



Death Penalty Abolition Week *for* Ohio Faith Communities

Friday, October 8 - Sunday, October 17



ACTION TOOLKIT

Compiled by: Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center



DEATH PENALTY RESOURCES

[Death Penalty One Pager](#)

[Faith and Facts](#)

[NoDeathPenaltyOH Toolkit](#)

[Cost Study](#)

[Facebook Graphic](#)

[Instagram Graphic](#)



Social Media

#FaithWeekforNoDeathPenaltyOH

Twitter

Every life is sacred. That's why we are taking part in #FaithWeekforNoDeathPenaltyOH with Ohio faith communities. With bipartisan support, let's end the death penalty in Ohio.

[Click to tweet.](#)

Our faith teaches us the dignity of human life. We cannot build a culture of life in a nation that still puts people to death. We support HB 183 and SB 103 as part of #FaithWeekforNoDeathPenaltyOH

[Click to tweet.](#)

For every five executions, there is one exoneree from death row in Ohio. Join us and other Ohio faith communities during #FaithWeekforNoDeathPenaltyOH

[Click to tweet.](#)

Facebook

This week, faith communities across Ohio are joining together to call for the abolition of the death penalty. People of faith have an important voice in this fight. Our faith teaches us about the dignity and inherent worth of human life, a sentiment that runs across many faith communities. Ending the death penalty has never had this much support, on both sides of the aisle. Please join us in supporting Senate Bill 103 and House Bill 183 to abolish Ohio's Death Penalty. #FaithWeekforNoDeathPenaltyOH

Include graphic or hopeful photo.

Email Alert

To download [click here](#)

This week, faith communities across Ohio are joining together to call for an end to Ohio's death penalty. The voices of people of faith are crucial in this effort because we are proponents of life and leaders in our communities. Our faith calls us to respect human beings and value the sanctity of human life.

The death penalty system is broken and cannot be repaired. Ohio has seen eleven men on death row exonerated, two just in this past year. For every five executions Ohio has had, one person has been exonerated. Additionally, receiving the death penalty is often determined by geography and race. Thirty eight counties in Ohio have never produced a death sentence.

Lastly, it is estimated that Ohio spends nearly 17 million dollars a year capital cases when those resources could go to aiding murder victim's families. Through our faith we are called to create space for healing and forgiveness, not retribution and vengeance.

Join us this week in supporting House Bill 183 and Senate Bill 103 to abolish Ohio's Death penalty. We will be hosting more ways to get involved this week.

For more information visit nodeathpenaltyoh.org.

Facts and statistics from [At All Costs: The High Cost of the Death Penalty in Hamilton County and the Extreme Disparities it Drives](#)

Bulletin Insert

Option One

Join the fight to end the death penalty in Ohio.

Our faith community is joining many faith groups throughout the state during Death Penalty Abolition Week for Ohio Faith Communities by raising our voices in the campaign to end the death penalty in Ohio. The voices of people of faith are instrumental in this cause. We cannot create a culture that supports and emboldens life while the death penalty still exists. There has never been this much support to abolish the death penalty on both sides of the aisle. Please join us in various actions we will be taking to spread light on this issue.

Option Two

Stop by to learn more about the death penalty in Ohio.

Our faith community is joining many faith groups throughout the state to explore the realities of the death penalty in Ohio. Just this year two people were exonerated from Ohio's death row. The voices of people of faith are instrumental in this cause as the protectors of the dignity of human life. Please join us at these/this event(s) to learn more about death penalty abolition and why the time is now.

[Download here](#)

Bulletin Article

Our faith is rooted in the belief of the inherent dignity of human beings and the sanctity of life. The human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society and stands at the heart of our faith's understanding of justice. Capital punishment contradicts this ethic. By allowing the state to end a life before natural death, the death penalty does not follow a pro-life stance. As people of faith, we are called to this issue and hold a very important voice in this cause.

For every five executions that Ohio has had, one person has been exonerated. Just this year, in 2021, Ohio added two more exonerees to their list making it 11 total. That is one too many wrongful convictions.

The state has been moving towards abolition. We recently passed legislation banning the executions of those who suffer from severe mental illnesses and Governor DeWine continues to give reprieve on cases. There is broad bipartisan support to end this cruel and unusual punishment.

This week is Ohio Faith Communities for Death Penalty Abolition Week. We invite you to learn more at nodeathpenaltyoh.com.

Download here

For more examples [visit this link](#)
from Catholic Mobilizing Network



Prayer & Prayer Service

God of mercy,

We gather to pray for an end to the many acts of violence occurring in our society.

We pray for in a special way all those impacted by the use of the death penalty.

Guide us with your love and compassion, O God, as we strive to be vessels of your mercy and live in a way that lifts up the dignity of all life.

Help us to live the path of discipleship and faith as we work to end the death penalty and promote a more restorative justice system.

Amen.

[Prayer Service Example Link](#)

[Link to other examples](#)

For more resources please email: bekky@ijpccincinnati.org

Sermon or Message

"I feel morally and intellectually obligated simply to concede that the death penalty experiment has failed. From this day forward, I no longer shall tinker with the machinery of death."

- U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun

Romans 5:12 "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—"

Romans 12:17-18 "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

Links to Samples

[Variety of Christian Options](#)

[Catholic Homily](#)

[Jewish Sermon](#) Example

[Jewish Texts](#)

[Unitarian Universalists](#)

Letter Writing Resources

Legislators like to hear from people in their district and they or their staff personally review handwritten letters. Host a letter writing party to address death penalty abolition with your legislators.

How to Host a Letter Writing Party

1. Set a time to gather with your family, friends, congregants, faith study group, etc. (snacks and music make it more fun!)
2. Gather supplies: pens, paper, envelopes, printed postcards.
3. Have information on the bills, statistics on the death penalty and other resources available to reference.
4. Locate your house and senate legislator.
5. Write letters!
6. Address, stamp and mail the letters. Or hand deliver the stack to their office.

Download Letter Writing Party Resource [here](#).

Download Sample Letter [here](#).

Printable postcards [here](#).

Letter to the Editor

LTE How To:

1. Decide on the one clear argument you want to make.
2. Write it out. Stick to short paragraphs and no jargon.
3. Make it personal to you and provide a specific recommendation (i.e. abolishing the death penalty and using those funds to support murder victim's families).
4. End by summarizing your argument.
5. Edit.
6. List your contact information at the bottom of the piece.
7. Submit to your local newspaper.
8. Follow up if you haven't heard from them within a week.

Download tips [here](#).

Sample LTEs:

[Chagrin Valley](#)

[Cleveland.com](#)

Education Event Resources and Ideas

1. Just Mercy video night and companion guide. [Link to example here.](#)
2. Request a coalition speaker by emailing bekky@ijpccincinnati.org.
3. To request an exoneree, murder victim family member, or other person connected to the death penalty please email bekky@ijpccincinnati.org.