***(formerly Reprieve Australia)***

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| c/- Higgins Chambers  29/239 George Street  Brisbane, Qld 4000 |

23 April 2022

Dear Colleagues,

I am excited to bring you news of a project to republish *The Penalty is Death*, a seminal text edited by Barry Jones AC and published by Sun Books in 1968 when the public trauma following the judicial execution of Ronald Ryan in the previous year in Victoria was still keenly felt.

*The Penalty is Death* brought together an amazing collection of writings against the death penalty by some of the greatest minds to put pen to paper in support of an important cause. As originally published, *The Penalty is Death* contained chapters from Australian philosopher, Max Charlesworth, as well as Cesare Beccaria; Charles Dickens; Clarence Darrow; Albert Camus; Thorsten Sellin; Lord Chancellor, Gerald Gardiner; Sir Ernest Gowers; Sir John V. Barry; Sir Eugene Gorman and George Orwell. I consider that it will be extremely valuable to make this work available and accessible to new generations of lawyers, students, activists and the general readers.

The 2022 edition has been updated with a new chapter by Barry, as editor, and with forewords by distinguished abolitionists Michael Kirby AC CMG; Richard Bourke, our colleague from the Victorian bar who works defending capital cases in Louisiana and our other Victorian colleague, Julian McMahon AC SC.

The republication project is being undertaken as part of the philanthropic work of the Capital Punishment Justice Project (formerly, Reprieve Australia).

The costs of publication, which include editing, typesetting and printing, are estimated to be somewhere between $50,000 and $70,000. As chair of Capital Punishment Justice Project, I invite you to consider making a donation to the project.

Donations received will be used to pay the costs of republishing *The Penalty is Death* (including an administration fee of 3% to cover CPJP’s costs of administering the donations and payments). It is only if and when all those costs have been met that any additional moneys received will be applied to meet CPJP’s overhead expenses that support its core functions—which include assisting local lawyers in Asia in their defence of persons at risk of the death penalty and filing amicus briefs in appropriate cases where a person is at risk of execution.

CPJP is a registered charity and philanthropic organisation and has DGR status. Hence, donations to CPJP are tax deductible.

It is proposed that *The Penalty is Death* will be launched—appropriately—at the Premier’s Hall of the Queensland Parliament in Brisbane on the evening of 1 August 2022 as part of celebrations to mark the centenary of the abolition of capital punishment in Queensland (the first jurisdiction in the British Empire to do so).

The bank details for donations are available by emailing me at [s.keim@higinschambers.com.au](mailto:s.keim@higinschambers.com.au) or CPJP’s CEO, Simone Abel at [simone.able@cpjp.org.au](mailto:simone.able@cpjp.org.au).

I thank you for your consideration.

Best regards



**Stephen Keim SC**

**Chair of Capital Punishment Justice Project**