



***Join the Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement (CAIC)
in Challenging Solitary Confinement as Torture***

What You Need to Know About Isolated Confinement in New York

Isolated Confinement is Inhumane, Counterproductive, and an Extension of Mass Incarceration

- People in isolated confinement spend 22 to 24 hours a day locked in a cell the size of an elevator, alone or with one other person. They may be permitted one hour to exercise alone in a cage. They do not receive any meaningful programs or therapy, and cannot make phone calls. The sensory deprivation, lack of normal human interaction, and extreme idleness can lead to intense suffering and severe psychological damage.

There are Far Too Many People in Isolated Confinement in NYS, Disproportionately People of Color

- On any given day, as many as 4,200 men, women, and children are in solitary confinement and other forms of extreme isolation in New York State prisons. Thousands of others are in solitary in other local city and county jails across the state, as well as in Federal prisons and immigration detention centers in the state. Black and Latino men, women, and children are held in isolation at even more disproportionate rates than in the general prison population. The vast majority of people in isolation are there because of alleged non-violent conduct.

People are in Isolation for Far Too Long, Regularly Months, Years, and Even Decades

- Most people sent to isolation spend months or years there. Some individuals have been in solitary confinement in New York's prisons for more than two decades. The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture has denounced solitary confinement exceeding 15 days. New York places no limit on the time in isolated confinement.

Even Particularly Vulnerable Groups are Subjected to Isolated Confinement

- Children or people with mental illness fare even worse in "the box"—yet they are disproportionately likely to end up there. Even pregnant women, elderly people, and people with severe physical disabilities are held in isolation in NYS. Members of the LGBTQI community have suffered additional staff abuse by being placed in solitary confinement.

What CAIC Demands that Our Officials Do

- **Fundamentally transform the response to people's needs and problematic behaviors**, from deprivation and isolation to additional support, programs, and therapy. The response, both in prisons and our communities, must be one that is humane and effective.
- **Stop placing people in isolated confinement!**
- **At a minimum, ensure no person is ever held in isolated confinement beyond 15 days**, and drastically restrict the criteria that can result in such placement.
- **Never place particularly vulnerable people in isolation for even one day**, including the young, elderly, or pregnant, those with a disability or mental health need, or who identify as LGBTQI.

What You Can Do and Can Encourage Others to Do

LEARN the facts about solitary and other forms of prison isolation in New York at:

www.nycaic.org

www.boxedinny.org

www.solitarywatch.com

www.nycjac.org

www.correctionalassociation.org

WRITE to your **state legislators**, and to the **following officials** demanding an end to the torture of isolated confinement. Please incorporate your own experiences and choose two or three of the above facts and/or demands to incorporate as well:

The Honorable Andrew M.
Cuomo
Governor of the State of
New York
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Mr. Thomas P. Abt
Deputy Secretary for Public
Safety
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Mr. Anthony J. Annucci
Acting Commissioner
NYS DOCCS
1220 Washington Avenue,
Building 2
Albany, New York 12226

JOIN the Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement at: www.nycaic.org. We hold monthly meetings in person and by tele-conference and engage in action, vigils, workshops, and advocacy. Please sign up for our monthly email newsletter at: <http://eepurl.com/CjxOv>, or join a working listserv by sending an email to: ny_caic-subscribe@lists.riseup.net. You can also follow CAIC on Twitter [@nycaic](https://twitter.com/nycaic) or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NYCAIC.

SHARE a narrative for CAIC's facebook/website of how solitary confinement has impacted you or a friend or family member. You can email such narratives to: Suzanne Koneschusky at SKoneschusky@urbanjustice.org.

INVITE CAIC to provide materials and/or hold an event – film screening, training, workshop – about isolated confinement. We have a range of materials and would be happy to collaborate with you in planning an event.

Human Rights Day - December 10, 2013 – Statewide Action across New York State

- **Prepare a Sermon or Discussion Group at your congregation during the weekends before/after the 10th** (and let us know about it! Email Suzanne Koneschusky at: SKoneschusky@urbanjustice.org)
- **Join or Organize Vigils Across the State to End the Torture of Solitary Confinement in NY Prisons & Jails:**
 - Come out for a CAIC vigil in New York City on the evening of Dec. 10. For more details, contact Suzanne Koneschusky at SKoneschusky@urbanjustice.org or 646-459-3044.
 - Come out to a CAIC vigil on Long Island. For more details, contact Claire Deroche at CDeroche@uucsr.org or 516-472-2977.
 - Organize or join a vigil in other parts of the state. If you are interested, please contact Suzanne Koneschusky at SKoneschusky@urbanjustice.org or 646-459-3044.

