

About the Sponsors

Midwest Coalition for Human Rights

The Midwest Coalition for Human Rights is a network of 56 organizations, service providers, and university centers that work together to promote and protect human rights in our Midwest region. The Coalition is focused on ending prolonged solitary confinement in the Midwest region. Presently the Coalition is reporting to international human rights bodies and experts on inhumane treatment through solitary confinement at Tamms Correctional Center in Southern Illinois.



Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 3 million supporters, members and activists in more than 150 countries and territories who campaign to end grave abuses of human rights. Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards. Amnesty International has documented and campaigned against abusive use of solitary confinement around the world, including at Tamms Correctional Center in Illinois and the US detention facilities at US Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.



Founded in 1920, the ACLU is widely recognized as the country's foremost advocate of individual rights, waging landmark legal battles for civil liberties and equal justice in the United States. With over

500,000 members, we protect civil liberties, particularly for the most vulnerable populations, in the court of law and in the court of public opinion. The ACLU's Stop Solitary campaign works to end the pervasive use of long-term solitary confinement in prisons, jails, and juvenile detention centers and to divert the mentally ill, mentally disabled and youth out of solitary altogether.

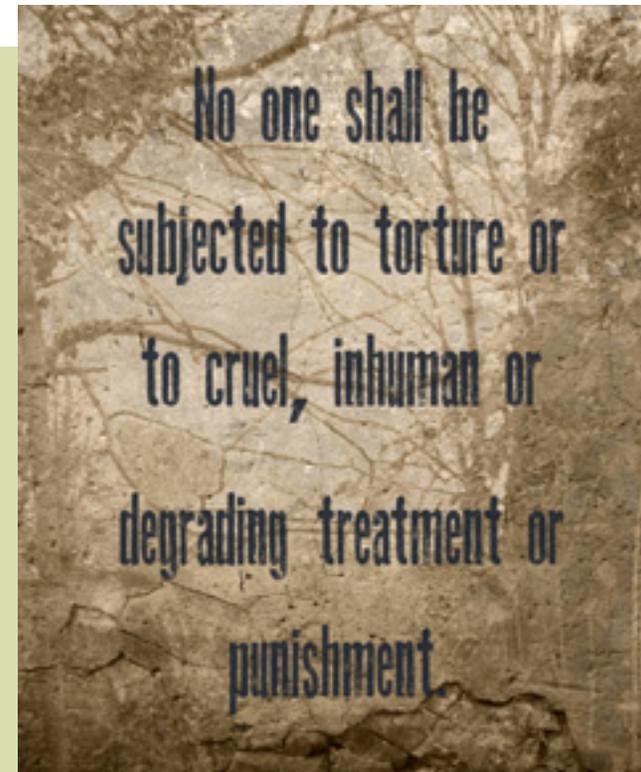


The National Religious Campaign Against Torture is a coalition of more than 300

religious organizations joined together to ensure that the United States does not engage in torture of anyone, including individuals incarcerated in the United States. NRCAT's national and state advocacy efforts include a focus on passing legislation to end the use of prolonged solitary confinement. NRCAT involves people of faith in these efforts and provides education and advocacy tools, including NRCAT's film *Solitary Confinement: Torture in Your Backyard*.

strategic convening on

Solitary Confinement and Human Rights



Friday, November 9, 2012
Northeastern Illinois University
5500 N. St. Louis Ave—Chicago, Illinois

RSVP to Claire Leslie by October 12, 2012
(cleslie@MidwestHumanRights.org or 612-624-8543)

PLEASE JOIN US

The Midwest Coalition for Human Rights, Amnesty International USA, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the National Religious Campaign Against Torture announce a national strategic convening of solitary confinement reform advocates. This event will provide participants with the opportunity to network, share advocacy strategies and tactics, and investigate various arenas in which solitary confinement is used, including:

- ~ Immigration detention
- ~ Guantanamo Bay detention camp
- ~ Supermax detention facilities
- ~ Juvenile detention

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT

Prolonged solitary confinement is used extensively throughout the United States penitentiary system, with approximately 80,000 prisoners currently subjected to the practice. We know that juveniles and individuals with mental illness are especially vulnerable to the inhumane impacts of solitary confinement but long-term isolation is being used with little or no oversight in various settings, including military custody and in the detention of immigrants.

For years human rights activists, criminal justice reformers, and medical professionals have advocated for an end to this practice. Medical evidence is making it clearer that the extreme isolation and utter lack of environmental stimulation imposed by solitary confinement can have harmful and irreversible psychological effects. Human rights experts including the UN special rapporteur on torture have confirmed that the practice can amount to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment and sometimes torture.

Help us to build on this momentum for positive change. Join us to consider how to end this cruel practice.

PROGRAM

DAY SESSION

9:00am to 9:15am—Introduction

9:15am to 10:00am—“Solitary 101”

10:00am to 10:15am—Survivor testimony

10:15am to 10:30am—Break

10:30am to 12:00pm—Speaker panel:

- i. Solitary confinement in immigration detention
Alexis Perlmutter, National Immigrant Justice Center
- ii. Solitary confinement at Guantanamo
Zeke Johnson, Amnesty International USA
- iii. Solitary confinement in supermax facilities & units
Laurie Jo Reynolds, Tamms Year Ten
- iv. Solitary confinement of juveniles
Ian Kysel, Human Rights Watch and the ACLU

12:00pm to 12:30pm—Lunch break

12:30pm to 1:30pm—“Solitary Confinement and Mental Health”
*Dr. Craig Haney, Department of Psychology
University of California Santa Cruz*

1:30pm to 3:30pm—Working sessions:

- i. Solitary confinement in immigration detention
- ii. Ending solitary confinement at Guantanamo
- iii. Organizing state-level campaigns against solitary confinement
- iv. Solitary confinement of juveniles

3:45pm to 4:45pm—Working session report-backs

4:45pm to 5:00pm—Final wrap-up and next steps

EVENING SESSION

5:30pm to 6:30pm—Reception

6:30pm to 8:30pm—“Solitary Confinement and the International Human Rights Framework”