



Press Release

Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Legislature Fails to Address Correctional Brutality in the Special Session, Advocates Highlight Support for the PROTECT Act.

Hartford, CT – Speaking from the Capitol steps, Stop Solitary CT addressed the legislature’s failure to protect people in prison from correctional brutality. Organizers with Stop Solitary CT spoke about the importance of the [PROTECT Act](#), a piece of model legislation that would, among other things, close Northern Correctional, mandate substantial correctional oversight, and implement new regulations that would effectively end the use of solitary confinement in Connecticut.

Stop Solitary CT Steering Committee Member Barbara Fair said, “one of our primary goals is to close Northern, but solitary confinement, by whatever word people want to use, is barbaric, sadistic and inhuman—it needs to end now.”

Directly impacted families spoke at length about the psychological toll that solitary confinement inflicts on incarcerated people. They also described personal experiences with correctional brutality and the need for robust oversight of the Department of Correction. Families repeatedly asked the legislature why, after two special sessions, they have not considered legislation to protect the lives of incarcerated people.

Numerous civil rights organizations spoke in support of the PROTECT Act, dismayed by the legislature’s inaction. Isaiah Terry, a Katal Member, said “We’re to support our #freethemnowct campaign, but tied to that is the need to pass the PROTECT Act and close Northern.”

“I’m here to support Stop Solitary’s PROTECT Act and I want to see Northern raised to the ground. Shut it down and end solitary,” said Cindy Prizio of One Standard of Justice.

Representative Quinton Phipps of Middletown praised Stop Solitary CT’s campaign, highlighting his support for the PROTECT Act and describing the overwhelming feeling of horror he experienced when he entered Stop Solitary CT’s replica cell last winter. Organizers described the need for legislators to continue to speak out in support of ending solitary confinement. According to Barbara Fair of Stop Solitary CT, 2021 will be the year when solitary confinement becomes part of Connecticut’s painful past.

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