

# Vera Institute of Justice

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

**<https://www.vera.org/blog/addressing-the-overuse-of-segregation-in-u-s-prisons-and-jails/achieving-consensus-on-reform-of-solitary-confinement>**

## Public Facing Advocacy Writing

Last fall, the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, with support from the Jacob and Valeria Langeloth Foundation, convened a colloquium including 15 corrections agency heads and a like number of experts from the community of those seeking to reform the use of social isolation, often called solitary confinement, in U.S. prisons and jails. The purpose: to determine if consensus on sought-after reforms might be achieved by common agreement and without resort to litigation.

Bringing together representatives from state and local corrections agencies, plaintiffs attorneys, and mental health experts, the gathering provided an opportunity for many to meet with adversaries, often for the first time, and to listen to and consider the other sides point of view. Our intent in convening this colloquium was to try to establish a roadmap for reform. What resulted was a remarkable two-day experience that generated a great deal of argument and debate as well as an equally exciting degree of agreement and consensus. As a result of the deliberations, several clear themes and areas of agreement are apparent:

These themes are reflected in the 23 specific recommendations contained at the end of the [colloquium report](#), *Proceedings of a Colloquium to further a National*

*Consensus on Ending the Over-Use of Extreme Isolation in Prisons.*

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