

# Supplementary Materials: Conjugated Polymers Containing BODIPY and Fluorene Units for Sensitive Detection of CN<sup>-</sup> Ions: Site-Selective Synthesis, Photo-Physical and Electrochemical Properties

Tian He,<sup>†</sup> Danting Tang,<sup>†</sup> Cuiling Lin, Xi Shen, Chenjie Lu, Luonan Xu, Zhengye Gu, Zheng Xu, Huayu Qiu, Qian Zhang\* and Shouchun Yin\*

## Table of Contents

1. <sup>1</sup> H, <sup>13</sup> C NMR and FTIR spectra of monomers.....	P2-7
2. <sup>1</sup> H NMR and FTIR spectra of polymers.....	P7-10
3. Cyclic voltammograms of the polymers.....	P11
4. Experimental and calculated electrochemical data of polymers.....	P11
5. Spectroscopic responses of polymers to anions.....	P12-16
6. Plot of fluorescence intensity changes of polymers versus various concentrations of CN <sup>-</sup> anions.....	P16
7. Partial <sup>1</sup> H NMR spectra of BODIPY and <b>P3</b> before and after the addition of 20 equiv. [(n-Bu) <sub>4</sub> N] <sup>+</sup> CN <sup>-</sup> .....	P17
8. Spectroscopic responses of BODIPY monomers to anions .....	P18

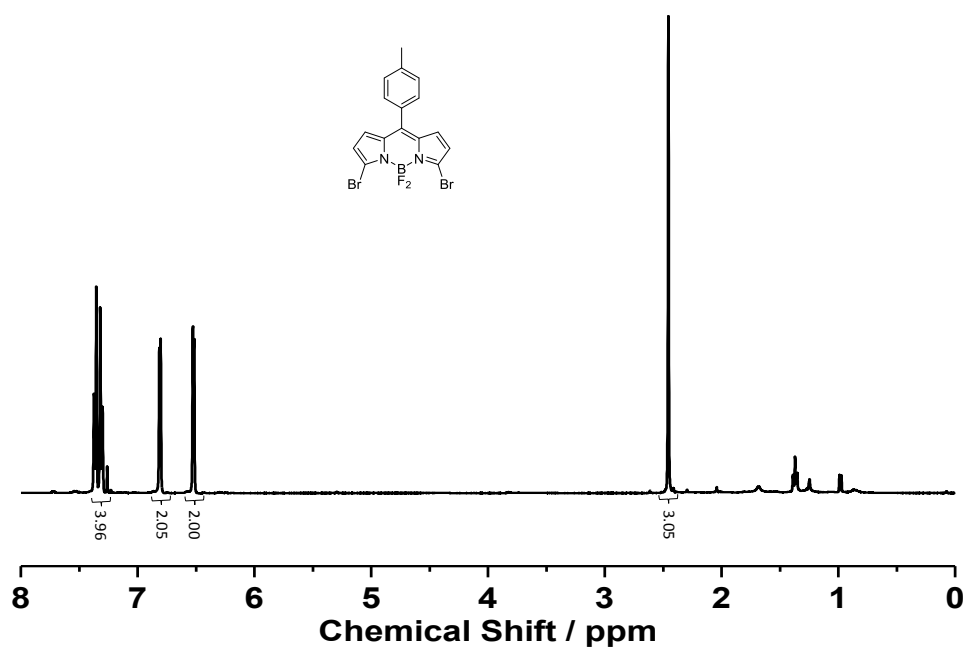


Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of M1.

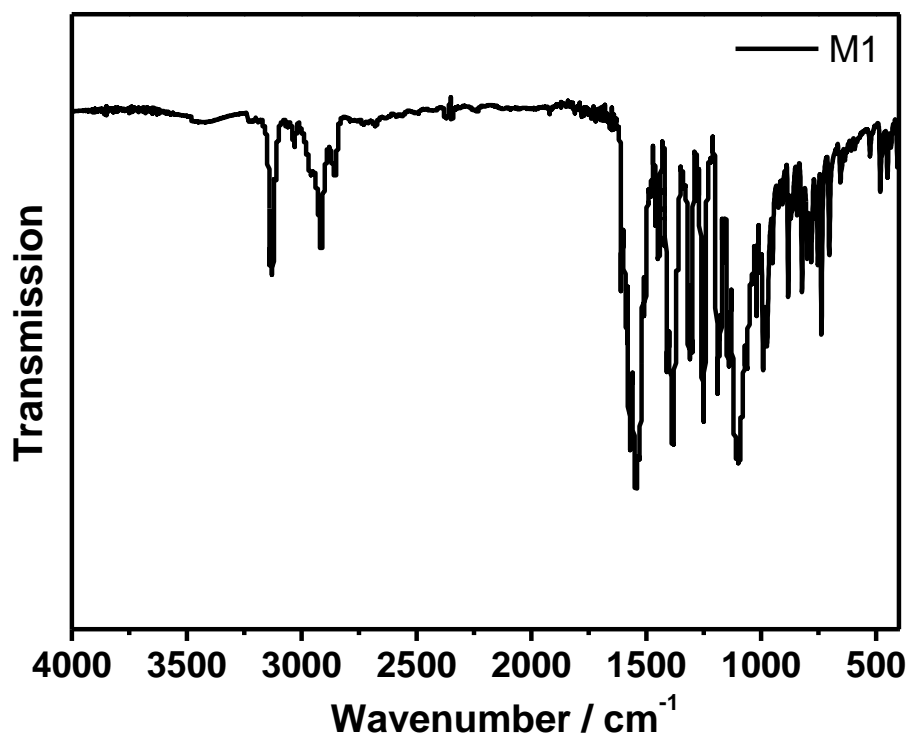


Figure S2. FTIR spectrum of M1.

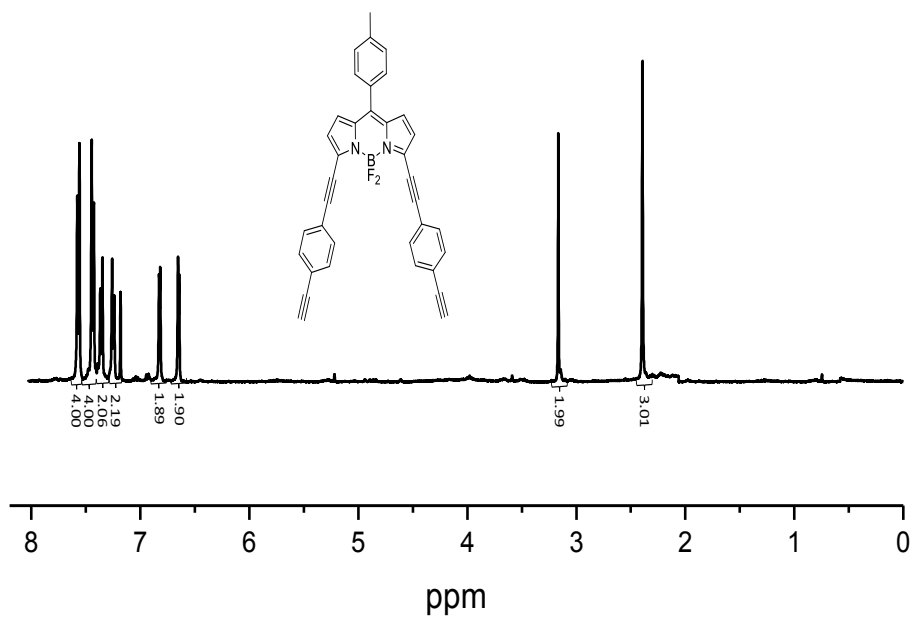


Figure S3.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  spectrum of M2.

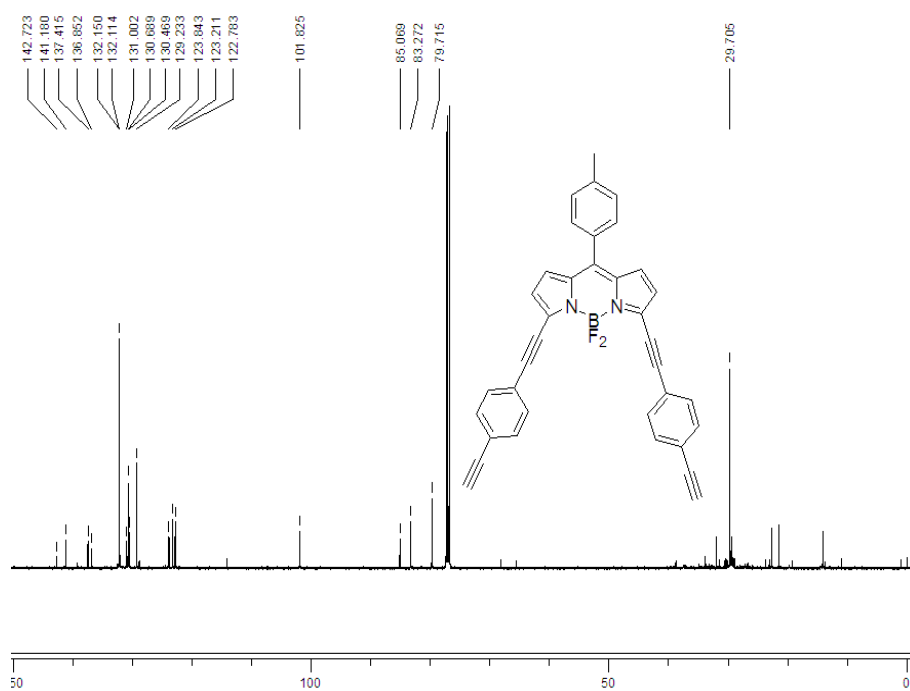


Figure S4.  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  spectrum of M2.

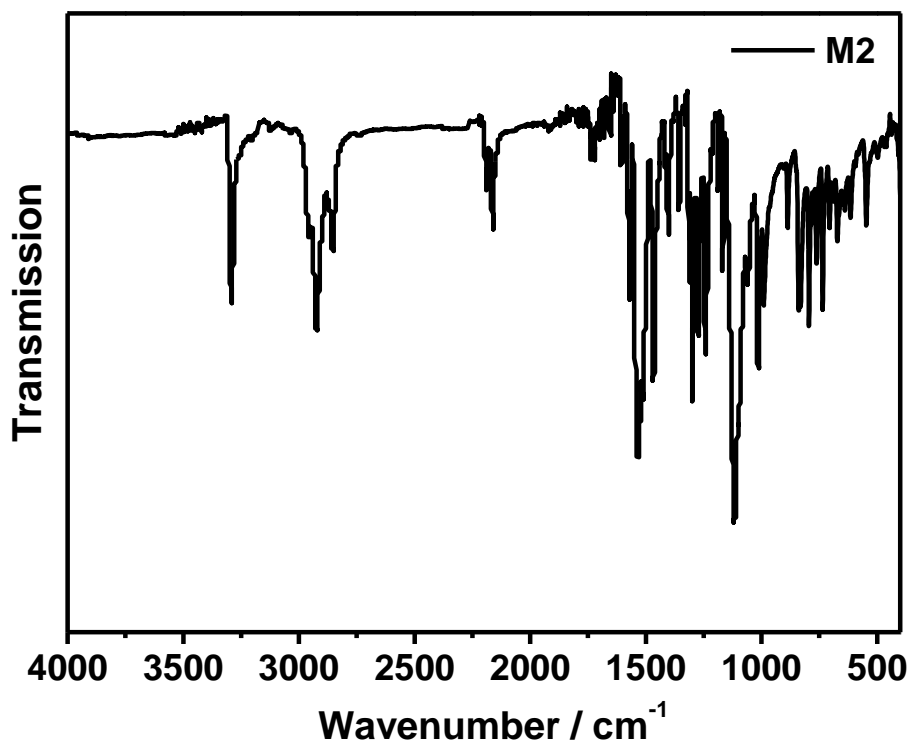


Figure S5. FTIR spectrum of M2.

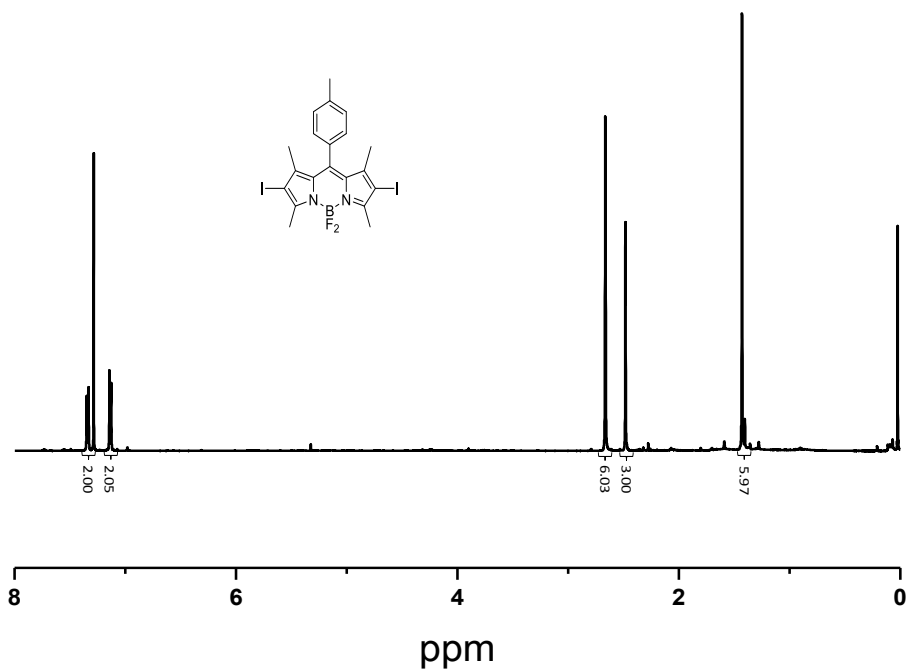


Figure S6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of M3.

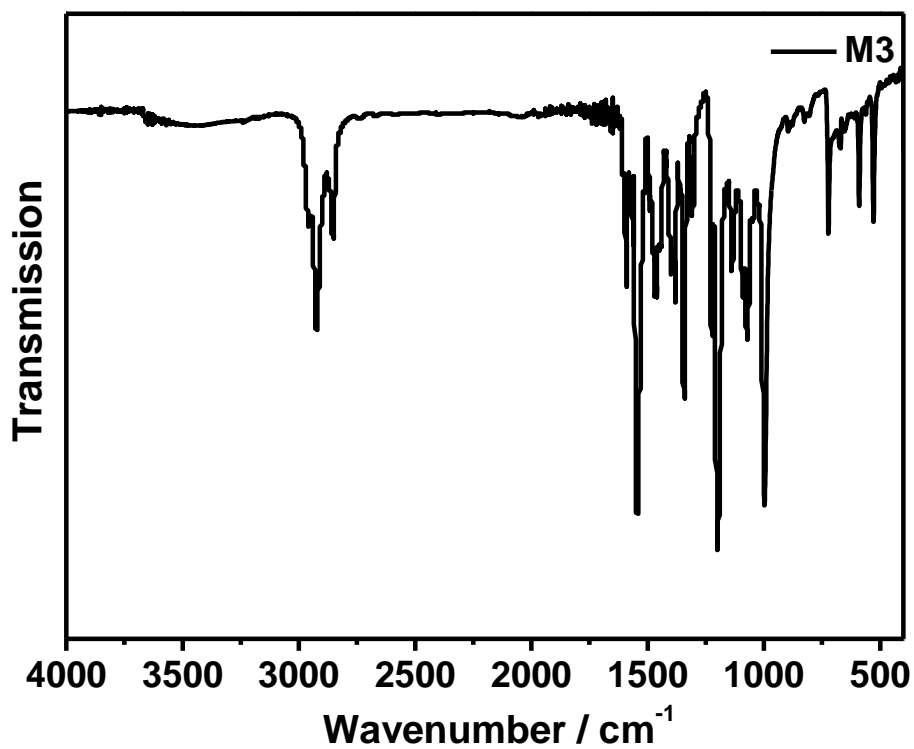


Figure S7. FTIR spectrum of M3.

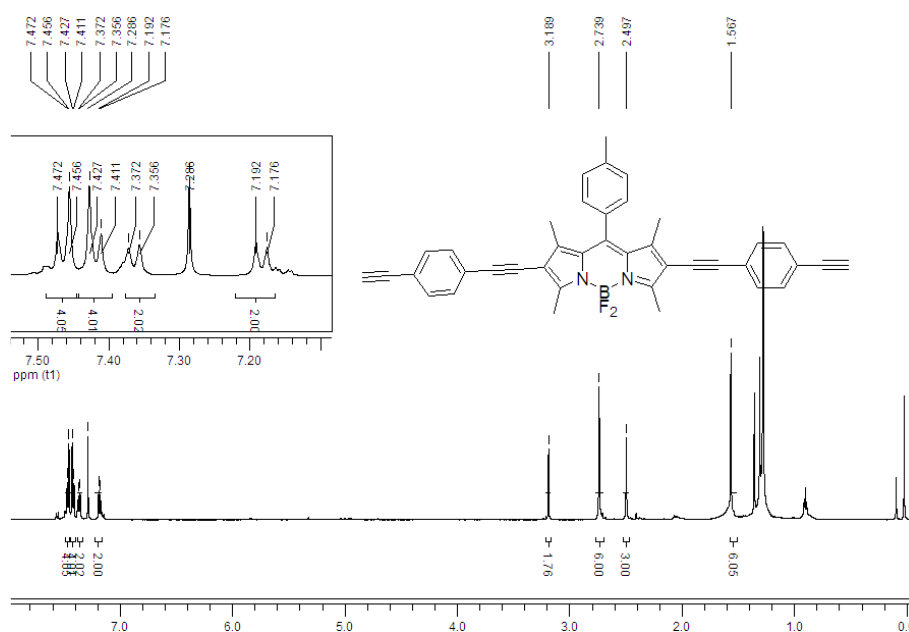


Figure S8. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of M4.

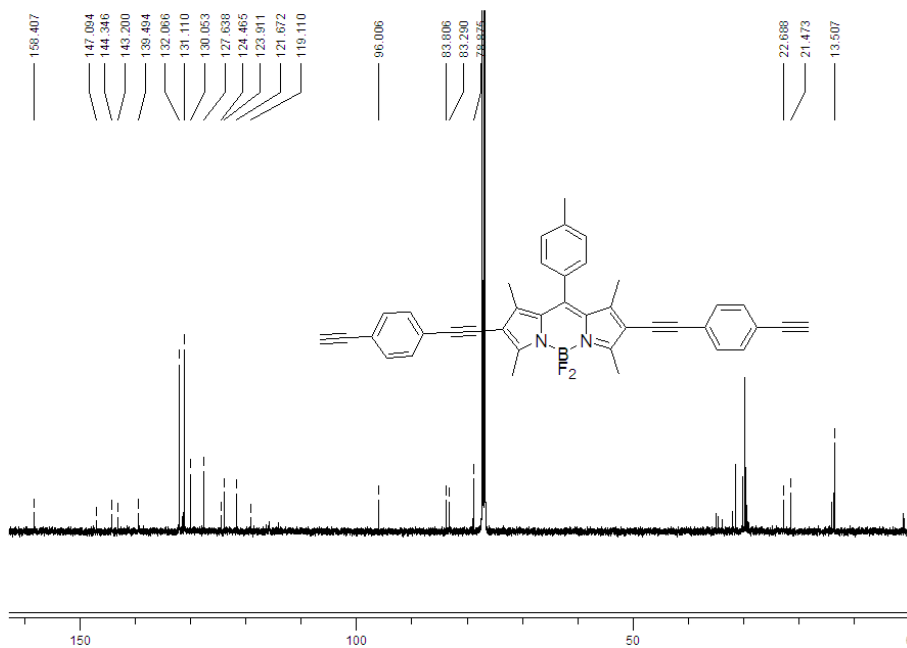


Figure S9. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of M4.

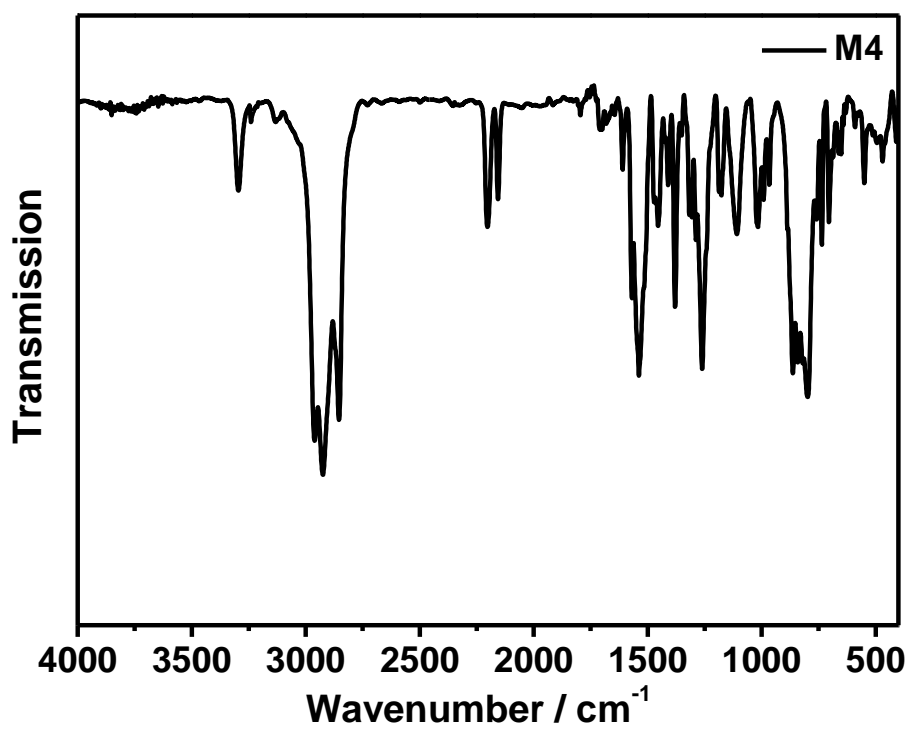


Figure 10. FTIR spectrum of M4.

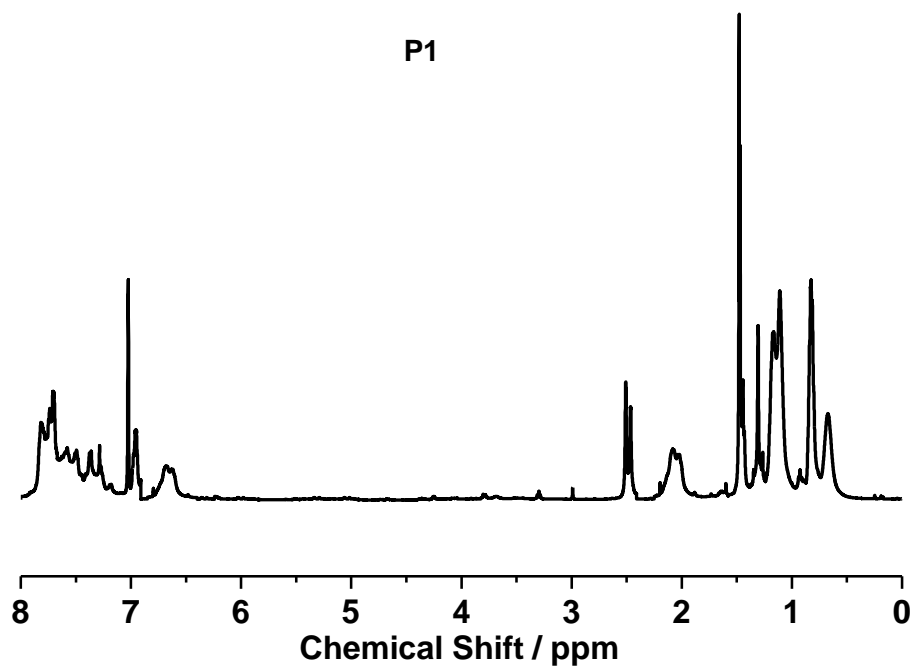


Figure S11. <sup>1</sup>H spectrum of P1.

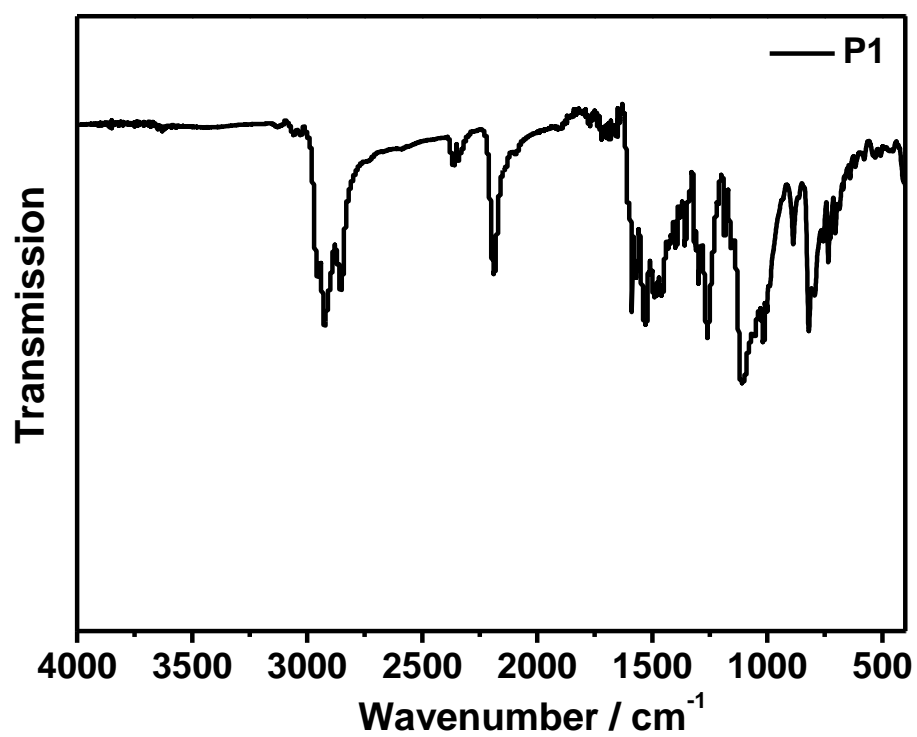


Figure S12. FTIR spectrum of P1.

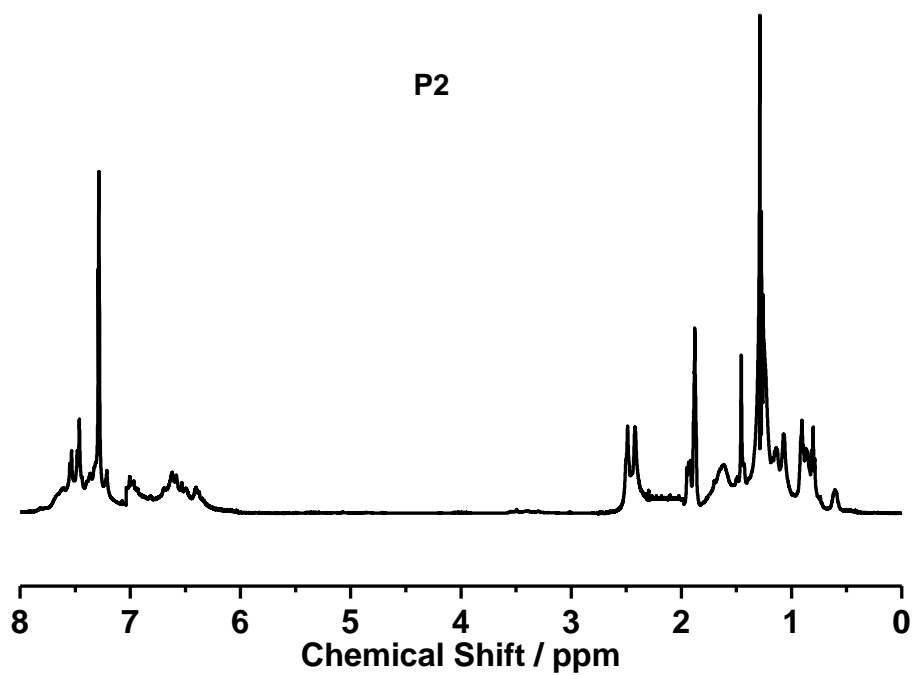


Figure S13. <sup>1</sup>H spectrum of P2.

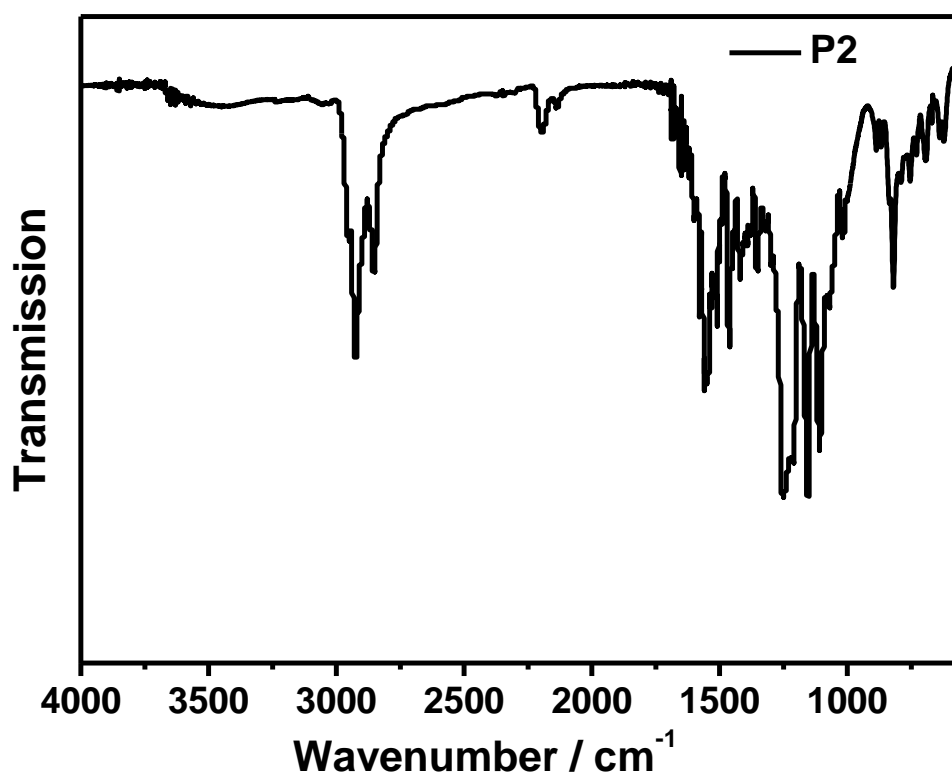


Figure S14. FTIR spectrum of P2.



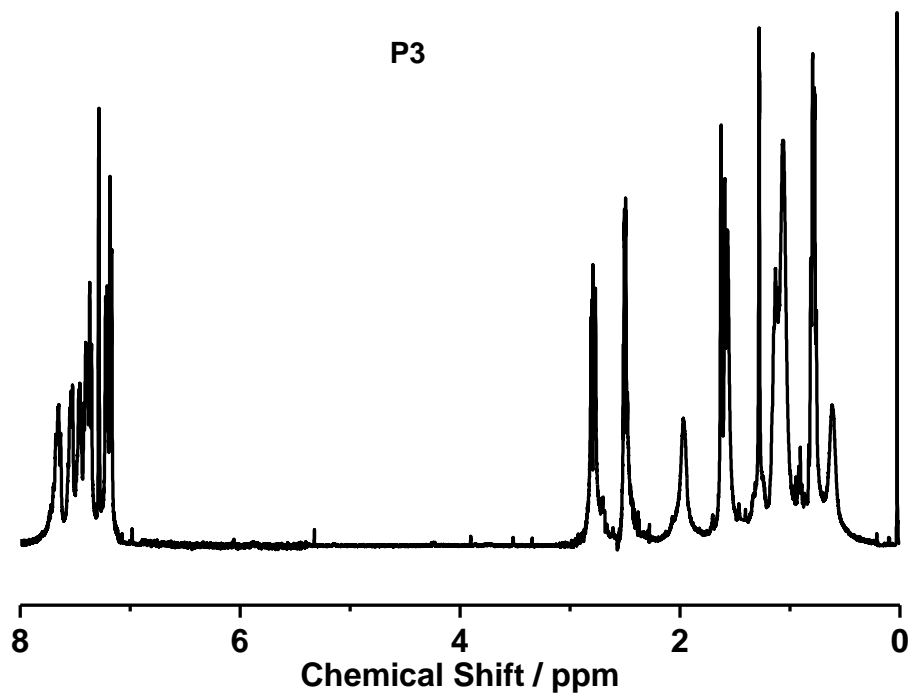


Figure S15. <sup>1</sup>H spectrum of P3.

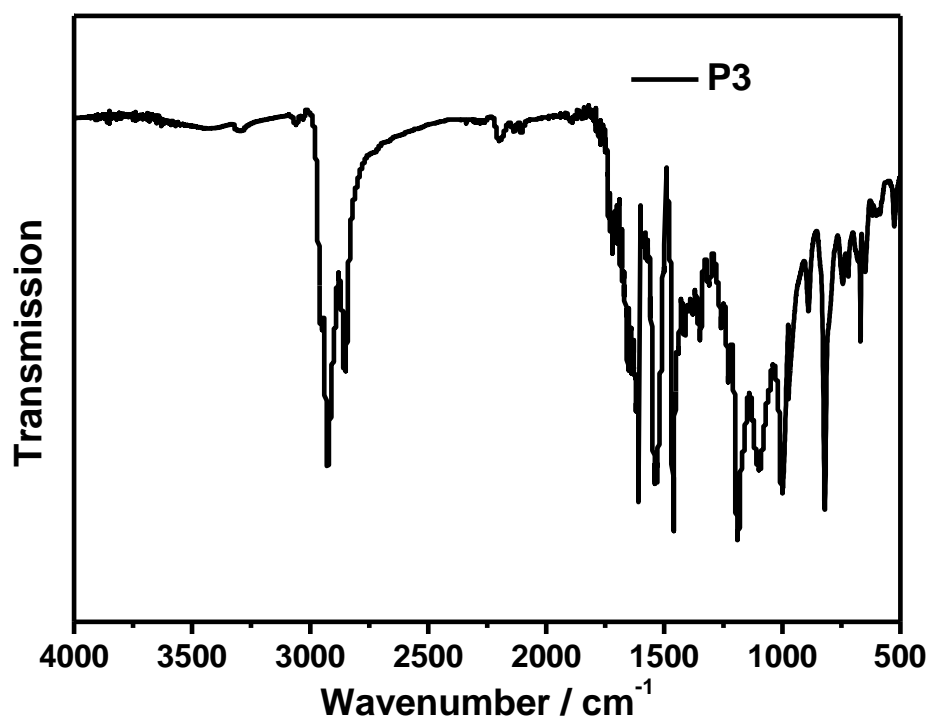


Figure S16. FTIR spectrum of P3.

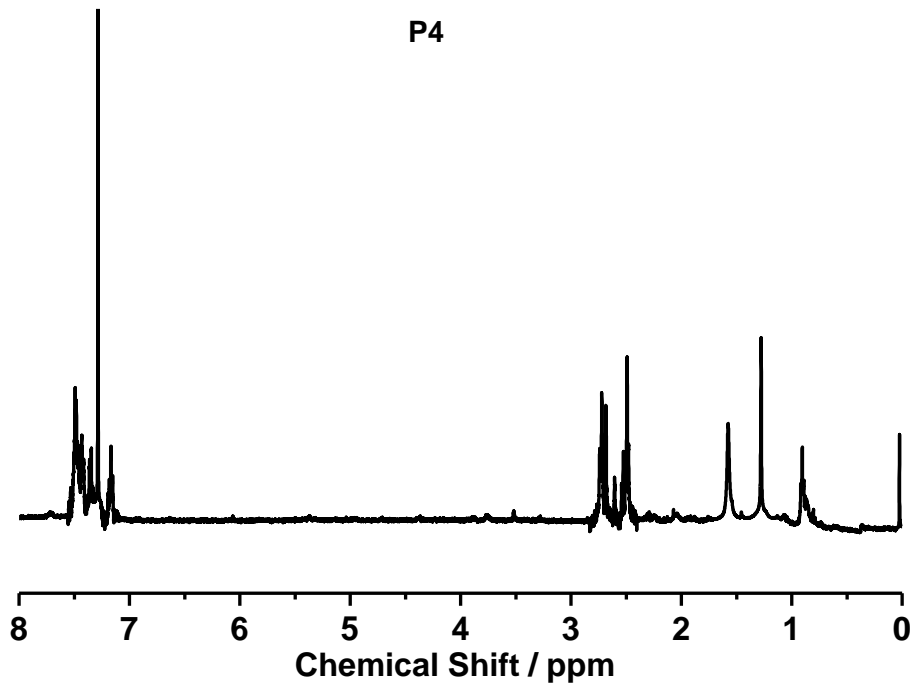
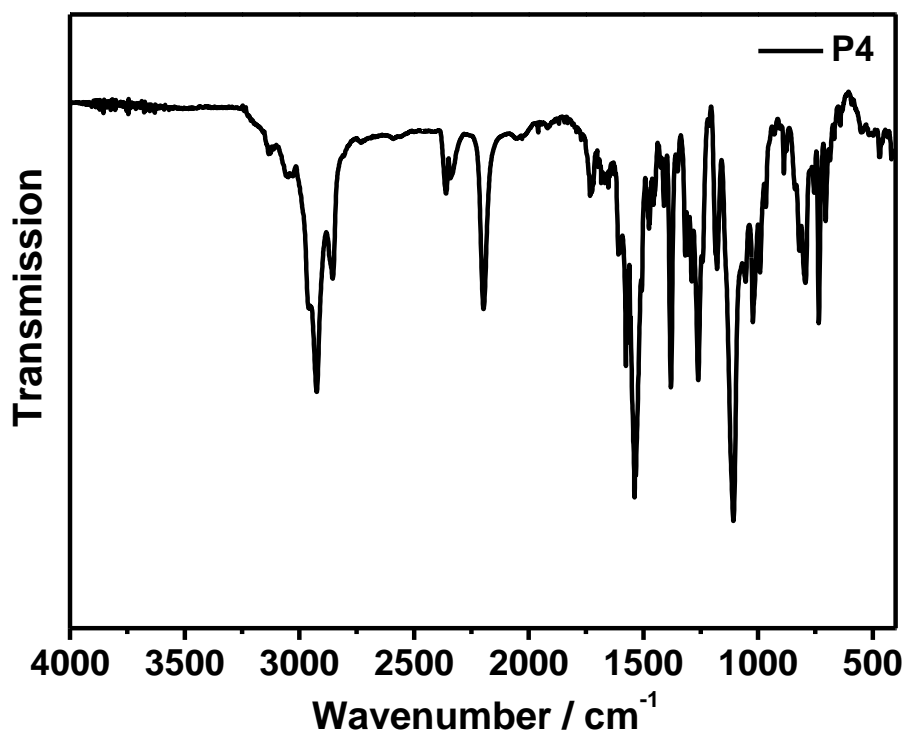


Figure S17. <sup>1</sup>H spectrum of P4.



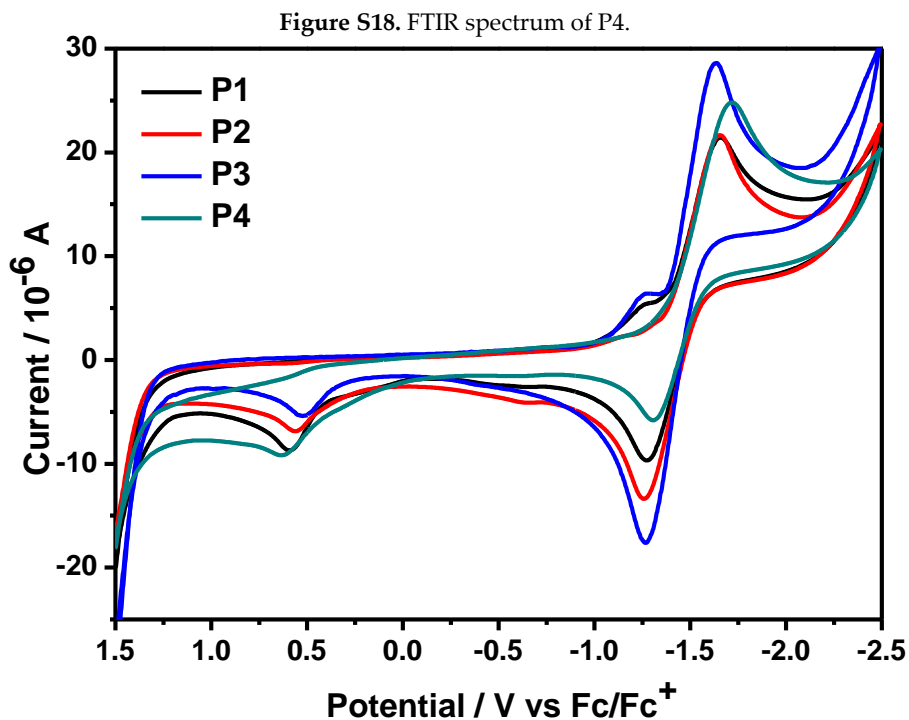
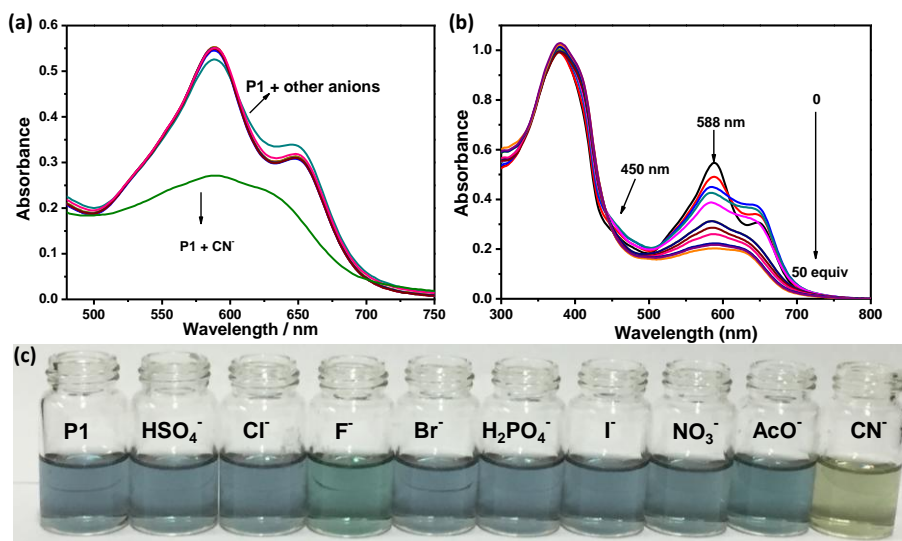


Figure S19. Cyclic voltammograms of the polymers (P1, P2, P3 and P4) in THF solutions of 0.1 mol L<sup>-1</sup> Bu<sub>4</sub>NPF<sub>6</sub> with a scan rate of 100 mV s<sup>-1</sup>.

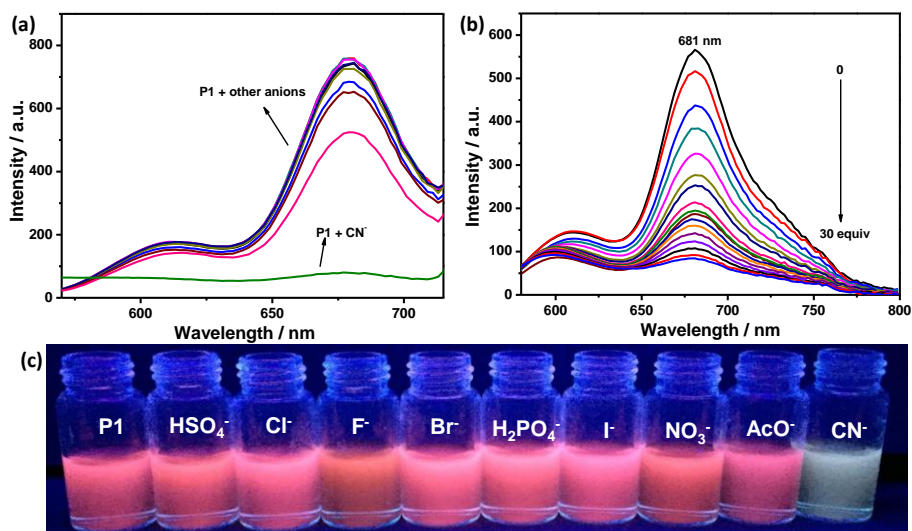
Table S1. Experimental and calculated electrochemical data of polymers.

Compound	HOMO (eV)	LUMO (eV)	E <sub>g</sub> (eV)	HOMO <sup>cal</sup> (eV)	LUMO <sup>cal</sup> (eV)	E <sub>g</sub> <sup>cal</sup> (eV)
P1	-5.22	-3.36	1.86	-5.19	-2.85	2.35
P2	-5.08	-3.41	1.67	-5.15	-3.03	2.12
P3	-5.14	-3.25	1.89	-5.10	-2.57	2.53
P4	-5.11	-3.35	1.75	-5.15	-2.77	2.37

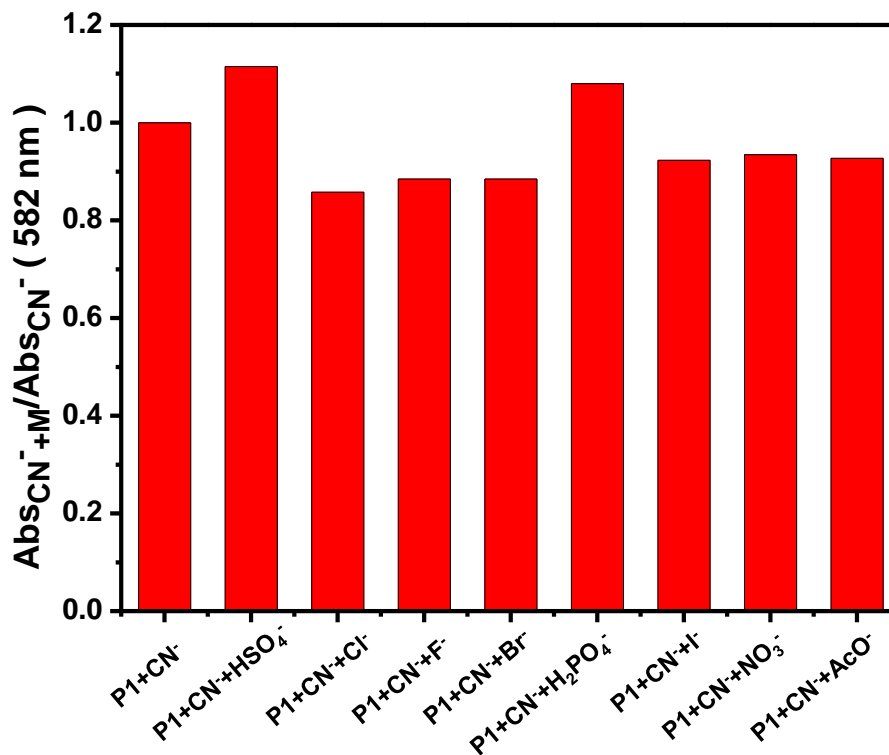
Spectroscopic responses of polymers to anions:



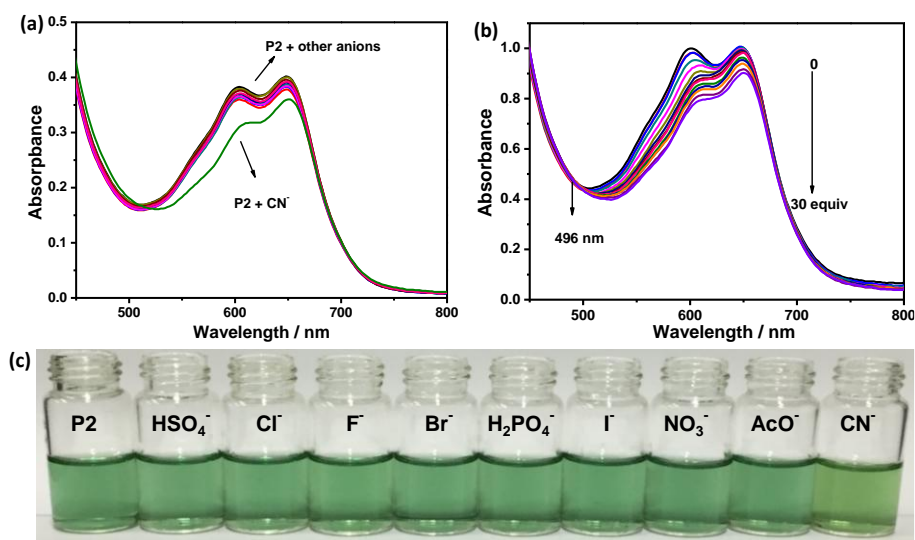
**Figure S20.** (a) UV-vis spectra of P1 ( $[RU] = 30 \mu M$ ) in THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (98:2,  $v/v$ ) in the presence of 20 equiv. of different anions; (b) UV-vis spectra of P1 ( $[RU] = 30 \mu M$ ) in THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (98:2,  $v/v$ ) in presence of varying concentration of CN<sup>-</sup> ranging from 0, 60, 120, 150, 210, 240, 270, 300, 450, 600, 900, 1200 and 1500  $\mu M$ ; (c) Visual images observed for P1 solutions upon addition of 50 equiv. each anion.



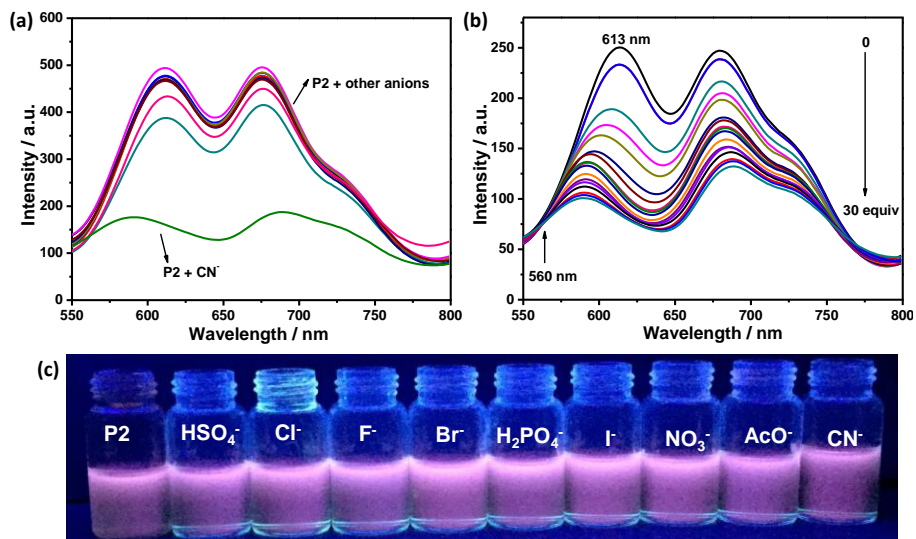
**Figure S21.** (a) Fluorescence emission spectra of P1 ( $[RU] = 30 \mu M$ ) in THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (98:2,  $v/v$ ) in presence of varying concentration of CN<sup>-</sup> ranging from 0, 30, 60, 90, 120, 150, 180, 240, 300, 360, 420, 480, 540, 600, 700, 800 and 900  $\mu M$ ,  $\lambda_{ex} = 365 \text{ nm}$ ; (b) Fluorescence emission spectra of P1 ( $[RU] = 30 \mu M$ ) in THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (98:2,  $v/v$ ) in the presence of 20 equiv. of different anions,  $\lambda_{ex} = 540 \text{ nm}$ ; (c) Fluorescence observed for P1 solutions upon addition of 50 equiv. each anion under the excitation of 365 nm.



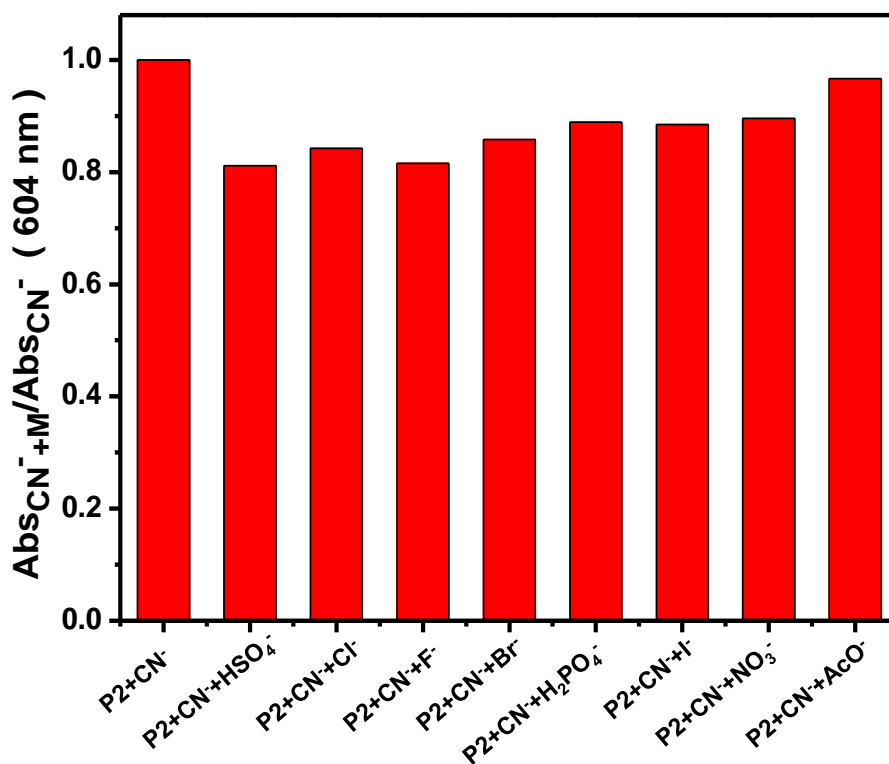
**Figure S22.** UV-Vis responses of P1 ([RU] = 30 μM) containing 20 equiv. of CN<sup>-</sup> upon addition of 20 equiv. of other competing ions in THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (98:2, *v/v*).



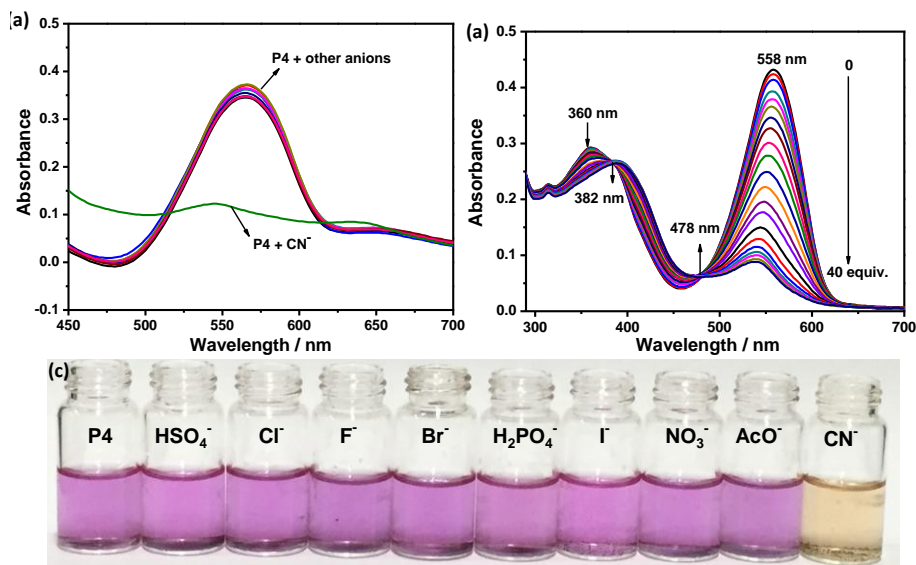
**Figure S23.** (a) UV-vis spectra of P2 ([RU] = 30 μM) in THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (98:2, *v/v*) in the presence of 20 equiv. of different anions; (b) UV-vis spectra of P2 ([RU] = 30 μM) in THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (98:2, *v/v*) in presence of varying concentration of CN<sup>-</sup> ranging from 0, 60, 120, 180, 240, 300, 360, 420, 480, 540, 600, 700, 800 and 900 μM; (c) Visual images observed for P2 solutions upon addition of 50 equiv. each anion.



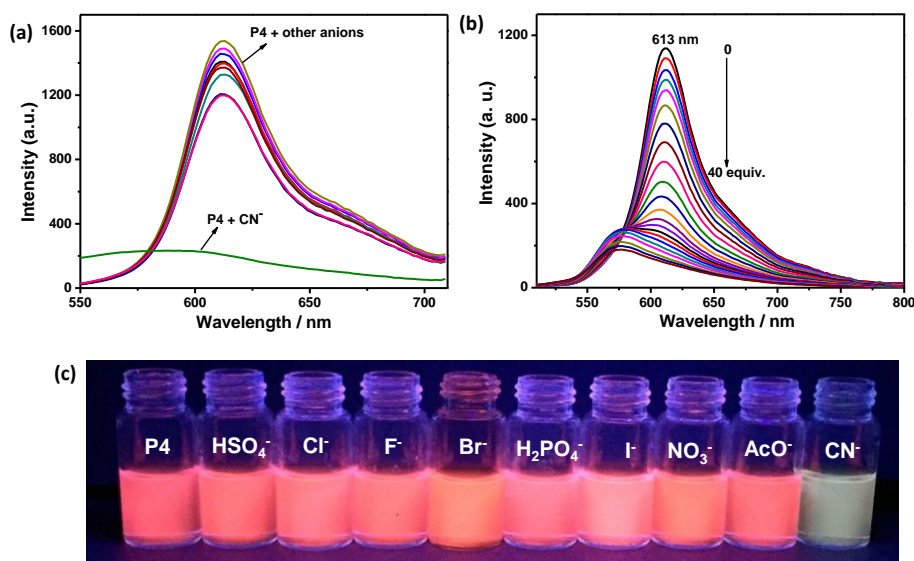
**Figure S24.** (a) Fluorescence emission spectra of P2 ([RU] = 30 μM) in THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (98:2, v/v) in presence of varying concentration of CN<sup>-</sup> ranging from 0, 60, 120, 180, 240, 300, 360, 420, 480, 540, 600, 700, 800 and 900 μM, λ<sub>ex</sub> = 540 nm; (b) Fluorescence emission spectra of P2 ([RU] = 30 μM) in THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (98:2, v/v) in the presence of 20 equiv. of different anions. λ<sub>ex</sub> = 540 nm; (c) Fluorescence observed for P2 solutions upon addition of 50 equiv. each anion under the excitation of 365 nm.



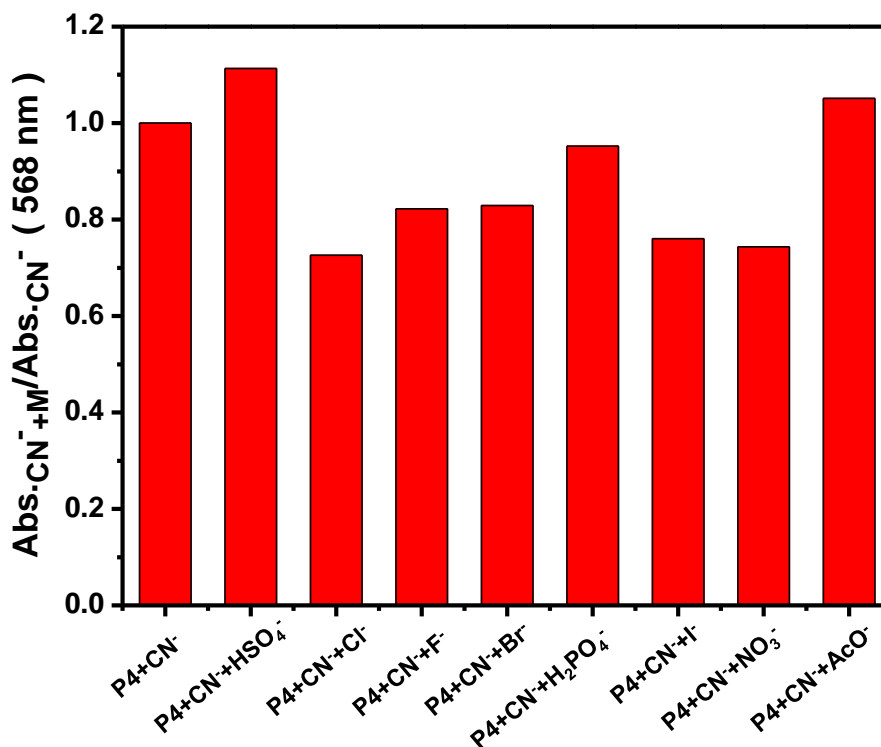
**Figure S25.** UV-Vis responses of P2 ([RU] = 30 μM) containing 20 equiv. of CN<sup>-</sup> upon addition of 20 equiv. of other competing ions in THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (98:2, v/v).



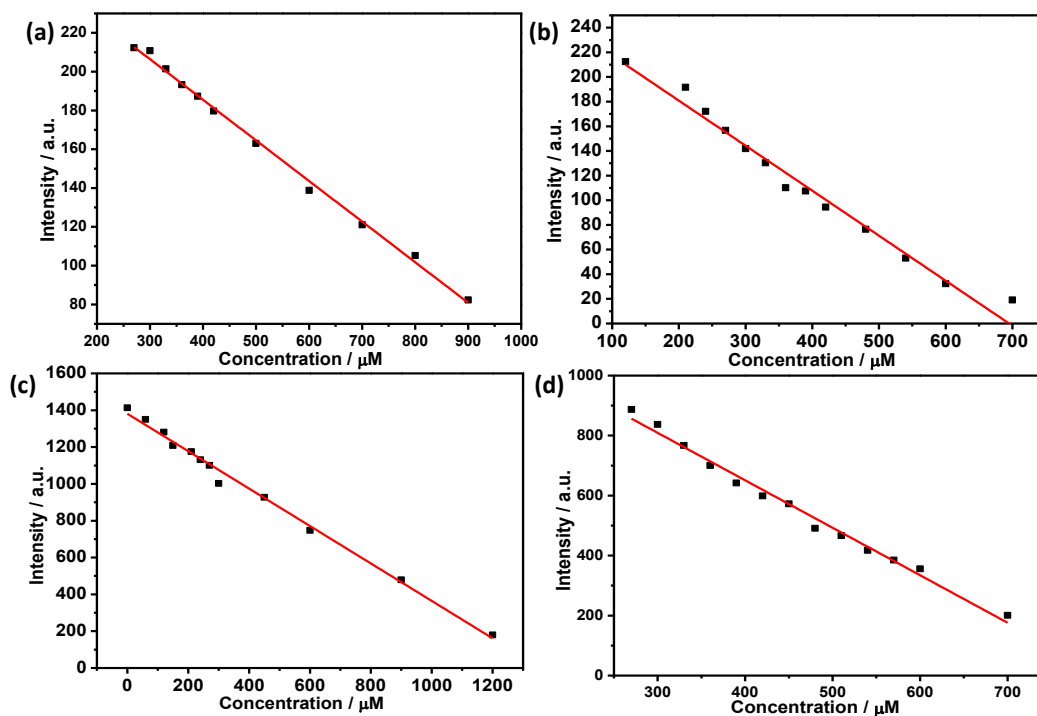
**Figure S26.** (a) UV-vis spectra of P4 ([RU] = 30 μM) in THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (98:2, v/v) in the presence of 20 equiv. of different anions; (b) UV-vis spectra of P4 ([RU] = 30 μM) in THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (98:2, v/v) in presence of varying concentration of CN<sup>-</sup> ranging from 0, 60, 120, 150, 210, 240, 270, 300, 450, 600, 900, and 1200 μM; (c) Visual images observed for P4 solutions upon addition of 50 equiv. each anion.



**Figure S27.** (a) Fluorescence emission spectra of P4 ([RU] = 30 μM) in THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (98:2, v/v) in the presence of 20 equiv. of different anions, λ<sub>ex</sub> = 540 nm; (b) Fluorescence emission spectra of P4 ([RU] = 30 μM) in THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (98:2, v/v) in presence of varying concentration of CN<sup>-</sup> ranging from 0, 60, 120, 150, 210, 240, 270, 300, 450, 600, 900, 1200 and 1500 μM, λ<sub>ex</sub> = 540 nm; (c) Fluorescence observed for P4 solutions upon addition of 50 equiv. each anion under the excitation of 365 nm.

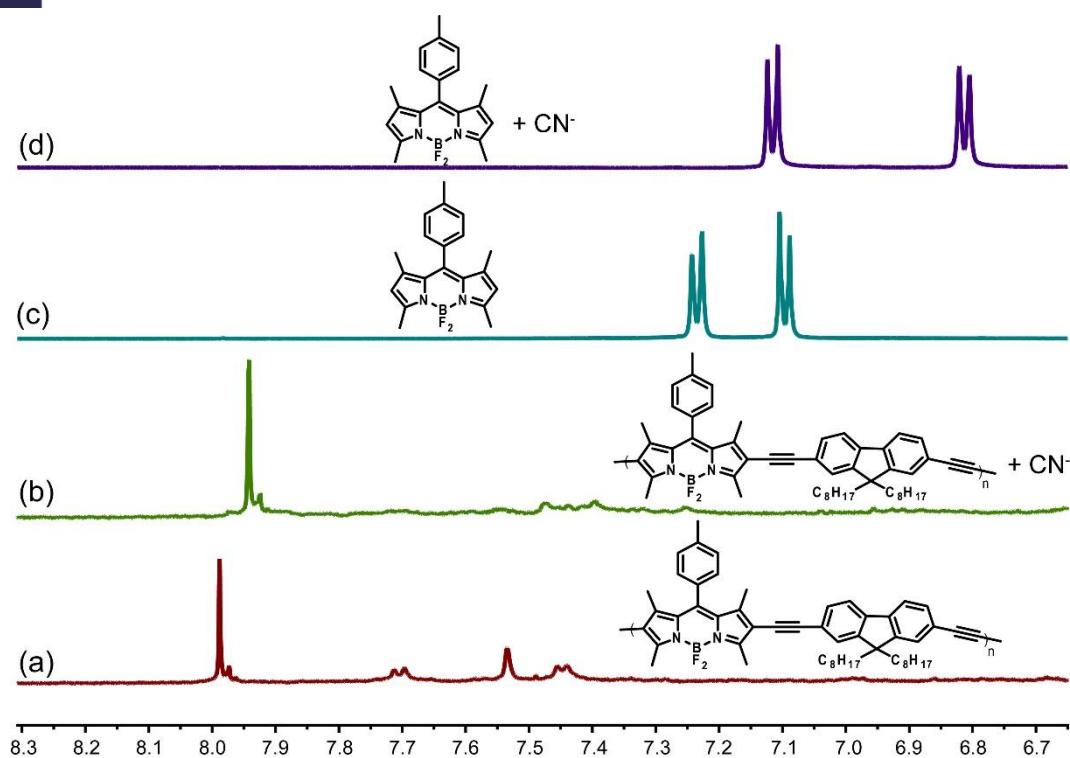


**Figure S28.** UV-Vis absorption changes of P4 ([RU] = 30  $\mu$ M) containing 20 equiv. of CN<sup>-</sup> upon addition of 20 equiv. of other competing ions in THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (98:2, *v/v*).

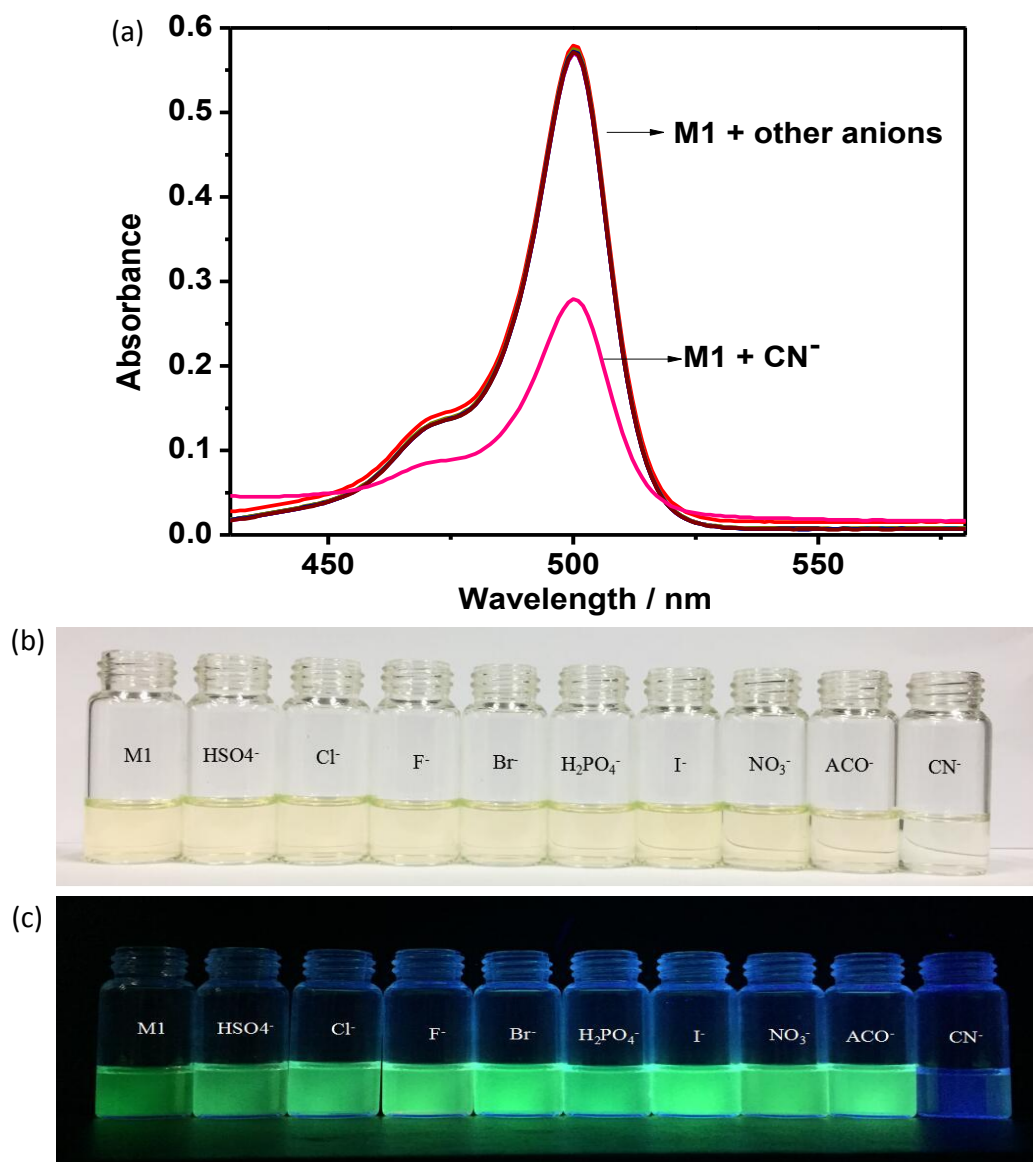


**Figure S29.** Plot of fluorescence intensity changes of polymers versus various concentrations of CN<sup>-</sup> anions. The red solid lines represent the linear fitting of the scattered data points. (a) P1, the slope is 0.21; (b) P2, the slope is 0.37; (c) P3, the slope is 1.02; (d) P4, the slope is 1.58.





**Figure S30.** Partial <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of P3 (a, b) and BODIPY monomer (c, d) before and after the addition of 20 equiv. [(n-Bu)<sub>4</sub>N]<sup>+</sup>CN<sup>-</sup> (recorded in THF-*d*<sub>6</sub> at room temperature).



**Figure S31.** (a) UV-Vis spectra of BODIPY monomer ([RU] = 30  $\mu$ M) in THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (98:2, v/v) in the presence of 20 equiv. of different anions; (b) Visual images and (c) fluorescence observed for BODIPY monomer solutions upon addition of 50 equiv. each anion under the excitation of 365 nm.