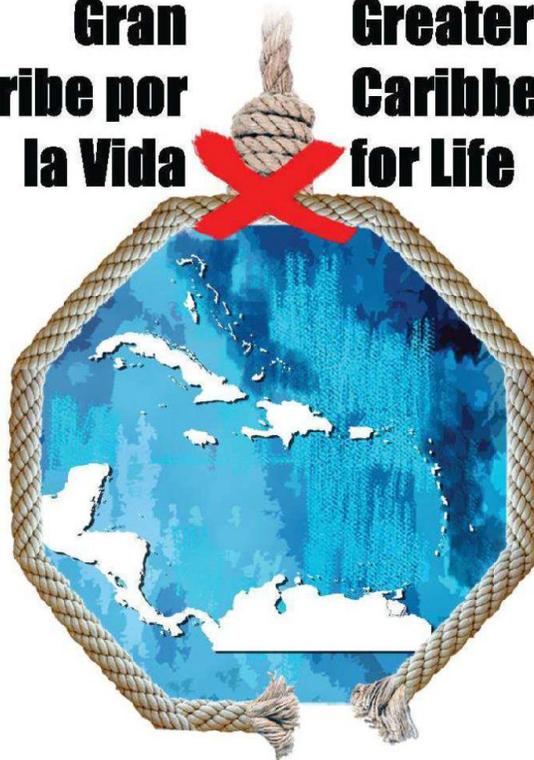


Constitution of the Greater Caribbean for Life

**Gran
Caribe por
la Vida**  **Greater
Caribbean
for Life**



**Approved on 3 October 2013
and amended on 8 June 2019**

Preamble

WHEREAS at an International Conference on the Death Penalty in the Greater Caribbean held in Madrid, Spain on October 17-19, 2011, organized by the Community of Saint Egidio, the participants, consisting of human rights advocates and representatives of civil society organizations from various Caribbean countries, re-affirmed their commitment to fighting for the abolition of the death penalty;

WHEREAS the participants from countries within the Caribbean Region agreed to work together to establish a sustainable organization and network of persons and civil society organizations who share this objective;

WHEREAS the participants elected a Working Group to spearhead such purpose under the interim name of Greater Caribbean for Life;

AND WHEREAS at a Conference on the Death Penalty on the Greater Caribbean held in Port of Spain, Trinidad on October 1-2, 2013, sponsored by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, organizations and activists from the Caribbean;

Agreed in a Constituent Assembly to continue this crucial effort and formally constitute a regional abolitionist organization named Greater Caribbean for Life, (hereinafter referred to as "GCL") in the terms specified hereunder:

Article 1. Vision

1.1 The ultimate goal of the GCL is to achieve the permanent abolition of the death penalty in each and every country of the Greater Caribbean and the creation of a culture of respect for the human right to life and the inherent dignity of all human beings.

Article 2. Mission

2.1 The Greater Caribbean for Life is hereby 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) (hereinafter called "the Greater Caribbean"), and collaborating with the international abolitionist community .

Article 3. Objectives

3.1 The GCL shall be a democratic body whereby abolitionist individuals and organisations are empowered to:

- (1) share and develop anti-death penalty strategies and put them into action to make them effective;
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- (2) share information, encourage and promote the collection of statistics and research on the death penalty in the Greater Caribbean;
 - (3) provide full scope for discussions and exchange of opinions from activists and organisations, in order to mobilize a regional effort against the death penalty in the Caribbean;
 - (4) advocate and undertake necessary actions and appropriate activities at a regional level and/or in each country in opposition to the death penalty;
 - (5) lobby and carry out actions related to international events (such as the World Day against the Death Penalty and Cities for Life) and take part in other lobbying and related activities at the international level; and
 - (6) consult and cooperate with other national, regional and international organizations which share the objective of the abolition of the death penalty.
- 3.2 The GCL will be independent of religious creed and political allegiance and will maintain its status as an independent non-sectarian civil society organization which incorporates the greatest diversity of positions and beliefs against capital punishment.

Article 4. Membership

- 4.1 The membership of the GCL shall consist of:
- (1) the founding members who being participants at the constituent Assembly held on October 2, 2013 subscribe to this constituent instrument;
 - (2) all persons or organizations who submit an application for admission to membership to the Executive Committee in the manner prescribed by the Executive Committee and are notified of their admission and membership.
- 4.2 To be eligible for membership a person must be a citizen of or resident in a country within the Greater Caribbean.
- 4.3 To be eligible for membership an organization must be located or registered in a country within this region.
- 4.4 Each member undertakes to:
1. participate in campaigns aimed to abolish the death penalty in the Caribbean and internationally;
 2. participate in activities which promote the objectives of the GCL;
 3. disseminate and share information and material on these aims and objectives;
 4. lobby and participate in campaigns and international events on the subject;
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5. participate in evaluations, reflections and commentaries on the activities to be carried out by the GCL;
 6. contribute to and work on the expansion of a participatory network;
 7. support the work of any national coalitions against the death penalty; and
 8. participate in strategic actions aimed at the abolition of the death penalty on national, regional and international levels;
 9. pay such fees as may be determined by the Executive Committee from time to time.
- 4.5 The members commit themselves to obtain the consent of the Executive Committee of the GCL to make statements on behalf of the GCL in any press release or declaration.

Article 5. Assemblies

- 5.1 After the Constituent Assembly held on October 2, 2013, a meeting of the General Assembly of the GCL will be held every two years on the date that the Executive Committee decides, informs, and promulgates.
- 5.2 Where special circumstances arise the Executive Committee may convene an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly.
- 5.3 The date, venue and manner of convening and holding all meetings of the General Assembly will be determined by the Executive Committee and may arrange for such meetings to be held in person, by teleconference or through any mechanism and technology enabling simultaneous dialogue as, for example, Skype or other Internet conference service.
- 5.4 The Secretary shall at least 60 days before any meeting of the General Assembly send to every member by any means available at his or her contact information as stated in the records of the GCL, a notice of the meeting stating the time when and the place where the meeting will be held and the business to be conducted.
- 5.5 Where practicable provisions will be made for workshops and trainings and discussion of such issues as may arise during the Assembly.
- 5.6 Subject to the delegation of powers to the Executive Committee the General Assembly shall have control of the policy and programmes of the GCL.
- 5.7 The quorum for meetings of the General Assembly shall, unless otherwise fixed by the Executive Committee, be fifteen members from at least three different countries and all members shall be entitled to be present and cast one vote and no more on every resolution or question, provided that in case of equality of votes, the Chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
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- 5.8 Each member organisation shall appoint an individual to represent it and vote on its behalf at meetings of the General Assembly; and may appoint an alternate to replace its appointed representative if unable to attend.
- 5.9 At any meeting of the General Assembly a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands or in such other manner as may be determined by the Chair unless a poll is (before or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands) demanded –
- (a) by the Chair; or
 - (b) by at least five members present in person.

Unless a poll be so demanded a declaration by the Chair that a resolution has on a show of hands or in such other manner as may be determined by the Chair been carried or carried unanimously, or by a particular majority, or lost and an entry to that effect in the book containing the minutes of proceedings of the GCL shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against such resolution.

- 5.10 The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the General Assembly but if he or she shall not be present within fifteen (15) minutes after the time appointed for the meeting or has notified his inability to be present the Deputy Chair shall preside and if he or she is similarly absent the members shall choose one of their member present to be Chair of that meeting.

Article 6. Executive Committee

- 6.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- (1) a Chair;
- (2) a Deputy Chair;
- (3) a Secretary;
- (4) a Deputy Secretary
- (5) a Treasurer;
- (6) two other Executive Members,

who shall be elected by the General Assembly in such a manner as to achieve a fair distribution geographically, culturally and linguistically.

- 6.2 Members of the Executive Committee must have experience and knowledge on the subject of death penalty in their countries and/or at regional and international levels.
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- 6.3 The Quorum for meetings of the Executive Committee shall be four and the decisions in the Executive Committee shall be by consensus. If consensus cannot be achieved, decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of those voting.
 - 6.4 The meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at least once in each quarter and may be held in person, by teleconference or through any mechanism and technology enabling simultaneous dialogue as, for example, Skype or other Internet conference service.
 - 6.5 The Executive Committee shall maintain open and on-going communication with members of the GCL and the international abolitionist community.
 - 6.6 The Executive Committee may establish a fee for each category of membership, after consultation with the membership.
 - 6.7 The business and activities of GCL shall, subject to any directions given by the General Assembly, be managed by the Executive Committee.
 - 6.8 The Executive Committee may, subject to ratification by the General Assembly, appoint auditors or agents and enter into contracts for the furtherance of the objectives, business and activities of the GCL.
 - 6.9 The members of the Executive Committee shall be first elected at the Constituent Assembly and thereafter each Executive member shall serve until the next meeting of the General Assembly when he or she shall be eligible for re-election, provided that no member of the Executive may be re-elected for the same post for more than two consecutive terms.
 - 6.10 The Secretary of the GCL shall maintain the minutes of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee, the register of members and all other records of the GCL.
 - 6.11 The Treasurer of the GCL shall be responsible to the Executive Committee and the General Assembly for the keeping of proper books of accounts with respect to:
 - (a) all sums of money received and expended by the GCL and the matters to which the receipts and expenditures relate;
 - (b) all sales and purchases of goods by the GCL; and
 - (c) the assets and liabilities of the GCL.
 - 6.12 The office of an Executive Member shall be vacated if the holder of the office:
 - (a) resigns his office by notice to the Chair or Secretary;
 - (b) becomes of unsound mind;
 - (c) fails to attend or participate in three consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee without having obtained an excuse from the Executive Committee.
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- 6.13 Any vacancy in the Executive Committee before the next General Assembly shall be filled by the members of the Executive Committee in accordance with the following process:
- (a) The Executive Committee will notify all members of the GCL of such vacancy and will request nominations for the vacated office between GCL's members.
 - (b) The members of the Executive Committee will select from the candidates proposed or any other members recommended by members of the Executive Committee.
- 6.14 An Executive Member who is in any way, whether directly or indirectly, interested in any contract, proposed contract or arrangement with the company shall declare the nature and extent of his interest at a meeting of the Executive and shall not vote in respect of any such contract or arrangement.

Article 7. Termination of Membership

- 7.1 The General Assembly may on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, terminate the membership of any person whom it considers no longer supports the vision, mission and objectives of the GCL or to have acted in a manner which brings the GCL into disrepute.

Article 8. Amendment

- 8.1 The foregoing provisions may only be altered, or added to by the vote of a majority of two-thirds at a meeting of the General Assembly where 30 days notice has been given of the proposed amendment.

Article 9. Miscellaneous

- 9.1 The official languages of the GCL will initially be English and Spanish, with the intention of eventually, if resources are available, including the greatest number of languages spoken in the Caribbean region.
- 9.2 The GCL shall be incorporated as a non-for-profit organization (or an equivalent legal status) in a jurisdiction selected by the Executive Committee.

Article 10. Winding up or Dissolution

- 10.1 If upon the winding up or dissolution of GCL there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property or money whatsoever the same shall not be paid to or distributed among its members but shall be donated or transferred to serve another association or institutions having objects similar to the objects of GCL and which shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income or property among its or their members in a similar manner.

APPROVED ON 2 OCTOBER 2013 IN PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
AND AMENDED ON 8 JUNE 2019 IN A GENERAL ASSEMBLY VIA ZOOM