



# National Catholic Student Coalition

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NCSC/RES/2000[1]

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## RESOLUTION – Abolishment of the Death Penalty

### **Whereas:**

- The National Catholic Student Coalition is committed to participating actively in the Roman Catholic Church and to representing U.S. Catholic students in national and international forums;
- NCSC stands firmly against all attacks upon the dignity and inherent worth of all human life;

**Noticing** that since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976, there have been over 500 executions of prisoners within the United States;

**Taking note** that a total of 105 countries have abolished the death penalty in law or practice;

**Acknowledging** the call of His Holiness Pope John Paul II on January 27, 1999 to "end the death penalty, which is both cruel and unnecessary";

**Recalling** the call of the appeal encyclical Evangelium Vitae to put an end to capital punishment;

**Guided by** the teachings of Jesus Christ who called us to reconciled with those who have injured us (Matthew 5:43-45) and to pray for forgiveness for our sins "as we forgive those who have sinned against us." (Matthew 6:12);

**Concerned with** the growing trend to punish criminals with capital punishment;

**Therefore** we, the members of the National Catholic Student Coalition assembled in conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico on this January 2, 2000, do hereby call upon our elected officials to abolish the death penalty as a means of punishment to criminals within the United States and to develop and utilize more effective and humanitarian punishments for criminals.

*Sponsored by: Kevin Ahern, Fordham University, Northeast Regional Team*

*Presented and accepted by the NCSC at the 16th Annual Leadership Conference, January 2000.*