

Faith Communities Speak Out: The Death Penalty Promotes Retaliation

"We oppose capital punishment not just for what it does to those guilty of horrible crimes but for what it does to all of us as a society. We cannot overcome crime by simply executing criminals, nor can we restore the lives of the innocent by ending the lives of those convicted of their murders."

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

"While many evangelicals continue to acknowledge that the death penalty was called for in the Bible in certain cases, the death penalty constructed in the Bible is very different than the system used in the United States. Evangelicals are also becoming increasingly aware of the massive injustices carried out in the death penalty system...I will just say that God made it clear in Micah 6:8 that we are to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God."

Bill Thornton, Associate Professor of Preaching Ministries at Nebraska Christian College Testimony to the Nebraska Judiciary Committee, March 13, 2013

"...[the death penalty] is cruel, unjust, and incompatible with the dignity and self-respect of man..."

American Jewish Committee

"Abolishing capital punishment requires education, conversion and action.

Episcopal Church

"The ongoing controversy surrounding the death penalty shows the weaknesses of its justifications. We would be a better society by joining the many countries that have already abolished capital punishment."

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

"Capital punishment...promotes the evils of vengeance and injustice through the agencies of government intended to advance righteousness and justice."

Friends United Meeting

"There is an element of God in each of us, and so we must hold all human life as sacred."

Church of the Brethren

"The taking of human life is far too serious an act to contemplate when there is any possibility of error."

Mennonite Central Committee US

"The use of the death penalty tends to brutalize the society that condones it..."

Presbyterian Church (USA)

"We believe the death penalty denies the power of Christ to redeem, restore and transform all human beings."

United Methodist Church

"Capital punishment ignores the entire concept of rehabilitation."

Reformed Church in America

