

Vera Institute of Justice

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://www.vera.org/research/david-garland-peculiar-institution-americas-death-penalty-in-an-age-of-abolition>

Policy Issue Resources

In this podcast New York University sociologist David W. Garland discusses his book, "Peculiar Institution: America's Death Penalty in an Age of Abolition." Garland presents evidence that the death penalty in the United States fails to realize its stated goals. Yet it persists here alone among developed nations because it serves social and political ends.

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To truly tackle the devastating impact of the criminal legal system, we need politicians who have lived experience.

When I vote, I feel free. This past spring, passersby could read these words on a billboard at 1201 Half Street Southeast in Washington, DC. The billboard was a result of a national campaign by artist-led consortium For Freedoms, in which artists, activists, and prison reform organizations responded to the question: What does justice mean to you ...

Image courtesy of the #HALTsolitary Campaign. Seventeen people have died due to New York City's abominable jails in 2022, surpassing last year's total. Erick Tavira, 28, died by suicide on October 22 while being held in a mental health observation unit on Rikers Island. Mr. Tavira's case underscores the inevitable outcome when incarceration is used ...

Lakisha Santana Sell used to bring her husband, David Sell, bags filled with mangoes, avocados, granola bars, and other healthy snacks when she visited him at Wende Correctional Facility in Alden, New York. Twice a month, she weighed out bags of food, careful not to exceed the 35-pound monthly maximum. But that tradition came to a halt this past ...

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