

Vera Institute of Justice

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://www.vera.org/research/reforming-the-use-of-solitary-confinement-a-conversation>

Campaign and Advocacy

The Vera Institute of Justice hosted this conversation between two people on the front lines of the movement to rethink solitary confinement in the U.S. and the potential for reform.

Moderator

Bill Keller, The Marshall Project

Speakers

Commissioner W. David Guice

Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Danny Murillo

Soros Justice Advocacy Fellow, The Opportunity Institute

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Common Misconceptions and Emerging Safe Alternatives

While the precise number of people held on any given day in what's commonly called solitary confinement—though also known as segregated or restricted housing—is not known with any certainty, estimates run between 80,000 to 100,000 in state and federal prisons. However, evidence mounts that the practice produces many unwanted and harmful outcomes for ...

Lifting a nearly 30-year ban on Pell Grants for people who are incarcerated, Congress passed the FAFSA Simplification Act, which restores their Pell Grant eligibility starting in 2023, allowing them to affordably pursue postsecondary education in prison. The Second Chance Pell (SCP) Experiment has highlighted the success of prison education programs ...

In Florida, the list of 20,000-plus banned books includes *Nutrition For Dummies* and *PCs For Dummies*. In New Hampshire, the Pulitzer Prizewinning novel *Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy* makes the list. Texas, which bans nearly 9,000 books, once counted a collection of Shakespeare's plays and sonnets among them. ...

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