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Stop Solitary CT Launches Website Sharing Stories of Strip Searching in State Prisons, Jails

The New-Haven based grassroots organization sets out to rid Connecticut's prisons and jails of invasive, dehumanizing strip-searching practices.

NEW HAVEN, CT. (January 10, 2023) -- [Stop Solitary CT](#) (SSCT), an organization that works to end the use of solitary confinement in jails, detention centers, and prisons across the state of Connecticut, today announced the launch of a new website, [Strip Searching in Connecticut DOC](#). The site hosts several stories of currently and formerly incarcerated individuals and their experiences being strip searched while incarcerated in various Connecticut state prisons and jails.

Many who shared their stories on the website refer to the process of strip-searching as degrading, humiliating, and or dehumanizing. These stories demonstrate that strip-searching, while under the guise of being a measure to keep contraband from entering prisons, is state-sanctioned sexual violence. Yet, correctional officers are "[often key](#)" to contraband that is introduced into prisons across the United States, further eliminating the need for such invasive searching methods for incarcerated individuals.

Given that a high percentage of men and women who are incarcerated experienced sexual abuse and or assault prior to their justice involvement, many individuals share stories of how strip-searching brought up previous memories of sexual violence they had experienced in the past, and explained the difficulties of navigating a retraumatizing environment.

The website also includes a history of strip-searching in Connecticut and maps out the state's prisons, jails, and other criminal justice facilities with strip-searching practices, as well as those correctional facilities' accreditation status. Many of the state's correctional facilities have not been accredited in the last three years, including Bridgeport Correctional Center, Brooklyn Correctional Institution, and Garner Correctional Institution.

In Norway, correctional facilities utilize a corrections model that focuses on rehabilitation, rather than humiliation and degradation, which has proven to be a successful model. While touring Norwegian jails and prisons, Stop Solitary CT observed the use of security scanners, which provide a more effective, less invasive option to strip-searching.

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About Stop Solitary CT: Stop Solitary aims to end the use of solitary confinement in Connecticut jails, prisons, and detention centers, and replacing it with humane, safe, and effective alternatives. In addition, Stop Solitary is working to improve living conditions within all facilities where all incarcerated people are housed. SSCT is a coalition of people, including formerly incarcerated people, their families, and others working for the well-being of incarcerated people. SSCT established the PROTECT Act: An Act Promoting Responsible Oversight, Treatment, and Effective Correctional Transparency, as a way of transforming Connecticut's correctional system. To learn more, visit <https://stopsolitaryct.org/>