

The Death Penalty Makes Other Problems Worse

The death penalty polarizes people into “us” vs. “them,” demonizes “them,” and justifies using violence against “them.” Powerful forces in our society assume that “we” are good and condemns “them” as bad. When some people define LGBTQ people, Muslims, immigrants, people of color, homeless people, etc., as “them,” they think this gives them permission to use violence against “them.” The death penalty is a “canary-in-the-mine” indicator.

Abolishing the death penalty will be a big step toward stopping other kinds of social injustice. Abolition will move us toward a peaceful, nonviolent society. Because all of these issues are interconnected, making progress on any one of them provides leverage toward making progress on all of the others. Please help us organize toward abolishing the death penalty in Washington State and elsewhere. (*See bottom of this page*)

The death penalty promotes war. War and the death penalty draw from the same roots and cause many of the same problems. **Both war and the death penalty:**

- Assume that “we” are righteous and pure, but “they” are totally evil and cannot be rehabilitated
 - Practice racism, classism, xenophobia, and other kinds of oppression against “the other”
 - Dehumanize other people (even calling them “monsters” instead of human beings)
 - Think we can solve problems by killing people
 - Avoid looking for underlying systemic roots of problems
 - Often break laws (domestic laws and international laws) in order to carry out their killing
 - Break apart the human family (within a state or nation or the world) rather than promote healing
 - Waste huge amounts of money on cruel and violent methods that only make problems worse
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See much information at:

The “Death Penalty” part of www.olympiafor.org

The “Death Penalty” part of www.parallaxperspectives.org

Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty www.abolishdeathpenalty.org (206) 622-8952

National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty www.ncadp.org (202) 331-4090

Death Penalty Information Center www.deathpenaltyinfo.org (202) 289-2275

Connect with us! Let’s work together!

Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty

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