

National Religious Campaign Against Torture

Torture, Former Combatants, Political Prisoners, Terror Suspects, & Terrorists

<http://www.nrcat.org/torture-in-us-prisons/federal>

Campaign and Advocacy

On June 7, 2021, the Federal Anti-Solitary Taskforce (FAST), a coalition of which the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) is a member, released the first-ever [Blueprint for Ending Solitary Confinement by the Federal Government](#). This document outlines how the United States government can use executive, administrative, and legislative action to end the torture of solitary confinement in federal custody, including in Bureau of Prisons facilities, U.S. Marshals Service facilities, and immigration detention.

Currently, more than [10,000 people](#) - representing nearly 8 percent of the total federal prison population - are in some form of solitary confinement in federal BOP facilities on any given day. This is a substantially higher percentage than the [national average](#) in state prison systems, and even higher than in the federal BOP a [decade ago](#), before reductions were made under the Obama administration.

In federal custody, as in state and local jurisdictions across the country, solitary and other forms of restrictive housing and practices are [disproportionately](#) inflicted on Black people, Latinx people, Indigenous people, and other people of color, as well as transgender and gender non-conforming people, people with mental health needs, and young people. Across the country, since the pandemic began, there has been a [500 percent increase](#) in the use of solitary confinement, with more than 300,000 people being held in these cruel and inhumane conditions since June 2020 in the federal and state systems.

The [Blueprint for Ending Solitary Confinement by the Federal Government](#) calls for the U.S. government to:

In February 2015, the federal Bureau of Prisons released the report [Federal Bureau of Prisons: Special Housing Unit Review and Assessment](#)," requested following a 2012 congressional hearing on human rights, fiscal and public safety consequences of solitary confinement. For information about the report, see Solitary Watch's "[Audit of Solitary Confinement in Federal Prisons: An Inside Job Reaches Foregone Conclusions](#)".

Learn more about solitary confinement [here](#).

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