

Juvenile In Justice: End Solitary

We are in the midst of a national movement to end the solitary confinement of children.

In January, President Obama banned solitary confinement of juveniles in federal facilities and highlighted the physical, emotional and social harms the practice inflicts on children. We join President Obama and a score of human rights organizations throughout the nation in calling for an immediate ban on this practice in all 50 states.

- **Solitary confinement of children is common.** The practice hides behind many mild-sounding names – seclusion, segregation, time out, protective custody, room restriction – that mask its widespread use. Thousands of young people each year are held in solitary confinement in youth or adult facilities.
- **Solitary confinement is harmful.** Solitary confinement causes permanent, irreversible psychological damage to children who are often already suffering from mental health issues, including PTSD from childhood trauma.
- **Solitary confinement interferes with normal adolescent development.** While in isolation, youth are unable to develop normally. They are deprived of opportunities to learn new problem-solving skills, receive treatment, or go to school.
- **Solitary confinement is ineffective.** There is no evidence demonstrating that solitary confinement reduces violence in youth facilities. In fact, the practice may make facilities more dangerous.
- **Alternatives work.** While most jurisdictions still permit solitary confinement, there is a trend in the states to prohibit or greatly restrict the practice. Juvenile facilities that have limited solitary confinement have seen a reduction in youth violence.

Resources

richardross.net

juvenile-in-justice.com

jlc.org/stopsolitary

stopsolitaryforkids.org

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**Juvenile
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Center** advancing the rights and
well-being of children in jeopardy

