

# **Cities for Life - Cities against Death Penalty, Sant'Egidio**

Following a resolution by the Greifswald city council, the University and Hanseatic City of Greifswald has been a member of the worldwide Cities for Life – Cities against the Death Penalty network of municipalities and cities since September 2016.

Through the network, several thousand cities around the world are engaged in the cause of life, aiming to achieve a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its universal abolition. The 30 November was chosen as campaign day because on this day in 1786 the Grand Duchy of Tuscany was the first state to officially pass a law abolishing the death penalty. Many cities illuminate special buildings on this day in a distinctive way to raise awareness among their citizens of this important humanitarian issue.

Since the beginning of the campaign in 2002, activities, projects, events and so on have been sponsored in more than 100 countries to galvanise civil society towards a culture that always respects life (there were nearly 3000 campaigns in 2015). The international Cities for Life day is the world's largest mobilisation of cities and citizens for humanity and respect for human rights even in difficult situations. Over the past 15 years, almost 200 cities in Germany have participated in the campaign day through special events: special illuminations of famous buildings, conferences, poetry readings, school projects, petitions appealing for the universal abolition of the death penalty, etc. .

Through the citizens` resolution and with the active participation of educational institutions, associations and initiatives as well as interested citizens, the University and Hanseatic City of Greifswald has committed itself to marking the 30th of November as a day of campaigning against the death penalty as well as to organising events to raise awareness among its residents.