

From: [Ry Atkinson](#)

Subject: Re: [SEC=OFFICIAL] JSCFADT - Human Rights Subcommittee - Proof transcript - Canberra - Friday, 11 October 2024

Date: Monday, 4 November 2024 10:11:08 AM

Please see below response to a question on notice:

1. Are you aware of and, if so, able to identify any successful programs that have supported civil society groups abroad advocating for abolition in retentionist states?

There are several programs established by various governments in support of civil society in third countries that are advocating for abolition. As Amnesty we have been engaging in conversations with some of these donors to first of all impress the need for more support for these programs, at a time when setbacks on the global journey towards abolition are recorded. We have also been trying to impress the need to ensure that these funding opportunities are advertised widely, including through embassies and other institutions, and are fully accessible; and that they are set up in such a way not to foster co-dependencies between organisations. For example, we have noticed that funding programmes that have a minimum amount that is too high automatically makes applications challenging for organisations in retentionist countries, with a more informal set up or smaller in size and with a limited annual budget. Application requirements, such as language or excessive documentation, can also pose challenges for smaller organisations. On the other hand, the model of channelling sub-granting to smaller organisations in retentionist countries through larger and more established organisations can also create co-dependencies and power-dynamics that can be counter-productive for the development of local abolitionist movements in the longer term. Beyond funding, peer-to-peer exchange programmes have been extremely valuable in helping build an international movement against the death penalty. This includes for example MPs exchanges, academic partnerships and other institutional support, judicial symposiums.



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