

# National Religious Campaign Against Torture

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

<http://www.nrcat.org/torture-in-us-prisons/join-a-state-campaign>

## Campaign and Advocacy

NRCAT supports state and local campaign partners to educate the faith community about the use of torture in U.S. prisons, jails and detention centers. Much of our work is in collaboration with the campaigns supported by the [Unlock the Box Campaign](#).

If you have questions on whether there is a campaign in your state, please [contact](#) Johnny Perez, the Director of NRCAT's U.S. Prisons Program.

### State Campaigns At A Glance

In 2021, 32 states introduced approximately 70 pieces of legislation restricting or banning solitary. The HALT Solitary Confinement Act was signed into law in New York, thanks to persistence of advocates with the New York Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement. Other victories in 2021 included passage of legislation abolishing solitary for youth in Arkansas and for pregnant people in Kentucky. In 2020, 26 states introduced 63 pieces of legislation to limit solitary. Six states (Florida, Louisiana, Nebraska, New Jersey, Washington, and Virginia) passed legislation to abolish solitary for youth and pregnant people.

**NEW JERSEY:** On July 11, 2019, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed into law the first fully comprehensive legislation limiting the use of solitary confinement enacted by a state legislature. The Isolated Confinement Restriction Act (A314/S3261) passed the Senate in a 26-3 vote and the Assembly in a 49-24 vote with 5 abstentions.

"To live in prolonged solitary confinement is to be denied your basic humanity, and to experience such extreme loneliness that it can feel as if the world has forgotten you. Today, because of Gov. Murphy's signature, those who have ever been in solitary, and those who are held in isolated confinement now, know they are not forgotten. Survivors of solitary know that because of their collective efforts, New Jersey will no longer maintain the status quo of their suffering." ~Justice Rountree, an organizer with NJ-CAIC and a survivor of prolonged solitary confinement in New Jersey

### Educating People of Faith

A first step towards mobilizing people of faith to participate in a state campaign is to educate them about the severe harm caused by solitary confinement. You can use one of NRCAT's resources or [contact Johnny Perez](#) for a recommendation of a speaker with experience of solitary. We have speakers available for your online event and many contacts around the country for in-person events.

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