



Release

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Stop Solitary CT and Coalition Organizations Rallied Outside Capitol to Call for End of Extreme Isolation; Argued that Investment is Required to Repair the Harms Caused by Northern C.I.

Hartford, CT – On a cold and blustery Wednesday morning Stop Solitary CT Organizers joined the ACLU of Connecticut and the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness to call for action in the wake of Northern C.I.’s closure. While the ACLU and CCEH mainly focused on the need for reinvestment in Black and Brown communities, Stop Solitary CT organizers spoke about investing in the lives of incarcerated people. Stop Solitary CT organizers expressed that the \$12.6 million in projected savings from closing Northern must be used, in part, to protect incarcerated people.

Of particular concern to organizers was the fact that the Governor and Commissioner did not publicly condemn the dehumanizing practices that occur at Northern C.I. Ending prolonged isolation in the Department of Correction requires much more than closing down a facility; it requires policy commitments like those outlined in the PROTECT Act.

"It's time for all of us to collectively commit to transforming CT Corrections into a system that acknowledges and respects the human dignity of all people. It's time for leadership to lead with compassion, wisdom and human decency. Closing and demolishing Northern is simply a step toward miles of work that must be done," said Barbara Fair, SSCT Steering Committee Member.

Organizers also highlighted that prolonged isolation occurs in DOC facilities throughout the State. "The war against inhumanity will never stop until we dismantle the abusive system and practices throughout ALL Connecticut facilities," said Leighton Johnson, SSCT Steering Committee Member.

The rally finished with a call to action. Stop Solitary CT Organizers noted the importance of passing the PROTECT Act, legislation that would create minimum standards for people incarcerated in DOC facilities and ensure robust, external oversight over the Department of Correction.

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