' Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman, President and Pro-Vice Chancellor, Monash University Malaysia
9.00am	Keynote Conversation The pathway to abolition of the death penalty in Malaysia	CHAIR Abdul Rashid Ismail • YB Ramkarpal Singh, Member of Parliament, Bukit Gelugor, Parliament of Malaysia • Dato' Dr Punitha Silivarajoo, BHEUU
9.45am	Panel 1: Comparative jurisdictional pathways towards abolition in Asia — legal, political and institutional conditions for abolition What has worked, what has not, and what structural conditions enable or obstruct progress, with the Philippines, Indonesia and South Korea as case studies.	CHAIR Karen Gomez-Dumpit, Convenor, ADPAN • Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Former President of the Republic of the Philippines • Dr Ethan Hee-Seok Shin, Catholic University of Korea • Novia Puspitasari, LBH Masyarakat, Indonesia
10.45am	Morning Tea	
11.15am	Panel 2: Mitigation pathways towards abolition in Asia — suffering on death row, disproportionate impact, and emerging jurisprudence Developing jurisprudence recognising the psychological pain of death row and the disproportionate impact of the death penalty on marginalised and vulnerable communities.	CHAIR Sara Kowal, Eleos Justice, Monash Law • Shreya Rastogi, The Square Circle Clinic, India • Dr Thaatchayini Kananatu, Monash University Malaysia • Professor Daniel Pascoe, City University of Hong Kong • Assoc Prof Dr Claudia Stoicescu, Monash Indonesia
12.30pm	In Conversation Lived experience of persons on death row / resentencing	CHAIR Sherrie Razak Dali, ADPAN Malaysia
1.00pm	Lunch	
2.00pm	Panel 3: Policy pathways towards the abolition of the death penalty for drug offences in Asia — public health and other policy alternatives Challenging the death penalty for drug offences as a drug-control measure in Asia through legal, public health and other alternative policy perspectives.	CHAIR Palani Narayanan, Drug Policy Program • Barrister Aqeel Malik, Federal Minister of State for Law & Justice, Pakistan • Professor Dato' Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman, President and Pro-Vice Chancellor, Monash University Malaysia • Sarah Belal, Executive Director, Justice Project Pakistan • Kirsten Han, Transformative Justice Collective
3.15pm	Break	
3.30pm	Panel 4: Obstacles in the pathway towards abolition in Asia — a comparative appraisal of retention and reform The pathway towards abolition remains deeply uncertain for many countries in Asia. This panel brings together the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Professor Morris Tidball-Binz, alongside a focused comparative examination of Singapore, Japan and Taiwan to realistically appraise what progress in these jurisdictions looks like.	CHAIR Professor Tim Dunne, Provost, Monash University • Professor Morris Tidball-Binz, UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (remote) • Wu Jiazhen, Deputy Director, Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty • Professor Sasakura Kana, Faculty of Law, Konan University • Professor Michael Hor, Singapore
4.45pm	Keynote Address Looking Forward: Prospects and Future Priorities for the Abolition of the Death Penalty	Abdul Rashid Ismail, Messrs Rashid Zulkifli
5.15pm	Closing Remarks	Professor Steven Vaughan, Dean of Monash Law
5.30pm	Close	

Program subject to change.

In collaboration with:



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rashid zulkifli
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