In Ohio and across the country, an alarming number of young people under the age of 18 are isolated for extended periods of time. These teens are confined to small spaces, for more than 22 hours a day and are deprived of human contact, education, medical treatment, and rehabilitative programming. Solitary confinement is a human rights issue, considered torture by many. It is happening in juvenile and adult correctional facilities, local detention centers, and residential treatment programs. It is costly, harmful and reduces the chance of a youth’s success.

“Nowhere is the damaging impact of incarceration on vulnerable children more obvious than when it involves solitary confinement.”
U.S. Department of Justice, Report of the Attorney General’s National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence

“Only the U.S., Somalia and South Sudan have declined to ratify the United Nations’ Convention on the Rights of the Child, which prohibits juvenile solitary confinement as a matter of international law.”

“All disciplinary measures constituting cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment shall be strictly prohibited, including...placement in a dark cell, closed or solitary confinement or any other punishment that may compromise the physical or mental health of the juvenile concerned.”
United Nations, Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty

“The potential psychiatric consequences of prolonged solitary confinement are well recognized and include depression, anxiety and psychosis. Due to their developmental vulnerability, juvenile offenders are at particular risk of such adverse reactions.”
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

“This practice must stop.

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