

**ABOLITION  
NOW!**

Kentucky Coalition to  
Abolish the Death Penalty

P.O. Box 3092  
Louisville, KY 40201-3092

(502) 636-1330 • Louisville  
(502) 875-4345 • Frankfort

www.kcadp.org  
staff@kcadp.org

Don't kill for us

# It's Time to Re-Think the Death Penalty in Kentucky Take a Stand

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## **THE DEATH PENALTY IS RISKY.**

*Nationwide, 133 Death Row prisoners have been exonerated. New Mexico's governor, a death penalty supporter, signed a bill to abolish the death penalty because the chance of executing an innocent person was unacceptable to him.*

## **THE DEATH PENALTY IS COSTLY.**

*The costs of capital cases far exceed the costs of cases in which the death penalty is not sought. These resources could be better used elsewhere. The effects of prolonged capital cases take an unnecessary toll on the family members of victims.*

## **THE DEATH PENALTY IS UNFAIR.**

*The present administration of capital punishment shows substantial disparities in its application. These disparities are so great among and between comparable cases that the death penalty process is best described as arbitrary and capricious. It is neither fair nor accurate.*

## **THE DEATH PENALTY IS UNNECESSARY.**

*Kentucky law now provides for life in prison without possibility of parole for capital murder cases. So the public is protected from the worst of the worst. As a deterrent to murder, capital punishment is a failed government program.*

Dear Friends:

The death penalty system is too broke to fix. The Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty seeks to end the use of the death penalty as a penal option in Kentucky. We are being joined by a growing chorus of diverse voices that support capital punishment in principle but have turned against it in practice because of risk, cost, unfairness, the availability of a life sentence without parole and a growing realization that the death penalty system takes a toll on victims family and friends.

The death penalty serves no purpose in Kentucky. Since 1962, three death row inmates have been put to death and two of them dropped their court cases and asked to be executed. With numerous murders in some areas of the state, it is hard to believe that three official executions served the public safety or public interest in any way.

The death penalty is out of step with modern thinking in Kentucky. A 2006 University of Kentucky poll showed that 67% favor a penal option other than death in capital murders cases. A 2009 report by the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission stated that 108 cases were potentially eligible for the death penalty in 2007. Public records show no new inmates on death row that year. This is not surprising given the modern history of the death penalty in Kentucky.

Some informed observers think a cluster of cases from Kentucky's death row, where there are 36 people, could reach final conclusion all at once thereby presenting the potential for multiple executions in a short period of time.

A justice system that produces such a grim spectacle after 3 executions in 47 years is presumptively dysfunctional and suggests the system is regulated by the same laws that govern lightning: no one knows where or when it will strike or who, if anyone, it will hit or who, if anyone, it will kill.

It's time to ax the death penalty. We need your help. Contact our staff today.

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Abolish the Death Penalty

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# TAKE A STAND AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

- ***MOST KENTUCKIANS PREFER AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE DEATH PENALTY***

A 2006 University of Kentucky poll found 67% of respondents chose a sentence other than death when asked to select the proper punishment for capital murder.

- ***THE DEATH PENALTY SYSTEM TAKES A TOLL ON VICTIMS' FAMILIES AND FRIENDS***

Victims' families in Kentucky and elsewhere have joined an organization, Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation to carry the message that their terrible loss is not healed by the death penalty system.

- ***KENTUCKIANS ARE NOT GETTING THEIR MONEY'S WORTH FROM THE DEATH PENALTY***

In fact, they are not getting anything for their money. With three executions in 47 years, two of whom dropped their court cases and asked to be executed, it is hard to believe the death penalty system in Kentucky serves any law enforcement purpose.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- **Join KCADP today. Use the form and information in this pamphlet.**
- **Become informed, invite one of our speakers to your book club, faith group or civic organization.**
- **Volunteer! Call, email, visit our Facebook page or our website or follow us on Twitter. Your voice matters. Everything counts.**

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### ABOLITION NOW! CAMPAIGN PARTNERS

- American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky
- Amnesty International
- Catholic Conference of Kentucky
- Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice
- Church Women United (Louisville Area)
- Dominican Sisters, Congregation of St. Catharine of Siena
- Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky
- Fairness Campaign
- Fellowship of Reconciliation
- Glenmary Sisters
- Greater Community Council
- Greater Louisville AME Ministerial Fellowship
- Interdenominational Ministerial Coalition
- Institute Justice Office (Sisters of Mercy of America)
- Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Federation of Louisville
- Justice and Peace Office, Diocese of Covington
- Justice Resource Center
- Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression
- Kentucky Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- Kentucky Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants [CURE]
- Kentucky Council of Churches
- Kentucky Disciples Peace Fellowship
- Kentucky Fairness Alliance
- Kentucky Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation
- Kentucky Rainbow Coalition
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People [NAACP]
- National Organization for Women [NOW]
- No More Violence Campaign
- Office of Social Concerns, Diocese of Owensboro
- Peace and Justice Commission, Archdiocese of Louisville
- Quaker Committee on Kentucky Legislation
- Sisters of Charity of Nazareth
- Sisters of Loretto
- Union of American Hebrew Congregations
- Ursuline Sisters of Louisville
- Ursuline Sisters of Maple Mount Kentucky
- Women and Men Religious Against the Death Penalty

### Yes, I want to be a partner in KCADP's Abolition NOW! Campaign

- KCADP membership: Family & Organization \$25, Individual \$15, Limited Income \$5 (Membership includes a newsletter & legislative updates)
- Enclosed is an Abolition NOW! Campaign contribution: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**VOLUNTEER  
 WHEREVER YOU ARE  
 WHATEVER TIME YOU HAVE  
 YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

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