

TOP TEN REASONS THE DEATH PENALTY NEEDS TO GO

1. All life is sacred.
2. The death penalty is administered in a racially discriminatory manner. Of the 15,978 executions in the U.S. up to 1989, only 30 were for crimes by whites against blacks. Almost 35% of those executed have been black, though African-Americans make up only 13% of the total population.
3. The U.S. is the only western democracy that still uses capital punishment. Over 135 countries have abolished the death penalty in law or practice.
4. Imposition of the death penalty is more often based on geography than justice. Only 16 counties, out of 3,143 in the U.S., sentenced 5 or more people to death. In Texas, the penalty is most heavily used in just 4 of the state's 254 counties.
5. Since reinstatement of the death penalty in 1976, 156 individuals on death row have been found to be innocent.
6. Death penalties are imposed primarily on the poor. Over 90% of death row inmates could not afford their own attorney.
7. The penalty does not serve as a deterrent. The Southern states that represent 80% of executions since 1976 have the highest murder rates in the nation.
8. It is expensive. In Florida, enforcing the death penalty costs \$51 million a year ABOVE what life in prison without parole costs. In Utah, a legislative study showed that each death penalty case costs \$1.6 million more than a life without parole case.
9. Prisoners do not kill in prison because of a lack of death sentences. Former wardens and corrections officers testify that they know how to keep inmates and staff safe. The primary reason prisoners kill other prisoners or guards is a lack of adequate resources for proper prison management.
10. It does not provide justice. For family members of victims, waiting 30 years for a death sentence to be carried out often ends in disappointment, not closer. Given that most murder cases do not end in death sentences, justice for the majority of victims' families is found in the faster and more humane imposition of a sentence to life without parole.



#RespectLife and learn more: www.dioslc.org/deathpenalty