



## MEDIA ALERT

To: News Editor  
From: Uniting Church Synod of WA,  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Uniting Church welcomes Death Penalty Moratorium**

The Uniting Church in WA has welcomed the statement made today by Foreign Minister Stephen Smith that Australia will call for an international moratorium on future use of the death penalty.

The Moderator of the Uniting Church in WA, Rev Ken Williams, expressed deep regret for use of capital punishment this weekend for those convicted of the Bali bombings.

“We affirm that all life is precious, and believe Australia should have taken a stronger stand in opposing this action,” said Rev Williams.

“We empathise with the suffering the Bali bombings caused the victims and their families, in Australia and Indonesia. However, the use of the death penalty will not prevent further terrorist attacks and will not ensure safety from such attacks. It also will not deter further possible acts of terrorism.

Rev Williams said the Uniting Church opposed terrorism in any form, but said the use of capital punishment did not offer a good solution.

“The death penalty results in the punishment of family of the person executed, despite the fact they have committed no crime themselves,” Rev Williams said.

Amnesty International reports that international studies have failed to prove the death penalty is a more effective deterrent of crime than imprisonment, with some studies concluding that the death penalty actually encourages greater violence in a society.

“The Uniting Church calls on all people to work together for peace and mutual respect, remembering that all life is of equal value,” said Rev Williams.

The Moderator called on Western Australians to pray for all those who continue to suffer from the destruction of the Bali bombings.

**The Moderator is available for comment. Media contact Alison Atkinson-Phillips, 0404409978.**