



World Day Against the Death Penalty

WEEK OF ACTION

Toolkit link: bit.ly/CommutationsNow

[\[Download Twitter & Instagram Graphics Here\]](#)

**Image Descriptions Below*

[\[Press Release - 10/10/22\]](#)

Background: October 10 marks the 20th annual World Day Against the Death Penalty, which mobilizes a worldwide community of political leaders, lawyers, and advocates to raise awareness and opposition to the death penalty. While Governor Newsom is a longtime opponent of the death penalty, placing a moratorium on the practice in 2019 and announcing earlier this year that it will be dismantled altogether, his office has never been outspoken about life without parole sentencing and has only commuted 38 people with LWOP since taking office.

We applaud Governor Newsom for his principled commitment to ending the death penalty, but it is time for him to take the same stance on LWOP. An LWOP sentence is just another form of the death penalty and further strips people of the protections afforded to those given the death penalty.

Ask: Join advocates across California this week by posting on Instagram and Twitter and submitting comments directly to Governor Newsom's website in support of mass commutations.



Sample Tweets or Captions:

Join us on [#WorldDayAgainstTheDeathPenalty](#) urging Governor Newsom to use his executive power to commute the 5,200 people serving Life Without Parole in California prisons! Make public comment today with our toolkit at bit.ly/CommutationsNow. [#WDADP](#) [#DropLWOP](#)

In 2021, Governor Newsom commuted just 13 people. For context Governor Brown commuted 246 in 2018. Governor @GavinNewsom has acknowledged publicly that ending up on Death Row has more to do with your wealth and race than your guilt or innocence and the same goes for LWOP. #WDADP #DropLWOP

"@CAGovernor can give those serving 'the other death penalty' a 2nd chance with the stroke of a pen," said Michelle Tran, chair of @FUEL_EndLWOP. "All we are asking for is hope. All people deserve the chance to demonstrate their growth and change." #DropLWOP #WDADP

On the heels of a United Nations complaint submitted September 15th calling for the abolition of "Death by Incarceration" sentencing across the United States, we urge Governor @GavinNewsom to reject all forms of death sentencing in CA - including Life Without Parole. #DropLWOP #WDADP

The United States' LWOP population makes up more than 80% of those under the sentence worldwide, and CA is one of 5 states driving this disproportionate figure - with almost 10% of LWOP sentences in the US and 37% of youth serving LWOP in the US. @CAGovernor it's time to #DropLWOP!

"LWOP is a racist & inhumane sentence that tortures people slowly until they die in prison. I'm so grateful that @CAGovernor gave me a 2nd chance, but there are so many just like me who also deserve commutation." - Chyrl Lamar, board member with @endfelonymurder #DropLWOP bit.ly/DL-WDADP

Make Public Comment

1. Head to <https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail/>
2. Click on 'Make Comment,' fill out your name and e-mail.
3. Choose "Clemency - Commutation of Sentence."
4. Click on "Pro" and use the following script:

Dear Governor Newsom,

I am a **[INSERT -family member, friend, advocate]** for a person who has a Life Without Parole (LWOP) sentence, the other death penalty. They are one of over 5,200 people condemned to die in prison in California due to this inhumane sentence. Their only hope of demonstrating their positive life changes and rehabilitation to the Board of Parole depends on a commutation of their LWOP sentence from you. Will you extend your principled commitment against the death penalty to all forms of death sentencing, including LWOP? LWOP is just another form of the death penalty and further strips people of the protections afforded to those given the DP.

[INSERT a couple of sentences if you want to describe positive accomplishments of your loved one or friend who has an LWOP sentence]

In 2021, you granted 13 commutations—and each one should be applauded. In 2018 Governor Jerry Brown granted 246 commutations, citing his core values of faith and redemption. Allowing everyone serving LWOP a second chance aligns firmly with your core values of progressive reform and racial justice.

This week for World Day Against the Death Penalty, I urge you to use your executive power to grant commutations for many more people with LWOP sentences who have submitted applications and are patiently waiting for compassionate action from your office.

Sincerely,

[Name]

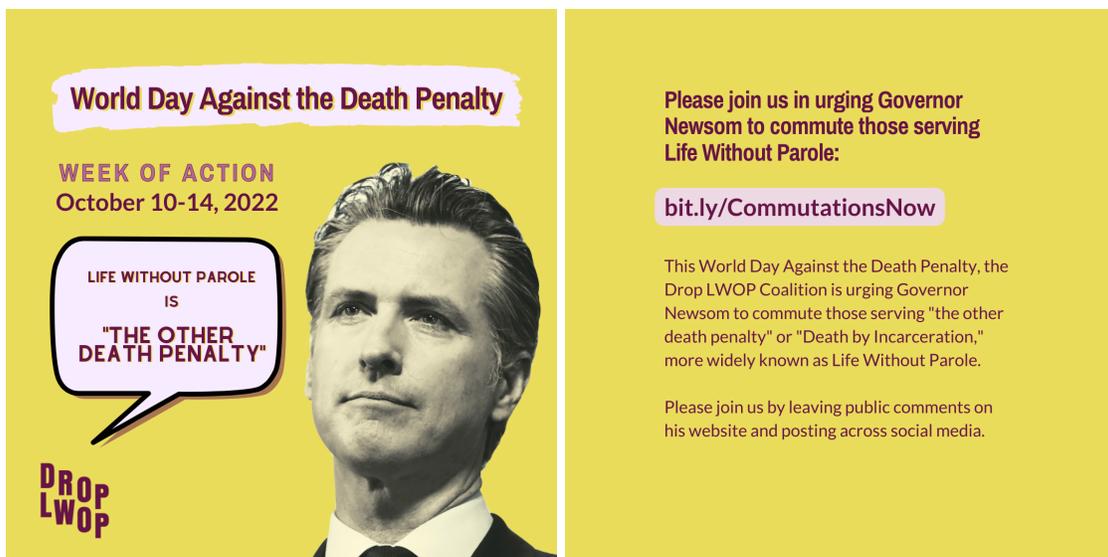


Image ID 1 -

Yellow tile with black and white/sepia photo of Governor Newsom looking contemplative. Big maroon header reads "World Day Against the Death Penalty," highlighted white. Graphic announces "Week of Action October 10-14, 2022" and a white speech bubble below says, "LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE IS 'THE OTHER DEATH PENALTY.'" The maroon Drop LWOP coalition logo is on the bottom left corner.

Image ID 2 -

Yellow tile with maroon header that reads "Please join us in urging Governor Newsom to commute those serving Life Without Parole" with a toolkit link to participate: bit.ly/CommutationsNow. Additional text shares background: "This World Day Against the Death Penalty, the Drop LWOP Coalition is urging Governor Newsom to commute those serving "the other death penalty" or "Death By Incarceration," more widely known as Life Without Parole. Please join us in leaving public comments on his website and posting on social media.