



Solomon Islands
Joint Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review:
The Death Penalty

Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights
a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1996
and
The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

for the 52nd Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
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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 World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP), an alliance of more than 150 NGOs, bar associations, local authorities, and unions, was created in Rome on 13 May 2002. The aim of the World Coalition is to strengthen the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Its ultimate objective is to obtain the universal abolition of the death penalty. To achieve its goal, the World Coalition advocates for a definitive end to death sentences and executions in those countries where the death penalty is in force. In some countries, it is seeking to obtain a reduction in the use of capital punishment as a first step towards abolition.

1. Solomon Islands abolished the death penalty upon gaining independence in 1978 and are abolitionist for all crimes.¹ The Constitution of Solomon Islands does not allow for the death penalty.²
2. Solomon Islands have neither signed nor ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights or its Second Optional Protocol, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

Scope of international obligations; Acceptance of international norms; Death penalty

Status of Implementation: Not accepted, Not implemented

3. In its third-cycle Universal Periodic Review in 2021, Solomon Islands received four recommendations to ratify or accede to OP2,³ and one recommendation to establish a moratorium on the death penalty.⁴ During the review, Solomon Islands clarified that their Constitution does not allow for the death penalty.⁵ Solomon Islands noted all five recommendations pertaining to the death penalty.⁶ In its addendum, Solomon Islands observed that they have “limited resources and competing national priorities,” and that they therefore take a “precautionary approach to the signing and ratifying of all international conventions including those human rights because of the ‘reporting burden’.”⁷
4. In 2023, Solomon Islands ratified two treaties that carry reporting obligations: the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.⁸ Solomon Islands have not yet ratified OP2, which does not entail any reporting obligations. Nonetheless, in 2022 and 2024 Solomon Islands voted in favor of the UN General Assembly resolution calling for a global moratorium on the death penalty.⁹
5. **Suggested recommendations:**
 - **Take all necessary steps to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Second Optional Protocol, without reservations.**
 - **Request technical assistance with the ratification process from the Friends of the Second Optional Protocol.**

¹ Amnesty International, *Death Sentences and Executions 2024* (April 8, 2025), at 42, available online at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/8976/2025/en/>.

² Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Solomon Islands*, (28 June 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/48/13, ¶ 102.

³ *Id.* ¶ 104.10 (“Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Finland) (France) (Ukraine)”; *id.* ¶ 104.1 (“Consider ratifying the main international conventions on human rights starting from the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocols (Italy)”).

⁴ *Id.* ¶ 104.85 (Argentina).

⁵ *Id.* ¶ 102.

⁶ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Solomon Islands, Addendum*, (13 July 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/48/13/Add.1, ¶¶ 6, 11.

⁷ *Id.* ¶ 7.

⁸ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *UN Treaty Body Database, Ratification Status for Solomon Islands*, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=12&Lang=EN (last visited 28 Sept. 2025).

⁹ International Commission Against the Death Penalty, *UNGA Moratorium Resolution Table*, <https://icomdp.org/map-unga/> (last visited 28 Sept. 2025).