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Statements by the Spokesperson

# Statement by the Spokesperson on the death penalty moratorium in California

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On 13 March, Governor Gavin Newsom formally declared a moratorium on executions in the State of California, bringing the number of US States that have now a formal moratorium on capital punishment in place to four, in addition to the 20 States that have already abolished the death penalty by law.

This decision is particularly relevant in California where 737 inmates are on death row, the highest number in the US.

This positive step further encourages the growing trend to abandon capital punishment. Over two thirds of the countries in the world have already, by law or de facto, abolished the death penalty.

The death penalty is a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment. No compelling evidence exists to show that the death penalty serves as a deterrent to crime and any miscarriages of justice are irreversible.

As the European Union, we strongly oppose the death penalty and will continue encouraging its abolition worldwide.

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