

Organizations Endorsing the End Solitary Confinement Act

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76. Michigan Children's Law Center
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79. Missouri Justice Coalition
80. Missourians for the Alternatives to the Death Penalty
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84. National Action Network - NYC Chapter Second Chance Committee
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89. National Black Women's Justice Institute

90. National Council of Churches
91. National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
92. National Immigrant Justice Center
93. National Juvenile Justice Network
94. National Lawyers Guild - National Immigration Project
95. National Lawyers Guild - New York City Chapter
96. National Religious Campaign Against Torture
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98. NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
99. New Hour for Women & Children Long Island
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101. New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
102. New York State Prisoner Justice Network
103. North Star Fund
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110. Prison Law Office
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Statements of Support from Endorsing Organizations

Convening Organizations of the [Federal Anti-Solitary Taskforce \(FAST\)](#)

National Religious Campaign Against Torture

“As someone who has personally endured the torment of solitary confinement, I can attest to the devastating toll it takes on one's mental and emotional well-being. The End Solitary Confinement Act is a beacon of hope for those incarcerated in federal facilities nationwide, offering a chance for reform and redemption within our criminal justice system. I implore Congress to swiftly pass this critical legislation, for it is not only a matter of justice, but a matter of preserving human dignity and restoring hope for those who have been silenced and isolated for far too long across the United States.”

– Johnny Perez, Director, U.S. Prisons Program, National Religious Campaign Against Torture

#HALTsolitary Campaign

“Solitary confinement is one of human beings' greatest inhumanity to other human beings. It is torture. Solitary causes devastating harm and death, while worsening safety for everyone. It should have no place in our society. The End Solitary Confinement Act would be an urgent and critical step in the struggle for human rights and racial justice. Congress must waste no time to pass this Act, and the President must sign it into law.”

- Jerome Wright, Co-Director of the #HALTsolitary Campaign,

American Civil Liberties Union

“Solitary confinement is a torturous practice that causes immense suffering and severe damage, while also making everyone less safe. It is wrong, and it must end now. The End Solitary Confinement Act provides an historic opportunity for Congress and the President to end solitary confinement in a real and meaningful way while fostering engagement- and program-based interventions proven to be much more effective at improving safety.”

- Tammie Gregg, Director of the American Civil Liberties Union’s Stop Solitary Campaign

Unlock the Box Campaign

“The End Solitary Confinement Act is urgently needed legislation to stop the torture of solitary confinement in U.S. prisons, jails, and detention centers. In order to stop torture, reduce suffering, save lives, and make everyone safer, Congresswoman Bush’s bill will end solitary confinement for all people and utilize proven alternative interventions involving full days of out-of-cell group programming and engagement. Over 120,000 people in local, state, and federal custody, including over 11,000 people in federal prisons alone, are being tortured right now — disproportionately Black, Latina/o/x, and indigenous people and other people of color and many for months and years at a time. With widespread bipartisan public support across the country for ending solitary confinement and with a growing number of jurisdictions introducing and enacting legislation to end or limit the practice, now is the moment for federal policymakers to lead. Congress must act quickly to pass the End Solitary Confinement Act and President Biden must sign it into law to fulfill his pledge to end solitary once and for all.”

- Jessica Sandoval, Director, Unlock the Box Campaign

Center for Constitutional Rights

"The Center for Constitutional Rights has a long history of challenging the use of isolation in [U.S. prisons](#) and [immigration detention centers](#). In particular, many of our clients have been placed in solitary confinement [in retaliation](#) for their efforts to speak up about the fact and conditions of their confinement. The Center for Constitutional Rights firmly believes solitary confinement is torture. The End Solitary Confinement Act is a monumental step toward eliminating this abhorrent practice in federal carceral systems, and we are proud to support it." - CJ Sandley, Staff Attorney, Center for Constitutional Rights

Vera Institute of Justice

“Years of [research](#) have demonstrated that solitary confinement is neither humane nor effective at making correctional facilities safer. Spending 22 to 24 hours per day alone in a cell the size of a parking space not only has destructive mental and physical effects on incarcerated people but also harms correctional staff who must engage with individuals enduring the cruelties of isolation. The End Solitary Confinement Act is a critical opportunity for both Congress and President Biden to take a meaningful position against the continuing use of this inhumane and ineffective form of punishment. Lawmakers and President Biden must meet this opportunity by passing and enacting this important legislation.”

- Hadi Sedigh, Director of Federal Policy, Vera Institute of Justice

Additional From National Religious Campaign Against Torture

“The faith community has heard the cries for help from the nation's solitary confinement cells where over 10,000 of our brothers and sisters in federal custody endure these conditions of torture today and every

day. Congress needs to take the moral and courageous step to end torture in federal prisons and detention centers by passing the End Solitary Confinement Act without delay.”

– Rev. Ron Stief, Executive Director, National Religious Campaign Against Torture

“Solitary confinement is torture and denies the humanity of people who are incarcerated. It does nothing to make our communities safe and is counter to who we are and what we believe as Christians.”

- Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, President and General Secretary, National Council of Churches (NCC)

"The use of solitary confinement in our nation's prisons is a cruel and inhumane practice that has been shown to cause lasting harm to those subjected to it. The End Solitary Confinement Act represents an important step towards reforming our criminal justice system and ensuring that incarcerated individuals are treated with dignity and respect. This will greatly help to protect the mental health and well-being of our nation's incarcerated individuals. We urge Congress to pass this critical legislation without delay, and to work towards building a justice system that is more just, humane, and equitable for all."

- Rameez Abid, Director of Operations, Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) Council for Social Justice

“In keeping with our core belief that all people are made in the image of the divine and deserve to be treated as such, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs joins the National Religious Campaign Against Torture and our other multi-faith and secular partners in support of the End Solitary Confinement Act.”

- David Bohm, Chair, Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA)

“The General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church wholeheartedly supports the introduction and passage of the End Solitary Confinement Act. We thank Representative Cori Bush and the co-sponsors for bringing this vital legislation to the forefront in this Congress and ask that others would strongly consider signing on in support. Our criminal justice system is in need of deep repair. Studies, reports, and first-hand accounts all reveal a broken and harmful system that does not keep us safe. Our Social Principles as a church state that ‘we urge for the creation of a genuinely new system for the care and restoration of victims, offenders, criminal justice officials, and the community as a whole (¶ 164, H).’ As such, the removal of this detrimental practice has the potential to usher us into a new way of seeking justice, a way that does not bring further harm to already vulnerable persons.”

- Rev. Kendal McBroom, Director of Civil and Human Rights, General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) of The United Methodist Church

Zealous

“For far too long, the United States has claimed to be the moral authority over the rest of the world on human rights when our own systems are far outside of well-established human rights norms. Our use of psychological and physical torture in the form of widespread solitary confinement in our jails, prisons, and detention centers sets us apart from any other country in terms of cruelty. It’s unnecessary, costly, and wrong. It hurts people and it hurts us all. Zealous urges Congress to pass The End Solitary Confinement Act which allows us to abolish this outdated practice once and for all.”

– Scott Hechinger, Founder & Executive Director.

“There is nothing quite like the torture of isolation. To be held in a concrete box the size of a parking space, fed through a slot, berated by sounds of despair day and night, are conditions most of us cannot imagine. And yet, it is not only common practice, it happens in every jail, prison, and detention center across this country. Our tax dollars fund torture, and everyone who stands against torture must stand against solitary confinement.”

– Jacqueline Williams, Regional and Prison Program Director, Zealous

Additional Endorsing Organizations

Color of Change

“Public safety should be rooted in centering the humanity of communities, and there is nothing humane about solitary confinement. Ending Solitary confinement is not only necessary, it’s long overdue. Color Of Change applauds Representative Bush for her continued bold and revolutionary legislative actions. Banning solitary confinement ensures that incarcerated individuals are no longer at the mercy of state-sanctioned violence. This landmark bill would also offer a framework for state and local officials nationwide to enact similar policies that provide incarcerated individuals with enrichment and educational programs and equip them with the tools they need to thrive and re-enter society. It’s important that our new vision of public safety promotes the humanity of all community members, incarcerated, re-entering or otherwise.”

National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC)

“Immigration detention is unjust and inhumane,” said Jesse Franzblau, Senior Policy Analyst with the National Immigrant Justice Center. “When ICE uses solitary confinement, or segregation, against people inside detention facilities it exacerbates mental and emotional strain caused from incarceration and becomes torturous. No human being should be subject to solitary confinement as a form of punishment in federal detention or prison facilities. The End Solitary Confinement Act is a vital legislative step towards ending a barbaric practice that should not form part of any contemporary policy making.”

National Immigration Project

Sirine Shebaya, Executive Director of the National Immigration Project: "Beyond the inherently abusive nature of incarceration and detention, the research is clear on the particularly harmful effects of solitary confinement. It is an abusive practice that has long-lasting effects on the human mind and body. Ending solitary confinement is a common sense and humane step we must take toward creating healthier communities. We applaud Rep. Bush for introducing this bill, which represents a step in the right direction towards that goal."

Government Accountability Project

“Government Accountability Project represents Ellen Gallagher, a Department of Homeland Security whistleblower who for more than eight years has been raising concerns about ICE’s widespread use of solitary confinement—classified as torture by the United Nations—on medically vulnerable and mentally ill immigrants in civil detention in violation of ICE’s own regulations. The federal government’s utter failure to stop this abusive practice, despite its own investigative findings confirming that it has been ongoing, requires Congressional action to protect individuals from the unnecessary and abusive use of

solitary confinement in all detention settings. We applaud the introduction of the End Solitary Confinement Act and urge its passage.”

- Dana Gold, Senior Counsel, Government Accountability Project

Return Strong!

“Every step we take towards ending the practice of solitary confinement is a step towards healing and justice. There is a horrible misconception about solitary, that it is saved for the "Hannibal Lechters" of the world, but in reality- solitary is used to retaliate and punish for anything- a packet of butter becomes contraband and you are sent to solitary confinement. People go from solitary to our communities. We can't continue to cage human beings and think we will bring whole, healed people back to our communities. We must end this barbaric practice. Thank you to Congresswoman Cori Bush for bringing forward this critically necessary legislation to ban solitary confinement and move us to a more humane world. Kudos!”

Campaign Zero

“Solitary confinement not only causes irreparable harm, it kills. This bill puts critically important safeguards in place to ensure solitary confinement is never again practiced in federal correctional facilities. It is long overdue for the federal government to lead with moral clarity on this issue and pave the way for correctional jurisdictions across the entire country to ban this inhumane practice.”

- DeRay Mckesson, Founder and Executive Director of Campaign Zero

Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights

"Solitary confinement inflicts deep mental, physical, and emotional scars on people in our communities. The effects of solitary confinement are so damaging that it can amount to torture under international law. The End Solitary Confinement Act is a commitment to stop this outdated, torturous practice."

- Delia Addo-Yobo

Equal Justice USA

"No one should be surprised that solitary confinement is inflicted on Black people at far greater rates. It's a weapon of racial oppression, just like the death penalty and prisons overall. Ending solitary confinement is one small step in reducing our addiction to punishment and redirecting resources toward healing trauma and stopping cycles of harm."

- Jami Hodge, Executive Director, Equal Justice USA

T'ruah: the Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

"Solitary confinement is torture, and it is predominantly inflicted on Black and Brown people. Solitary causes immense suffering and devastating harm, and has taken far too many minds and lives, including Kalief Browder, Layleen Polanco, Brandon Rodriguez, and countless others. As clergy and members of the Jewish community, we feel compelled to speak out against this form of torture. The very first two chapters of our Torah teach us that every human being is created in the image of God, and that no human being should be alone. Many of us have also visited congregants in prison, or served as prison chaplains. These pastoral experiences have taught us the degradation prisoners feel, the loneliness of being in prison, and the desperation of those unable to maintain normal human relationships while living in isolation. Our long-term partnerships with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, NY-CAIC, and other

groups led by the individuals and communities most directly affected by these issues also demand that we follow the biblical injunction of Leviticus 19:16: “Do not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor.”

- Rabbi Margo Hughes-Robinson

Connecticut Justice Alliance

“Solitary confinement is torture. It is ineffective in altering behavior, and ultimately causes the person in distress to further decompensate. Research has shown that there are much more effective and safer ways to keep people safe and offer respite if needed. It's unacceptable that solitary confinement is still being used when we have alternatives, have knowledge of the harm it causes, and have other countries and places to use as an example of what to do instead. We must ban solitary confinement for all people.”

DC Justice Lab

"This bill is especially important to D.C., where residents are sent away to federal prisons to serve time for local charges. People convicted of D.C. Code offenses often report being treated more harshly and watched more closely than others in custody. Lacking statehood and meaningful representation in federal decisionmaking leaves them especially vulnerable to abuse and isolation.”

Disability Rights California

“Disability Rights California fully supports the End Solitary Confinement Act. As the nation’s largest nonprofit disability rights law organization, we have seen firsthand the devastating effects of solitary confinement on disabled people—most of whom are people of color—and how it serves no legitimate safety interest. We are working to end its practice in our state, and champion the ending of this torturous practice in our federal system.”

The Bail Project

“Solitary confinement is traumatizing under any circumstance, and when used pretrial, makes it nearly impossible for individuals to access the family support, resources and legal representation necessary to participate in their own defense,” said Erin George, National Director of Policy at The Bail Project. “It has been nearly a decade since the United Nations declared solitary confinement to be a human rights violation, tantamount to torture. People will forever remember the tragic story of Kalief Browder, who endured three years at Rikers Island before trial, most in solitary, only to have his case dismissed before his life ended by suicide. It is long past time to end this brutal practice.”

The Multifaith Initiative to End Mass Incarceration

“Solitary confinement is an assault to the dignity of our collective humanity. Isolating and torturing incarcerated sisters and brothers who are made in God's image destroys the primacy of human personality. We must end this immoral practice and others that perpetuate mass incarceration in order to actualize the beloved community.”

#DetentionKills

“Solitary confinement in civil immigration detention has caused the preventable deaths of several loved ones whose family members we represent or support. A federal court in Colorado recently endorsed expert testimony explaining that even short periods of solitary confinement can create acute and chronic

conditions and create lasting harm. The practice of locking humans in small rooms by themselves has no place in civil detention, much less civilized society. We can and must solitary confinement now.”

New Hour for Women & Children LI

"We are heartened to see the introduction of this needed bill, so many of our women behind bars suffer from the harm of isolation as a tactic of retaliation, punishment and cruel injustice,"
- Serena Martin-Liguori, Executive Director of New Hour

The United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society

“We thank Representative Cori Bush and the co-sponsors for bringing this vital legislation to the forefront of this Congress and ask that others would strongly consider signing on in support as well. Our criminal justice system is in need of deep repair. Studies, reports, and first-hand accounts all reveal a broken and harmful system that does not keep us safe. Our Social Principles state that, ‘we urge the creation of a genuinely new system for the care and restoration of victims, offenders, criminal justice officials, and the community as a whole.’ (§ 164, H.) As such, the removal of this detrimental practice has the potential to usher us into a new way of seeking justice, a way that does not bring further harm to already vulnerable persons.”

Uptown People's Law Center

“There is no evidence that solitary accomplishes any legitimate goal. In contrast, the overwhelming weight of authority establishes that solitary does serious harm--sometimes irreversible--to people who spend more than 15 days in solitary. It is time to end this barbaric practice.”

UU Mass Action

“As a faith-based organization, UU Mass Action is clear that solitary confinement and all iterations of, is torture. Our faith commands us to respect and uphold the dignity of all people and we hope this bill would move us closer, as a country, to do so.”

Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs

"It is long past time for the United States to join the consensus of the international community and end the cruel practice of isolation within prisons. It is a dehumanizing practice with no legitimate purpose other than to torture and torment."

#HALTsolitary-WNY

“Solitary confinement is both evil and stupid: it destroys minds, bodies, and souls, violating the basic dignity of human beings, and it makes violence more, not less, likely.”

Acting OutSide

“Solitary confinement is torture, and has been recognized and used as such for too long. The usage of solitary confinement within institutions replicates the dynamics of DV/IPV- isolation from meaningful relationship, communication, support, and causes further harm. Stop Solitary.”

Antiracist Alliance

“The purpose of Solitary Confinement is to destroy and torture. This torture/human rights abuse must end.”

Antiracist Alliance

“This torture must end in a civil society.”

Bridging The Gap In Virginia

“It is Time to STOP the TORTURERS in the Prisons using Solitary Confinement as the WEAPON!!!”

Center for Appellate Litigation

“Solitary confinement sanctions human rights abuses. Such torture is contrary to public safety.”

Citizens for Prison Reform

“It is past time we address and end the use of solitary confinement on a national level, in addition to states terminating its use. It is proven to have life-long harmful effects.”

Collaborative Solutions

“Solitary confinement is inhumane torture. More cruelty begets more cruelty. It's time to stop. You can make a difference now. A huge difference.”

Collaborative Solutions

“We know hate and harm only produce more hate and harm. We humans can learn to heal. We do amazing things. We can do this.”

The Exiled Voice Podcast

“Solitary Confinement is archaic and brutal, as someone who's endured months of it myself. We can do so much better as a society than this practice.”

The Festival Center

“As a faith-based organization, we believe all people are created in the image of God and should not be subjected to torture or inhumane treatment. In Scripture we find that the justice system was meant to be a means of healing and restoration. It is time we root out everything that does not bring about healing and restoration and that starts with ending solitary confinement.”

Interfaith Action for Human Rights

“Solitary confinement violates the U.N. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, a convention to which the United States has been a party for nearly 40 years. Further, solitary confinement also violates the tenets of the world's diverse faith traditions who universally agree that humanity is built for community, not prolonged involuntary isolation. Put simply, solitary confinement is torture by another name. And no one, no matter what they've done, deserves to be tortured. For the preservation of our integrity; for the equal protection of the laws; and for the sake of our nation's soul; let us therefore end prolonged involuntary isolation by any name throughout the United States of America.”

Interfaith Action for Human Rights

“Solitary confinement is inhumane. Human rights should apply to all humans.”

Inwood Indivisible

“Ending solitary confinement, along with ending mass incarceration and over-policing, is a key step toward creating a true system of justice and safety in our country.”

Lee Clayton Design

“Solitary is unconstitutional. The end.”

LIFE Progressive Services Group Inc

“ISOLATION is Torture. Therefore inhumane.”

Michigan Children’s Law Center

“Solitary confinement is barbaric for children.”

Missouri Justice Coalition

“Today advocates are still fighting for actual rehabilitation in the carceral system; subjecting human beings to continued dehumanizing treatment and conditions in no way leads to rehabilitation and a healthy person to be reintroduced to the greater society. Reforming the usage of solitary confinement by lessening it and putting limited conditions on its usage is a necessary step in rehabilitation and humane carceral conditions.”

National Immigration Project (NIPNLG)

Sirine Shebaya, Executive Director of the National Immigration Project: "The use of solitary confinement has been yet another manifestation of how inhumane the system of incarceration and detention is. Solitary confinement is used disproportionately against Black immigrants, exacerbating its harmful impact on people who are already disproportionately detained and incarcerated. We applaud Rep. Bush for introducing this bill, which would eliminate the use of solitary confinement in all contexts, including in immigration detention, as a necessary first step towards reckoning with the horrors and the racist origin and impact of measures such as solitary confinement."

New Jersey Prison Justice Watch

"In 2019, we passed the Isolated Confinement Restriction Act in NJ, and it's time for the nation to follow suit. No prison sentence should entail surviving torture, which is exactly what prolonged isolation is."

onebyline

“Solitary confinement is very destructive and should be abolished!”

Peer Network Of New York

“Solitary confinement is torture and should never be used . End solitary confinement now!!!”

Promise of Justice

“The brutal practice of solitary confinement creates so much harm to individuals, families and communities and does nothing to make us safer. It is past time for the United States to put an end to it.”

Public Issues Committee, LI Council of Churches

“Ending the use of long term solitary confinement in US prisons, jails, and detention is long overdue. Passing this legislation will finally put our country on the right path.”

Reentry Sisters

“Nelson Mandela's words echo the dehumanizing horrors, “I found solitary confinement the most forbidding aspect of prison life. There is no end and no beginning; there is only one's mind, which can begin to play tricks. Was that a dream or did it really happen? One begins to question everything.”

Root Cause Collective

“People need people! We believe connection to community and the environment are core elements of mental health recovery and vital for mental health maintenance. End solitary confinement to maintain mental health!”

Roots of Renewal

“We should always put people first and not continue to break already broken people through punitive and cruel treatment inside of our correctional institution. Let’s end the use of solitary confinement now.”

Social Workers & Allies against Solitary Confinement

“Solitary is Torture -- Humane Alternatives Work!”

Solitary Gardens

“Our work seeks to ingrain the inhumanity and unsustainability of our criminal ‘justice’ system within the everyday comfort zones and recreational spaces of Americans. We are in direct and daily communication with people enduring the cruel and unusual conditions of long-term solitary confinement and believe there is no value other than torture.”

T.O.N.E U.P Inc

“Inhumanity, cruelty and torture is not the answer to the violence and conflict that prisons inherently breed.”

Trans Lifeline

“Too often, transgender people are put in the wrong gender facilities and confined to solitary confinement "for our own protection" despite the fact that this is torture. No one should be in solitary confinement.”

Youth Function Over Form

“Solitary under any name is diabolical torture.”