



Press Release

Date: Wednesday, June 2nd, 2021 12:00 p.m. (EST)

Release — Stop Solitary CT, Civil Rights Leaders, and Directly Impacted Families Stand with Legislators to Demand Action on Senate Bill 1059, Urge the Legislature to Pass Laws that Protect the Lives of Black and Brown People

Hartford, CT – Exactly one week before the close of the 2021 legislative session, Stop Solitary CT hosted a press conference and rally demanding action on Senate Bill 1059, otherwise known as the PROTECT Act. Ending solitary confinement is critical to protecting the lives of black and brown residents in Connecticut; organizers highlighted a significant victory this year — closing Northern C.I. — but cautioned that without the PROTECT Act cruel and unusual conditions could be exported to other facilities.

Stop Solitary CT organizers demanded action citing the fact that last year the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture specifically condemned the Connecticut Department of Correction for “a State-sanctioned policy aimed at purposefully inflicting severe pain or suffering, physical or mental, which may well amount to torture.

Stop Solitary CT Lead Organizer Barbara Fair said, “Legislators must heed the voices of those most impacted by state sanctioned abuse: incarcerated men, women and children. Pass SB 1059 now.”

Senate Bill 1059 already passed both the Judiciary and Appropriation Committees by an overwhelming margin and is waiting to be called in the Senate. **Stop Solitary CT Steering Committee Member Kevnesha Boyd** said, “The Department of Correction must be held accountable for the broken souls and lost lives. We are tired of asking for justice; we are demanding that the legislature unlock humanity this session and pass SB 1059.”

Racial disparities in the Department of Correction are grotesque and dramatic legislative action is long overdue — specifically Connecticut disproportionately subjects more Black men in solitary confinement than any other state.

“Solitary confinement must end now. We must unlock humanity and end the inhumane treatment of people at the hands of the Department of Correction in the state of Connecticut. In 2017 a law was passed to ban solitary confinement, but it’s still happening under various other names. This is torture,” said **Christina Quaranta, Executive Director of the Connecticut Justice Alliance.**

####