

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today to raise my concern on the dehumanizing and disgusting practices of solitary confinement and ESHU. For too long, solitary confinement has been used as a means of punishment in New York and America.

My name is Luke Fairbairn and I am a 17 year old student at Friends Seminary. Solitary confinement is wrong on so many levels that I find it incredible that it still is so prominent today. Yet this new ESHU plan is just as bad. 7 hours out of a cell is not enough, recreation time is not sufficient, and no contact visits is not humane. I write to you as a plea to stop the excessive and inhumane punishments. PLEASE stop this punishment that kills not only the physical body but the mind as well.

You may be wondering if there is a solution, and there is. I have a list of demands that need to be met if this city is to see any sort of justice.

- Time limits on solitary confinement sentences

No one should be held in isolation for more than 15 days.

- Exclusion of vulnerable populations from solitary confinement and from ESHU
Incarcerated people under 25 years old, people with mental or physical disabilities or serious injuries, and

pregnant women should not be placed in solitary confinement or in ESHU.

- Time limits on cell confinement during a solitary confinement sentence

Every person in solitary confinement should be, at a minimum, allowed 4 hours out of cell daily, with

meaningful access to programs, services, and social activity.

- Limits on reasons for placement in solitary confinement

No one should be placed in solitary confinement as punishment for a nonviolent rule violation.

- Creation of an alternative disciplinary system

DOC should develop a disciplinary system that provides incentives for positive behavior, offers out-of-cell

programming tailored to the individual's needs, and establishes alternative sanctions for behavior that

violates nonviolent disciplinary rules.

- Improved Due Process Requirements

Before a person can be placed in solitary confinement or ESHU, there should be a hearing conducted by non-

DOC staff at which the accused person has representation and an opportunity to present evidence and to call and cross-examine witnesses. There should also be procedures through which an individual can be released

from ESHU and moved back into general population.

- Increased training

Correction staff who work in solitary confinement and ESHU should receive anti-violence, dispute resolution,

and communication skills training as well as training in recognizing signs of psychiatric distress.

Please consider these points and reforms in hope that solitary confinement can be ended forever. You must understand that this practice is extremely dangerous and wrong and it must be stopped.

Sincerely,
Luke Fairbairn