



Press Release

Date: Friday, April 2nd, 2021 12:00 p.m. (EST)

Stop Solitary CT Hosts Speak Out at the Capitol on Good Friday and Passover emphasizing the Moral Imperative of End Solitary; Pushes Legislators to Fight for the Oppressed and Vote the PROTECT Out of Committee.

Hartford, CT – Joined by religious leaders and community members, Stop Solitary CT hosted a Speak Out on a blustery day outside the Connecticut State Capitol. Volunteers read the testimony that incarcerated people wrote in support of the PROTECT Act (SB 1059) and religious leaders spoke to the importance of ending domestic torture.

Religious leaders observed that torture, the defining experience of Good Friday, is currently going on in the Connecticut Department of Correction. “In Jesus’ day, the method of torture was crucifixion, being nailed to a cross. Today in CT prisons the method is prolonged isolated confinement, being locked in a cage,” said the Rev. Allie Perry. “Both practices are barbaric. We would never tolerate crucifixion. Why does CT still tolerate solitary confinement? It is torture and needs to be stopped.”

Similarly, speakers highlighted the significance of holding the event on Passover, a holiday devoted to the celebration of liberation of the Israelites from enslavement. Stop Solitary CT Organizer and Steering Committee Member Barbara Fair said, “As we commemorate Passover and Good Friday we must be reminded of the significance of these holy days. The duty to free the enslaved and end the suffering of the oppressed remains relevant in 2021. Those who govern our State have a duty to pass the Protect Act in its entirety during this legislative session.”

In addition to celebrating the religious and moral imperatives to end torture, Stop Solitary CT organizers and coalition organizations pressed legislators to vote the PROTECT Act out of the Judiciary Committee next week. Organizers emphasized the overwhelming support that SB 1059 received in the public hearing ranging from former corrections officials, who described their visions of a more just world, to families with incarcerated loved ones, who described incalculable loss and oppression.

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