

To whom it may concern,

Our names are Julia and Charlie and we are juniors at Friends Seminary in New York City. We have recently become involved in movements aimed to end solitary confinement, a practice which we believe to be inhumane. We hope that you take our thoughts and concerns into consideration and reform your current policy on solitary confinement.

In regard to the harsh policy regarding vulnerable members of the population such as people with mental illnesses and physical disabilities. These groups of people in particular need individualised attention for any possible issues that might arise in the prison: not in the form of isolation, such as solitary confinement, but in constructive dialogue, therapy, and relationship building activities.

Secondly, we believe that no person should be placed into solitary confinement as a punishment for a non violent rule violation.

Obviously, no one deserves solitary confinement but this is especially true for members of the prison community who have acted non-violently.

We have spoken to people who have spent time in solitary confinement for "violations" as mundane as having too many pencils in their possession which they were using only to write letters to their loved ones.

Listing every inhumane action taken by the department of corrections in regards to solitary confinement would take an eternity.

We must remember that one mistake does not define us. We are all humans and so we should all be treated as such. Isolating a person who is incarcerated benefits no member of the community, and actually causes negative repercussions on both sides of the metal bars.

Charlie and Julia