



A PRAYER FOR TORTURE AWARENESS MONTH

Giver of community, who weaves together our human family,
Intending us for fellowship with one another,
We pray for our sisters and brothers imprisoned in isolation for
months and years,
Denied all opportunity for connection and reconciliation.
In place of vengeance, we pray for the courage to create
opportunities for healing.

Giver of life, who charges us with the care of the children in our
midst,
Intending for them a future of possibility and potential,
We pray for the young people in our community who are locked
away,
Denied access to nurturance, education and guidance.
In place of neglect, we pray for the wisdom to create opportunities for
growth.

Giver of day and night, of daily cycles of wake and rest,
Intending for us balance and fulfillment,
We pray for all held in windowless cells, with lights left on night and
day.
In place of fear, we pray for the strength to create opportunities for
restoration.

Giver of dignity and sacred worth in each life,
Intending for us experiences marked by respect and safety,
We pray for all who endure violation in mind, body and spirit,
In place of violation, we pray for the boldness to create communities
of wholeness.

By Laura Markle Downton, NRCAT

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture mobilizes people of faith to end torture in U.S. policy, practice and culture. We are a coalition of over 300 diverse religious organizations from national entities to local congregations across the country.



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National Religious Campaign
Against Torture

www.nrcat.org

HEALING A CULTURE OF TORTURE

With just five percent of the world's population, the U.S. accounts for 25 percent of the world's incarcerated and the vast majority of all prisoners held in long-term solitary confinement. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, over 80,000 people in the U.S. criminal justice system are held in some form of isolation. The severe psychological effects of solitary confinement include hallucinations, paranoia, and increased rates of self-mutilation and suicide.

Solitary confinement involves isolating a prisoner in a small cell, usually 6'x 9', for 22-24 hours per day for months, years and even decades. Individuals held in solitary confinement in U.S. prisons include young people under the age of 18, individuals with mental illness, and migrants held in immigration detention. People of color are disproportionately impacted by solitary confinement. State data reveals that African Americans in New York account for roughly 14% of the state population yet make up 59% of the population in solitary confinement units and nearly 50% of the overall prison population in the state.

Prolonged solitary confinement is a form of torture taking place every day in U.S. prisons, jails and detention centers. People of faith have a critical role to play in healing a culture of torture. Act now by calling for an end to torture in U.S. prisons.

Go to www.nrcat.org/stopsolitary to sign NRCAT's statement against solitary confinement. When we reach 500 signatures from your state, we will send the statement to your governor and top corrections official, along with every member of your state's legislature.

To learn more and sign NRCAT's statement against solitary confinement, go to:

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