Unlock the Box Campaign

URGENCY MEETS OPPORTUNITY:
Ending Legalized Torture in the US Carceral System
Over the last 5 years over 500 bills in 44 states have been introduced, most to restrict solitary confinement.

Latest and new national trends

Challenges & successful strategies

Imminent tipping point

California, NYC, & D.C.

Movement at federal level
Unlock the Box: Legislation Trends

Select Trend Year
- Year Introduced
- Year Acted On

State

Bill Type

Vulnerable Group

Final Status

* Includes all bills, with and without vulnerable groups

Total bills: 687
42 state(s) have introduced 564 bills that include a Vulnerable Group

- Youth: 40 state(s)
- Pregnant: 33 state(s)
- Mental Illness: 33 state(s)
- Disability: 24 state(s)
- Medical Conditions: 23 state(s)
CHALLENGES TO CHANGE

• COVID

• Resistance to reform by correctional officers’ unions, Departments of Corrections and Governors

• Lack of data and transparency on the practice of solitary
SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES

• While this torturous practice remains rampant across the U.S., a growing number of campaigns led by torture survivors have helped spur legislative and administrative policy changes to curb its use and counter their messages.

• States have been successful at ending solitary confinement for youth, pregnant people, people with disabilities, people with mental illness, and the LGBTQ+ community, ending prolonged solitary and establishing a standard of 15 days or less.

• Ensuring that data collection, reporting and analysis is part of all legislative and policy directives.

• A new and emerging trend is the development of independent, citizen oversight boards written into anti-solitary legislation.

• Since 2019, anti-solitary campaigns have closed three prisons, one women’s facility and two state supermax’s.
WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE FEDERAL LEVEL?

A BLUEPRINT FOR ENDING SOLITARY CONFINEMENT BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

THE FEDERAL ANTI-SOLITARY TASKFORCE  JUNE 2021

HAVE QUESTIONS? WANT TO CONNECT?

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