

## A PROPOSAL: TO PHASE OUT SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

### Section A:

Nationally, all prisons will be required to give their inmates 10 hours a day out of solitary confinement unless approved by the prison psychiatrist.

### Definitions:

1. Solitary confinement: The isolation of a prisoner in his/her own cell for 23 hours a day as a punishment. This is often in a cell not often exceeding 80 square feet
2. Inspection: A thorough and careful examination of a person, place, or thing.
3. Cell: A room in which a person is imprisoned.
4. US Mainland: the 48 states in between Mexico and Canada

### Main Body:

1. Immediately after this proposal is accepted, it will set in motion a 10 year program to make all US prisons on the US mainland, Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico stop using solitary confinement.
2. This process will include a 10% reduction in maximum inmates allowed in solitary confinement per year every year (requiring the 10% reduction to be met by the date this proposal is accepted)
3. The only exceptions to this rule are prisoners who are medically required to be in a solitary confinement cell and are approved by the prison psychiatrist and the newly created Board of Prison Ethics.
4. If this proposal is accepted, The Board of Prison Ethics will be created to approve special circumstances of solitary confinement use and will be chosen through national elections. The Board of Prison Ethics will include 7 members who will receive a salary of \$10,000 per year, meeting a minimum of 15 hours per week. The Board of Prison Ethics will meet via online chat of their choice and send their choice to the Department of Justice.
5. The solitary confinement cells that have lower occupancy rates due to the reduction in population, they will be required to be repurposed into an educational center as stated by the second part of this proposal. Any additional cells will be required to be repurposed into normal, 6 by 8 foot prison cells
6. Inspections will be performed every 3 months overseen by the US Attorney General.
7. Inspections will be funded with the money saved by having to maintain fewer individual cells
8. failure to comply will result in a 5% decrease in the prison warden's yearly salary. This decrease in the warden's salary will continue until the prison is able to pass the inspection. For every failed inspection, the warden will lose another 5% of their yearly salary.
9. The inspections will consist of viewing prison records and visiting inmates and inmates held in solitary confinement cells to interview them until the practice solitary confinement is made completely illegal.

Solitary confinement means:

Confinement behind a solid steel door for 22 to 24 hours a day

Severely limited contact with other human beings

Infrequent phone calls and rare non-contact family visits

Extremely limited access to rehabilitative or educational programming

Grossly inadequate medical and mental health treatment

Restricted reading material and personal property

Physical torture such as hog-tying, restraint chairs, forced cell extraction

“No-touch torture,” such as sensory deprivation, permanent bright lighting, extreme temperatures, and forced insomnia

Chemical torture, such as stun grenades and stun guns

Sexual intimidation and other forms of brutality and humiliation

[source: <https://www.afsc.org/resource/solitary-confinement-facts>]

Under the U.N. Convention Against torture as any state-sanctioned act “by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person”, solitary confinement is included.

There are more than 80,000 men and women in solitary confinement across the US

$80,000 \times 78k = 6,240,000,000$