

# Solitary Watch

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://solitarywatch.org/2013/04/24/new-video-dr-terry-kupers-on-solitary-confinement-and-mental-health/>

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by [Lisa Dawson](#) | April 24, 2013

Dr. Terry Kupers, Institute Professor at the Wright Institute in San Francisco and Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, is among the foremost national experts on the mental health effects of solitary confinement. Dr. Kupers delivered the keynote address at the Strategic Convening on Solitary Confinement and Human Rights, sponsored by the Midwest Coalition on Human Rights, on November 9, 2012, in Chicago, Illinois.

In his address, which is presented in the four videos below, Dr. Kupers provides a comprehensive overview of the psychological damage inflicted on people subjected to prolonged solitary confinement, detailing how use of the practice qualifies as an intentional human rights abuse. He also addresses the use of confinement in supermax prisons and the lacking quality of and inaccessibility to mental health care to those held in isolation (people who clearly urgently require adequate counseling to cope with the extreme distress of their isolation). Finally, Dr. Kupers touches on the detrimental impact of sexual abuse that takes place in detention facilities.

<http://youtu.be/czsbt0quV0Y>

<http://youtu.be/iOGnecS-uqo>

<http://youtu.be/8MhQUDDQBCQ>

<http://youtu.be/MwsxS4H1Fzs>

Lisa Dawson served as an assistant editor, social media manager, and contributor at Solitary Watch. She continues to support prisoners and their family members who need help navigating re-entry. She is on Twitter @endsolitary.

Accurate information and authentic storytelling can serve as powerful antidotes to ignorance and injustice. We have helped generate public awareness, mainstream media attention, and informed policymaking on what was once an invisible domestic human rights crisis.

Only with your support can we continue this groundbreaking work, shining light into the darkest corners of the U.S. criminal punishment system.

by [Juan Moreno Haines](#)

October 25, 2022

by [Solitary Watch Guest Author](#)

October 13, 2022

by [Vaidya Gullapalli](#)

September 29, 2022

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I was honored to be there in person. It was even more powerful to hear Dr. Kupers in person. Keep up the good work (Solitary Watch AND Dr. Kupers!).

As a mother of a pelican bay SHU inmate who went in at 20 and is now 29 I want to say thank you for bringing awareness and much needed attention to what is really happening inside our prisons. This torture must stop. Thank you for all you do.

My question becomes, Doc given what you say, do you believe in the Death Penalty for murder? A life for a life or a life for two or three? (It is just a question?)

Is there a written transcript of this talk available somewhere?

In response to Petra de Jong, I did a brief search for a transcript of Dr. Kupers address but found nothing.

Maybe Ill try to contact him directly. Theres someone Id like to send this to, but since he is IN solitary confinement, a YouTube video wont do.

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Solitary Watch

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