

NCCADP

COALITION *for* ALTERNATIVES *to* the DEATH PENALTY

**HEALING IN MY
NAME!**

#NOMOREDEATHROW



NCCADP.ORG



ERNEST
BASDEN

NOV 18, 1952 - DEC 6, 2002

FENCED IN
FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM
Advocacy

KERMIT
SMITH

JUN 7, 1957 - JAN 24, 1995

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



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Below: Protestors hang a banner outside Central Prison, the site of North Carolina's death row and execution chamber.

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OUR MISSION

The North Carolina Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty is a statewide coalition of 25 member organizations and thousands of individuals committed to ending the death penalty and creating a new vision of justice.

We are dedicated to broad criminal legal reform rooted in restorative justice. We work with and educate lawmakers, communities, and the public about the racist, unjust, and ineffectual death penalty system. We advocate for equitable alternatives that promote healing and increase public safety. We center the voices of people most proximate to the death penalty: homicide (including by execution) survivor family members and individuals living on or exonerated from death row and their families. We believe their leadership and stories are key to transforming our system.

OUR VISION

NCCADP envisions a North Carolina free from state killing, where justice is rooted in racial equity, healing, and addressing harm without perpetuating it.

Left: Participants hold hands as NCCADP's statewide gathering on August 16, 2025, comes to a close with song and community.



OUR VALUES

Three core values inform NCCADP's work. These lie at the heart of everything that we do – from how we facilitate meetings to how we organize across the state and everything in between.

RACIAL JUSTICE

We are committed to dismantling white supremacy culture. We know the death penalty is a modern day iteration of racial terror and lynching that continues to be fueled by systemic racism. Our commitment to racial justice extends to prioritizing equity, representation, and an analysis of power in all that we do. From the facilitation of meetings to the make-up of our board, we strive to be anti-racist in all aspects of our organization, while acknowledging we are always learning how to improve.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Our work is rooted in the principles of restorative justice, which seeks to answer the questions: Who has been harmed? What do they need? Who is responsible for addressing those harms and needs? And how can we make sure the harm does not happen again? Restorative justice stands in contrast to retributive justice that focuses on punishment and revenge and condones executing people. NCCADP values healing, and we envision a justice system that addresses the root causes of violence and trauma rather than perpetuating them.

CENTERING THE VOICES OF PEOPLE MOST IMPACTED

We believe amplifying the stories of people with lived experience with the death penalty transforms the false narrative that the death penalty is necessary. In all that we do, we strive to include and elevate the voices of people who have suffered the loss of a loved one to murder and people who are living on or exonerated from NC's death row and their families. We not only value their stories and lived experience, but we believe their leadership and perspectives are key to the success of our movement.



Dear Friends,

As I reflect on 2025, these words of adrienne maree brown truly guided us: “What we practice at the small scale sets the patterns for the whole system.” This year, NCCADP practiced relationship. We practiced collective decision-making, accountability to one another, and the discipline of staying connected through challenge and change. What we practiced daily determined how we organized and how we responded when the work grew urgent or uncertain.

This year asked a great deal of all of us. North Carolina shifted. The country shifted. Systems built on harm proved how tightly they are woven together, reinforcing one another and concentrating power. Our response was to deepen coalition. We strengthened relationships across movements, supported our partners, and asked for support when we needed it. People directly impacted by the death penalty led this work throughout the year, speaking with lawmakers and sharing their stories publicly. Their leadership challenged fear-based narratives and showed that the death penalty is not necessary for justice or safety.

There were moments of real progress. We reached the end of a historic commutation campaign and saw 15 lives spared through sustained collective action. We organized successfully to stop HB 270. We also faced the passage of HB 307, despite strong organizing and widespread opposition. This year reflected the widening gap between political rhetoric and public will. Across lines of difference, North Carolinians increasingly recognize the death penalty as costly, harmful, and ineffective.

In response, we widened the circle. During 2025, NCCADP welcomed Jubilee Home, the Human Kindness Foundation, and RREPS into our coalition. We added board members Kerwin Pittman and Paul Klever, and we extend sincere thanks to Margaux Lander and Mark Pickett for their leadership as they completed their board service. Thousands of new people joined this movement, contributing time, insight, and commitment. Each relationship strengthened our collective capacity.

One highlight from this year is near and dear to my heart. NCCADP organized the first statewide death penalty abolition event in Western North Carolina in more than twenty-five years. As a longtime Asheville resident, it was powerful to be in community with people who had been less connected to this movement, coming together ready to listen, learn, and get to work. For me, this affirmed that when we invest in relationship, people respond. When we create space, collective action follows.

As we move into the year ahead, I feel grounded in the strength of our Coalition and our shared purpose. Ending the death penalty will require patience, trust, and sustained collective effort. It will require us to keep practicing, in our relationships and our organizing, the future we want to see reflected at every level of the system. How we work together now shapes the future we are building.

With gratitude and hope,

Noel Nickle
Executive Director

YEAR IN REVIEW: NORTH CAROLINA'S DEATH PENALTY LANDSCAPE IN 2025

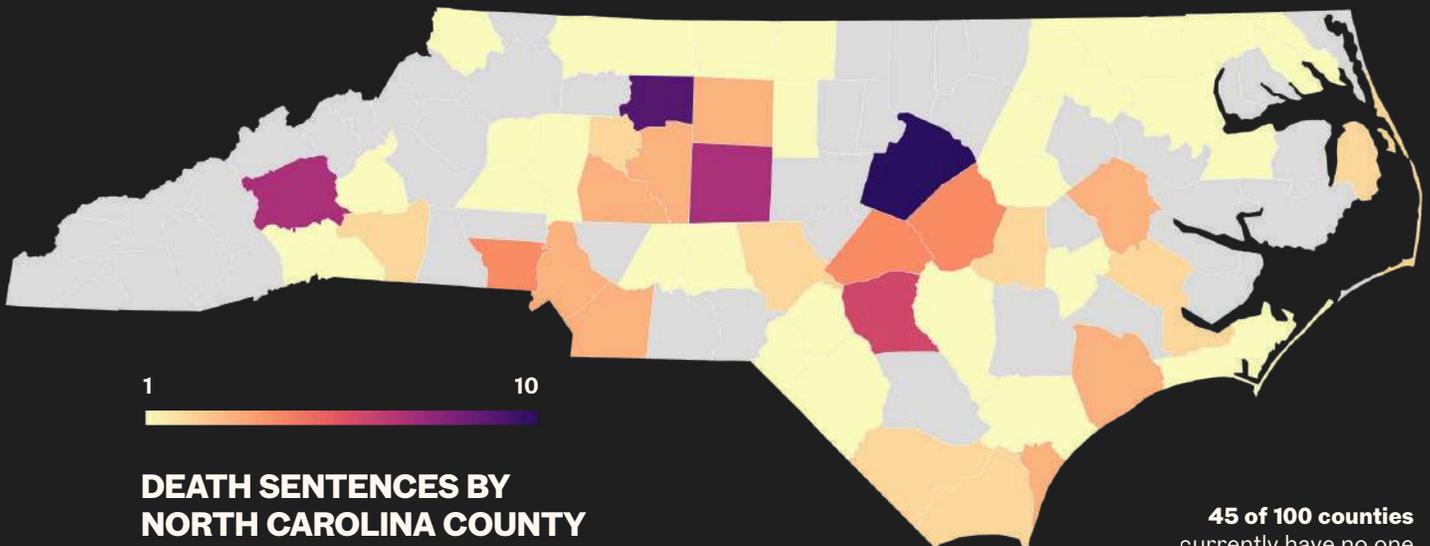
In 2025, North Carolina stood at a crossroads shaped by nearly 2 decades without executions, a long history of racial injustice in capital punishment, and renewed political efforts to reassert state killing despite growing public opposition. Since the state's last execution in 2006, the death penalty has remained legally intact but functionally dormant, sustained by entrenched systems of racial bias, prosecutorial discretion, and legislative inertia rather than public consensus or demonstrated public safety benefit. This tension came sharply into focus throughout 2025, as historic progress collided with aggressive attempts to revive and expand the machinery of death.

The year played out against a volatile national backdrop. Across the United States, executions rose to their highest level since 2009, driven largely by Southern states accelerating executions through secrecy laws and extreme execution methods. At the same time, public support for the death penalty fell to its lowest point in over 50 years, with opposition at historic highs and younger generations overwhelmingly rejecting capital punishment as unjust, ineffective, and irreversible.

This widening gap between public opinion and political action defined the moment North Carolina found itself in – caught between a national push toward retribution and a growing reckoning with the death penalty's failures.

Within the state, 2025 showed both the fragility and the power of progress. Long-standing legal challenges continued to expose the death penalty's deep racial disparities, particularly through ongoing litigation under North Carolina's Racial Justice Act. Lawmakers repeatedly sought to exploit moments of public grief and fear to expand killing methods and accelerate the path toward renewed executions. Meanwhile, advocates, directly impacted people, attorneys, and community members mobilized across the state to resist these efforts, demonstrating that the death penalty's persistence depends on political choice instead of public will.

Taken together, the events of 2025 showed that the future of the death penalty in North Carolina is neither settled nor inevitable. It is actively being contested between a system clinging to violence and control and a growing movement demanding a justice system that values racial equity, accountability without perpetuating harm, and healing.



DEATH SENTENCES BY NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY

Capital punishment in North Carolina is geographically concentrated and largely driven by local prosecutorial decisions, despite its statewide financial and moral impacts.

45 of 100 counties currently have no one sentenced to death

Wake (10) and Forsyth (9) counties lead the state in death sentences

KEY MOMENT: THE CLOSE OF THE COMMUTATIONS CAMPAIGN & A HISTORIC ACT OF CLEMENCY

At the close of 2024, North Carolina witnessed an act of rare and profound justice. On December 31, Gov. Roy Cooper commuted the death sentences of fifteen men to life without the possibility of parole. This was an unprecedented act of clemency in the modern era of North Carolina's death penalty and the culmination of NCCADP's two-year, statewide commutations campaign. Before this decision, only five death sentences had been commuted since 1976, all in the shadow of imminent execution.

The fifteen men whose lives were spared include fourteen people of color, individuals sentenced under outdated laws, and people whose cases were shaped by racial bias, extreme youth, and other deep inequities – clear reflections of the death penalty's systemic failures.

Thousands of North Carolinians from across the state contributed to this victory, including death row survivors, families who have lost loved ones to violence, faith leaders, civil rights advocates, former judges and prosecutors, and community members who refused to accept state killing as justice. While the campaign did not secure relief for everyone on death row, it marked a historic turning point, affirming that public will can interrupt even the most entrenched systems of harm and that organized people can save lives.

15 lives spared

after our 2-year commutations campaign, with death sentences commuted to life without parole

136 miles marched

a mile for each person sentenced to death, over 15 days in our Walk for Commutation

6,000+ postcards mailed

to urge the governor to commute death sentences

5,500+ people petitioned

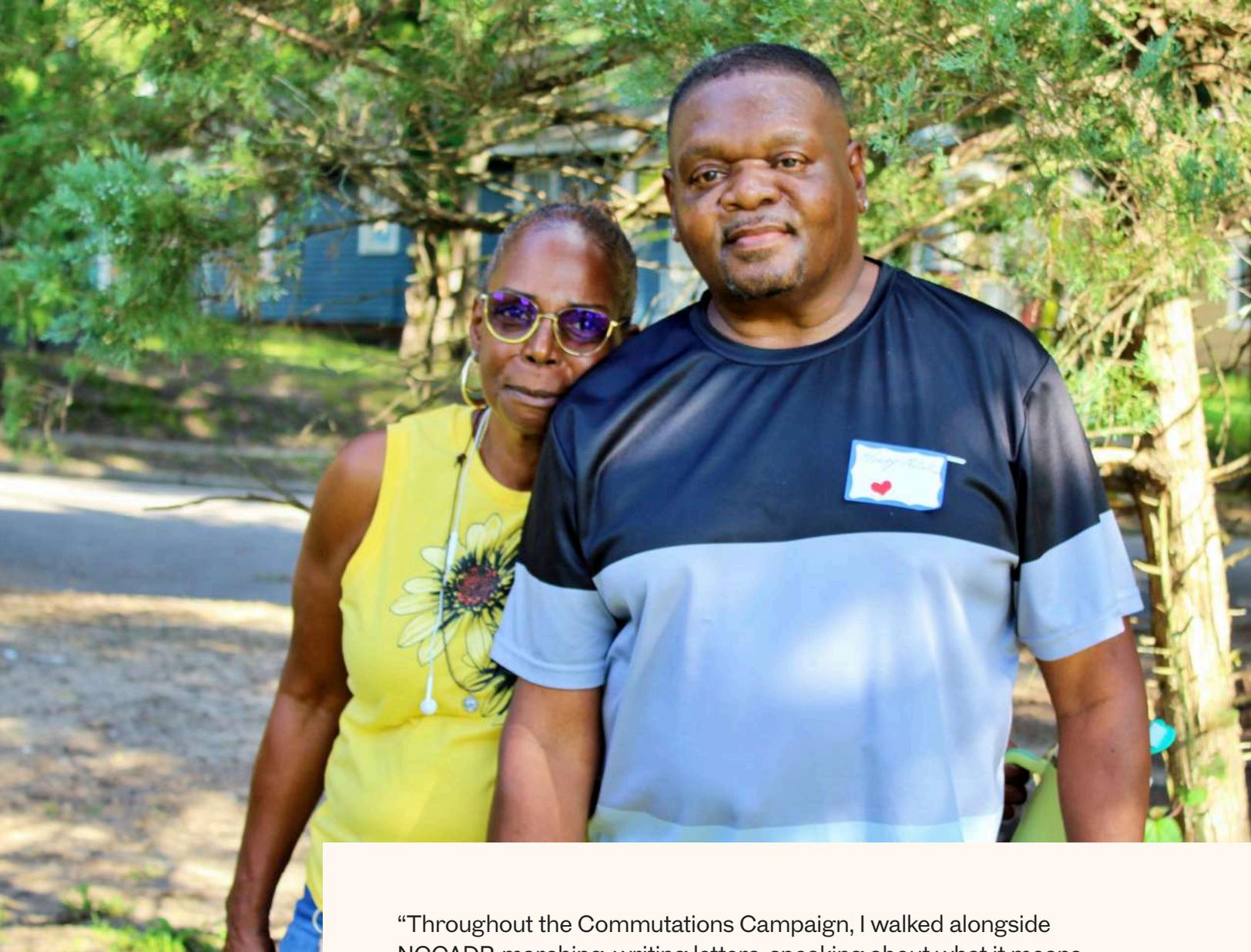
Gov. Cooper to commute death sentences

1,145 letters of thanks sent

to Gov. Cooper after he historically commuted 15 death sentences to prison terms



Members of the Survivor Family Engagement Group read a letter outside the Governor's Mansion.



Above: Brenda Hooks with Henry McCollum, who was exonerated from North Carolina's death row in 2014.

“Throughout the Commutations Campaign, I walked alongside NCCADP, marching, writing letters, speaking about what it means to love someone society has already decided is beyond redemption. I joined NCCADP’s Survivor Family Engagement Group and witnessed other people impacted by the death penalty summon extraordinary courage to live out their conviction that the answer to harm is not more harm. I saw what NCCADP’s long-term organizing can do.

Fifteen lives were spared. That is the impact.”

BRENDA HOOKS

Mother of Cerron Hooks, whose death sentence was commuted by Gov. Cooper
Survivor Family Engagement Group Member

KEY MOMENT: STOPPING HB 270 & BLOCKING THE EXPANSION OF STATE VIOLENCE

In April and May 2025, North Carolina lawmakers introduced House Bill 270, an alarming attempt to expand the state's death penalty statute by authorizing execution methods, including electrocution and the firing squad. HB 270 sought to normalize extreme violence and force corrections staff to carry out deeply traumatizing acts.

NCCADP mobilized immediately, centering voices too often excluded from death penalty debates such as corrections professionals and their families,

victims' family members who oppose executions, faith leaders, and community members across the state. We made clear that executions cause lasting psychological harm to prison staff, do nothing to deter violence, and divert public resources away from prevention and survivor support.

As hundreds of North Carolinians raised their voices, lawmakers listened. By the General Assembly's crossover deadline, HB 270 failed to advance, a strong rejection of efforts to escalate cruelty.

364 emails sent

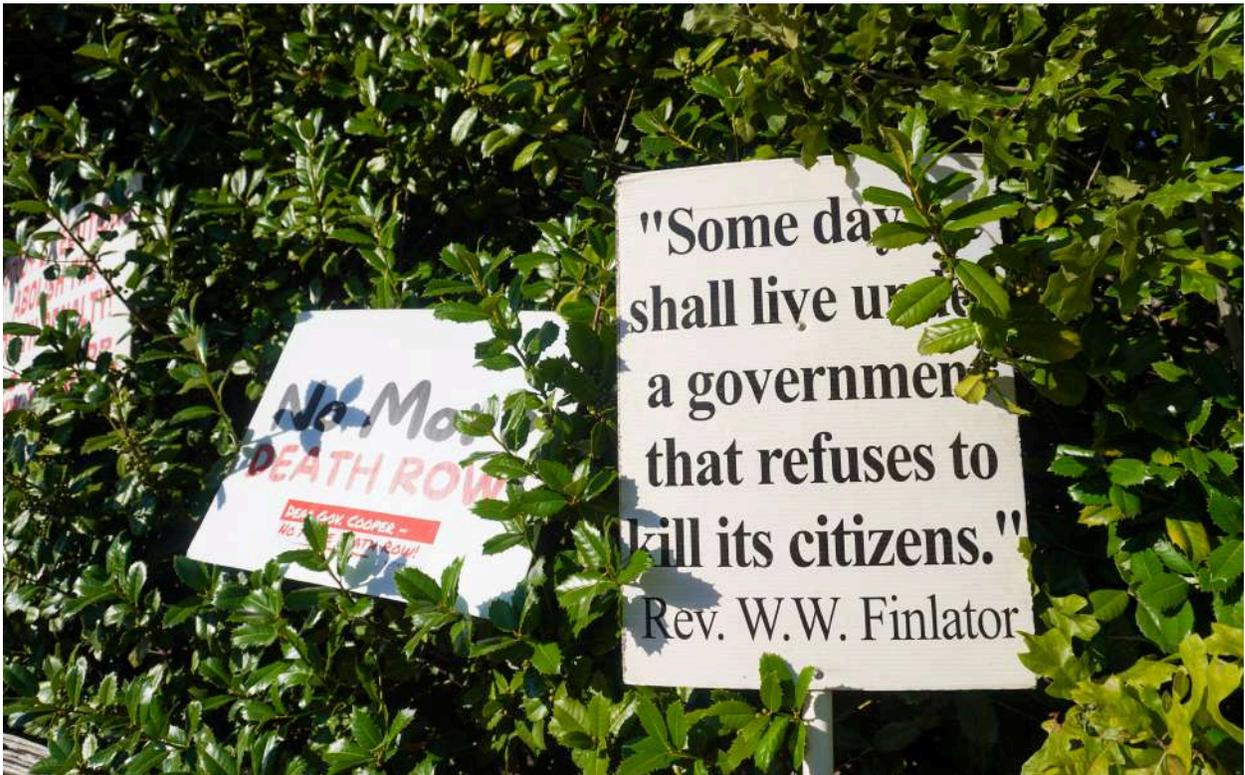
by constituents to North Carolina State Representatives, urging a no vote on HB 270

7 impacted people

coordinated with NCCADP to publicly raise their voices against HB 270

9 coalition partners

rapidly joined NCCADP to advocate against HB 270 before it even left committee



KEY MOMENT: HB 307 & THE PUSH TO RESTART EXECUTIONS

In the fall of 2025, North Carolina lawmakers rushed to advance House Bill 307, a sweeping and dangerous effort to restart executions and expand the state's execution methods – all under the guise of public safety. Introduced in the aftermath of a tragic act of violence, HB 307 imposed arbitrary deadlines on the review of nearly every death row case and opened the door to execution methods widely recognized as torturous, like firing squad, electrocution, nitrogen gas, and deeply flawed lethal injection protocols. NCCADP rapidly mobilized. We warned that the bill risked irreversible harm, the retraumatization of corrections staff, and the acceleration of a racially-biased system that has already condemned innocent people to death row.

While the bill was ultimately signed into law, the campaign against HB 307 spotlighted this growing movement for a new vision of justice. Many courageous legislators voted against the bill. Thousands of North Carolinians spoke up to demand real public safety solutions. Advocates across the state raised their voices to insist that true justice lies in mental health care, violence prevention, survivor support, and strong communities. HB 307 may have revived a failed policy on paper, but the resistance it sparked made clear that North Carolina's future is being shaped by those who refuse to accept executions as justice.



6 impacted people

met with the Governor's staff to advocate for justice and a veto on HB 307, facilitated by NCCADP the afternoon before the governor announced his decision

1 press conference

in partnership with coalition members, calling for a veto of HB 307

1,537 constituent emails

sent to Gov. Stein, urging him to veto HB 307

223 constituent emails

sent to North Carolina House members within 24 hours, asking them to vote no on HB 307

13 media interviews

uplifting the harms of the death penalty system and common sense alternatives that build real public safety

Above: On a rainy day, Survivor Family Engagement Group member Andre Smith and death row exoneree Ed Chapman joined the Moral Monday press conference in Raleigh to speak out against HB 307.



Pictured: Andre Smith speaks at an NCCADP event honoring the anniversary since North Carolina's last execution in 2006.

“HB 307 puts real lives at risk, and it puts compassion at risk, too. NCCADP is responding with the same leadership I’ve witnessed again and again. I saw it throughout the Commutations Campaign, when I delivered thousands of letters to Governor Cooper from North Carolinians who believe that change is possible. Just days later, 15 people on death row were granted life... that experience showed what NCCADP and this community can accomplish.”

ANDRE SMITH

Survivor Family Engagement Group Member
NCCADP Board Member



YEAR IN REVIEW: NEW DEATH SENTENCES & SIGNIFICANT COURT DECISIONS

Across the country, new death sentences remained near historic lows in 2025, reflecting a long-term national decline in jury support for capital punishment. Despite dozens of death-eligible cases, North Carolina imposed just 2 new death sentences, growing the state's death row population to 122 people by the end of the year.

The most consequential legal development of the year came in *North Carolina v. Hasson Bacote*, where in February 2025, Superior Court Judge Wayland J. Sermons Jr. ruled that race played an impermissible role in jury selection and sentencing. He found that Black defendants in Johnston County faced a 100 percent likelihood of receiving a death sentence while white defendants did not. The court further documented prosecutors' routine use of racially-coded language and

situated Mr. Bacote's case within a broader historical pattern linking the death penalty to racial terror, voter suppression, and exclusion of Black North Carolinians from civic life. Although Mr. Bacote's sentence had already been commuted to life without parole, the ruling carries sweeping implications for more than 100 people with pending Racial Justice Act claims. It adds to a growing judicial record confirming that racial discrimination is a defining feature of North Carolina's death penalty system, one that cannot be cured merely through procedural reform.

We offer gratitude for the work of our state's capital defense community and the leadership of our coalition partners who engage in death penalty litigation.

“Black defendants like Mr. Bacote have faced a 100 percent chance of receiving a death sentence, while white defendants have a better than even chance of receiving a life sentence.”

JUDGE WAYLAND J. SERMONS JR.

WHY THE DEATH PENALTY STILL DEMANDS OUR ATTENTION

In 2025, North Carolina's death penalty remained both contested and consequential. While executions have not occurred here since 2006, the passage of HB 307 underscored how quickly political momentum can shift toward reviving state killing – even as courts continue to document racial discrimination in capital cases. South Carolina's resumption of executions by firing squad, for instance, underscored how a death penalty statute, even after years of disuse, can rapidly become operational again.

Nationally, the direction is clear. New death sentences remain at historic lows, public support for capital punishment has fallen to its lowest point in decades, and most states no longer use the death penalty at all. But legislative activity increasingly moves in the opposite direction, emphasizing speed, secrecy, and severity over accuracy and fairness. In 2025, North Carolina followed this script.

As long as the death penalty remains law, it continues to shape prosecutorial power, drain public resources, deepen racial inequities, and normalize irreversible harm. Addressing the death penalty is central to any effort to advance justice and a safer future.



122 people sentenced to die

This makes North Carolina's death row the fifth largest in the country, despite no executions since 2006.

2 new death sentences

North Carolina courts sentenced 2 more people to die in 2025, even as juries across the country continue to turn away from capital punishment.

12 innocent people exonerated

In North Carolina's modern death penalty era (since 1976), 12 people have been exonerated from death row, spending a combined 165 years condemned for crimes they did not commit. Eleven of these exonerees are people of color.

100+ pending Racial Justice Act claims

Most of the people on North Carolina's death row have pending RJA claims, following court rulings confirming that racial discrimination infected capital prosecutions across the state.

5 cases of proven racial discrimination

In North Carolina, 5 people have shown under the Racial Justice Act that racism impacted their sentencing.

Left: Protestors, many of whom are members of our coalition partners Amnesty International Local Group 213 and Catholics for Abolition in North Carolina, stand outside Central Prison every Monday afternoon – regardless of the weather. They faithfully raise awareness about the injustices of the death penalty. On the day of this photo, 81 cars honked in support of death penalty abolition during their hour-long vigil.

REMEMBERING HARVEY JR., THE ARTIST

Harvey Lee Green, Jr. was born in 1960 in Bethel, North Carolina. In 1983, he was sentenced to death for the murders of Sheila Marlene Bland and John Michael Edmondson. Harvey accepted responsibility for his crimes and repeatedly expressed deep remorse.

While living on death row, Harvey became a man of deep faith and a brilliant artist. He donated many of his paintings to Restitution, Inc., a program that sold art by incarcerated people – with all proceeds going to surviving family members of victims or to charity.

Harvey Lee Green was executed on September 24, 1999. He was the only person executed for a murder committed in North Carolina in 1983, although there were 550 other murders in the state that year. Harvey was Black and his two victims were white.

Harvey's brothers, Al Frazier and Bobby Green, pictured below, joined NCCADP to mark the 19th anniversary of the state's last execution, an event held at the very church that Harvey became a member of while on death row.

Al and Bobby are holding works of art that their brother created. The painting on the right belonged to attorney Gretchen Engel, who recently retired from the Center for Death Penalty Litigation. Both works went home with the brothers, who had only recently learned that Harvey was such an accomplished artist.



PROGRAM UPDATES: PUBLIC EDUCATION & SHIFTING THE NARRATIVE ABOUT THE DEATH PENALTY

Public support shapes policy, and public understanding determines what policy is possible. In 2025, NCCADP advanced a public education strategy designed to shift how North Carolinians understand the death penalty, moving the conversation away from fear and punishment and toward evidence, lived experience, and shared responsibility for safety. Our theory of change recognizes that durable policy reform requires narrative change, and narrative change requires trusted messengers, sustained engagement, and accessible education.

We center people directly impacted by the death penalty as leaders in this work. Through the Survivor Family Engagement Group, we invest in relationships, build advocacy skills, and strengthen networks among people whose lives have been shaped by state violence. This leadership disrupts dominant narratives and replaces abstraction with truth. We complement this work with consistent, statewide education,

including monthly Death Penalty 101 sessions, facilitated discussions grounded in the *Racist Roots* documentary (a project of the Center for Death Penalty Litigation), and public events that combine learning with collective action. In 2025, we also launched The No Death Penalty Pledge as a clear, public commitment for individuals to affirm that justice in North Carolina must choose healing over state violence.

Annual observances marking the anniversary of North Carolina’s last execution and World Day Against the Death Penalty created opportunities for shared reflection and accountability, connecting the death penalty to broader conversations about what actually builds public safety – such as re-entry support, victim services, violence prevention, harm reduction, and community-based care networks. These strategies expand public understanding, grow organized constituencies, and lay the groundwork for the policy changes necessary to end the death penalty in North Carolina.

SURVIVOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT GROUP

- 11** gatherings bringing together impacted people from across North Carolina
- 3** media interviews coordinated with group members
- 9** active members, who use their voices of experience to advocate for justice
- 5** events led by Survivor Family Engagement Group members

PARTNER & COALITION COORDINATION

- 12** events tabled alongside our coalition partners
- 14** partners supported through event coordination

DEATH PENALTY 101 INFO SESSIONS

- 75** participants mobilized through monthly organizing sessions
- 11** information sessions, held both virtually and in-person throughout the year

RACIST ROOTS FILM SCREENINGS

- 110** North Carolinians mobilized through screening events across the state
- 5** documentary screenings and community conversations

THE NO DEATH PENALTY PLEDGE

- 1,177** public commitments to death penalty abolition

At NCCADP's statewide observance marking 19 years since the last execution, Survivor Family Engagement Group members and impacted people opened the afternoon with a group letter reading. Here, Al Frazier, Pastor Dewey Williams, and Brenda Hooks speak in front of **80+ attendees**.



More than **50 protestors** marched **2 miles** to hold vigil in front of Central Prison. Here, exonerates Ed Chapman and Alfred Rivera along with SFEG members Andre Smith and Kristin Stapleford lead participants in a collective reading of the names of the 43 people executed by the state since 1976.



The afternoon featured **6 abolition workshops**, focused on building participants' ability to imagine a more just future for North Carolina. Here, participants join a play therapy-focused workshop. Special thanks to Anna Banke of Jubilee Home for being part of this event.



At NCCADP's World Day Against the Death Penalty event in Asheville, **70+ participants** were mobilized. **6 impacted people** led the event.

Here, from left to right, Rev. Philip Cooper, Jean Parks, Rafiah Muhammad-McCormick, and Michael Hayes gather after speaking about real public safety solutions.



HOLIDAY PACKAGE PROJECT

Each fall, NCCADP coordinates the Holiday Package Project to ensure that people living on North Carolina's death row are not forgotten during the holiday season. Through a prison-approved vendor, every person sentenced to death is invited to select from a list of food and hygiene items for a holiday package, often the only gift they will receive that year. The project responds to the isolation and deprivation that define life on death row, where access to basic comforts is tightly restricted and outside connection is rare, and serves as a collective affirmation of dignity and belonging. The men and women condemned to death in our state remain part of the human community, and their lives continue to matter.

Special thanks to staff at the Center for Death Penalty Litigation who make this project possible in so many ways – like navigating the complex vendor system to place package orders.

- \$6,700** invested to support the 2025 holiday package project
- 40** individual donor contributions to the holiday package project
- 85** holiday packages distributed to folks on North Carolina's death row

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY

In 2025, NCCADP deepened its engagement within North Carolina's broader social justice and anti-racism movements, recognizing that the death penalty does not exist in isolation from other systems of harm. We became a member partner of Blueprint NC, a statewide network working toward an inclusive, anti-racist democracy

grounded in civic engagement, movement building, and collective mobilization. Through in-person convenings and ongoing virtual collaboration, we have strengthened relationships with organizers and advocates across issue areas, contributing our expertise while learning from partners whose work intersects with abolition in critical ways. These connections expand our reach and honed our strategy, reinforcing that ending the death penalty requires coordinated, cross-movement action.

At the same time, NCCADP stood in solidarity with the Free James Richardson campaign, supporting efforts to secure justice for a man wrongfully convicted and sentenced to life without parole. Throughout the year, we amplified campaign messaging, joined a Pack the Court action, and welcomed campaign organizers into our August statewide gathering to broaden public awareness and participation. As Mr. Richardson's case continues, we remain committed to supporting the campaign and to advancing a new vision of justice.



GRASSTOPS ADVOCACY & STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP



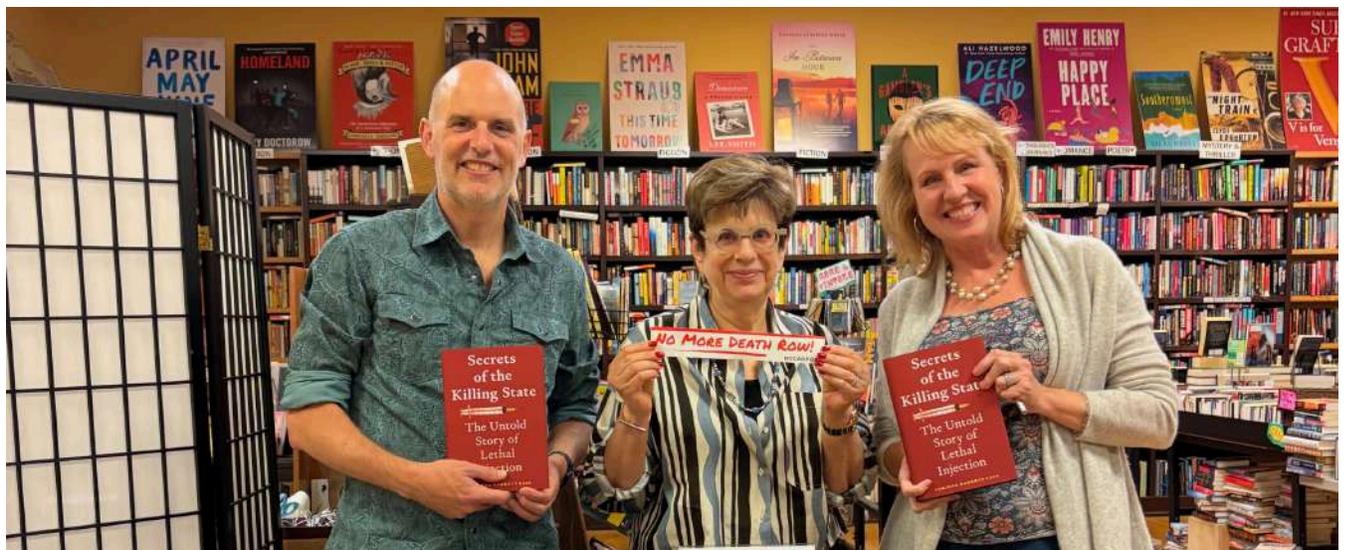
In 2025, NCCADP strengthened its grasstops advocacy by investing in both long-term strategy and rapid-response capacity. We convened a new Strategic Working Group that brings together more than 40 leaders from across North Carolina and beyond, including capital defense attorneys, death penalty experts, campaign strategists, faith leaders, people directly impacted by the death penalty, and state and national coalition partners. This group was formed to map the path toward ending North Carolina's death penalty. While still in its early stages, the working group is already laying the foundation for coordinated short-, medium-, and long-term efforts toward repeal, leveraging the collective expertise, credibility, and networks of some of the state's most influential changemakers.

This work reflects NCCADP's planful, long-term approach to grasstops advocacy. By analyzing power dynamics, identifying leverage points, and aligning strategy across sectors, we are building the infrastructure needed to move abolition forward deliberately and sustainably. At the same time, 2025 demonstrated the importance of adaptive grasstops engagement. During the campaign to stop HB 270, NCCADP activated established relationships with key legislators to communicate the legal, fiscal, and moral failures of the death penalty.

When HB 307 advanced later in the year, NCCADP organized a meeting between members of the Survivor Family Engagement Group and a senior member of the governor's staff, ensuring that decision-makers heard directly from people most affected by the death penalty. At the same time, we connected more than 40 individuals and organizations at the grasstops level, including faith leaders and elected officials, to advocate for a veto. While this effort did not prevent the bill's passage, it demonstrated a growing capacity to mobilize influential voices quickly and coordinate across sectors into high-level decision-making. These efforts reflect a maturing grasstops strategy that is essential to ending the death penalty in North Carolina.

- 40+** experts and leaders joined the Strategic Working Group
- 2** rapid-response campaigns to stop harmful legislation
- 44** grasstops-level connections leveraged in HB 307 veto campaign

Below: Faithful volunteer Helen Spielman tables a talk with author Corinna Barrett Lain and ACLU Capital Punishment Project attorney Brian Stull.



LOOKING AHEAD

HONORING 20 YEARS WITHOUT EXECUTIONS

In 2026, North Carolina will mark 20 years since the state last carried out an execution. This anniversary offers 2 decades of evidence that the death penalty is unnecessary, ineffective, and out of step with the values of our state. During this period, North Carolina has relied on other sentencing structures without compromising public safety, while courts have repeatedly exposed the death penalty's racial bias and unreliability. As lawmakers continue to push for the resumption of executions, this anniversary demands public recognition and collective reflection.

NCCADP will organize a series of educational events and community gatherings across the state to highlight what these 20 years have made clear: executions waste public resources, entrench harm, and reflect a retributive past that North Carolinians are ready to leave behind. By lifting up this history, we aim to shift the public narrative and strengthen opposition to any attempt to return to state killing.

PREVENTING THE RESUMPTION OF EXECUTIONS

Preventing executions from restarting remains a central priority. In 2026, NCCADP will continue strategic legislative advocacy to counter efforts to accelerate executions or expand execution methods. This work includes close coordination with defense teams when needed, robust grassroots and grasstops organizing, and sustained engagement with legal experts, faith leaders, and policymakers across North Carolina. Our approach is both directive and adaptive, guided by long-term goals while responding swiftly to political and legal developments. By strengthening statewide networks and elevating informed voices, we work to ensure that executions do not resume and that policy decisions are shaped by evidence, constitutional principles, and respect for human dignity.



Ed Chapman leads a conversation after a *Racist Roots* screening.

BUILDING THE NEXT PHASE OF ABOLITION STRATEGY

Ending the death penalty requires deliberate, long-term planning. In 2026, NCCADP will continue developing the next phase of a comprehensive abolition strategy through a newly-convened strategic working group of state and national partners. Drawing on the experience of advocates who have led successful repeal efforts across the country, we are refining a data-driven framework tailored to North Carolina's political and cultural landscape. This strategy prioritizes building durable support in every region of the state, with focused outreach in rural and conservative communities, particularly in Eastern and Western North Carolina.

Faith communities play a critical role in this effort. Their moral leadership, longstanding commitment to the sanctity of life, and influence with decision-makers make them essential partners in abolition. Alongside coalition partners including the North Carolina Council of Churches, Carolina Jews for Justice, The Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of North Carolina, Catholics for Abolition in North Carolina, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, and Catholic Mobilizing Network, we are organizing faith communities in a more coordinated and powerful way. At the same time, we are expanding engagement with student groups, recognizing young people as the future of this movement. These efforts lay the groundwork for lasting change and move North Carolina closer to ending the death penalty for good.



WE KEEP US ALIVE: IMPACTED PEOPLE LEAD THE WAY

Above (left to right): Alfred Rivera, Glen Edward Chapman, and Henry McCollum

Henry McCollum, Alfred Rivera, and Ed Chapman arrived at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church with long histories of survival – and long-standing relationships with NCCADP. Each man spent years condemned to die for crimes he did not commit. Each has remained part of the movement to end the death penalty, returning to speak publicly, to organize, and to stand alongside others still facing execution. On August 16, during NCCADP’s We Keep Us Alive statewide gathering in Raleigh, the three men sat together for the first time in 26 years, since their days on death row.

Henry, who survived 31 years under a death sentence, shared how death row continues to haunt him. “I still have dreams about being on death row,” he said. “I struggle with it.” He described standing at the window of his cell, watching people leave work and go home. “I said, I wish that was me.” Faith sustained him through the years of waiting. “I was raised in the church, you know, and my faith was in God. I never stopped believing. I know you can’t get out on your own. God does things on his time.”

He described the day he was exonerated and the night that followed. Even after the court cleared him, the prison returned him to death row while paperwork was completed. A courtroom reporter asked whether he held bitterness. “I said, no, I don’t have no business having hatred in my heart,” Henry recalled. “But I don’t like that they stole me and my little brother’s life away from us.” That night, he slept only a few hours, talking with the men he was leaving behind. “It was hard for me to walk away,” he said. “I had family behind bars. I know every last one of those people on the row.” With freedom came grief. “I’m glad to have my freedom,” Henry said. “I don’t have to be told what to do like when I was on the inside.”

Alfred Rivera talked about survival and responsibility. He spent nearly two years on death row before his exoneration, time that completely reshaped his sense of purpose. “We were not supposed to be there,” he said. “We witnessed it and returned back with the grace of whatever it is you have faith in. It brought us to this point.” He explained why exonerees must speak, why collective silence allows the system to endure.

Ed Chapman, who spent 13 years on death row, spoke about what stays with him long after release. “We live death row every day,” he said. “It’s not a one-day thing. It’s every day.” He talked about the discipline required to keep moving forward, about memory as a constant companion rather than a closed chapter.

In the shadow of years taken, Henry, Alfred, and Ed shared their stories as people shaped by long confinement and the knowledge that the state once intended to end their lives. Death row does not disappear at the moment of release. It is present in memory, in sleep, and in the sustained effort required to rebuild a life after extreme isolation. These men remain committed to those still facing execution. Their leadership shows us the long reach of the death penalty’s harm and affirms our collective responsibility to end it; we have much to learn from their example. A just future for North Carolina depends on following the leadership of those who know this system most deeply and who continue to insist that justice has to grow from the soil of healing.

Right: Ed, Henry, and Alfred share what it was like to return home after spending years on death row.

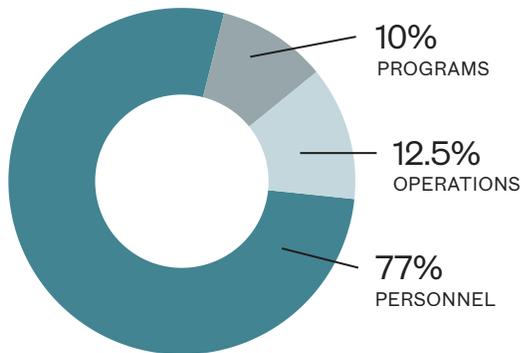


FINANCIALS

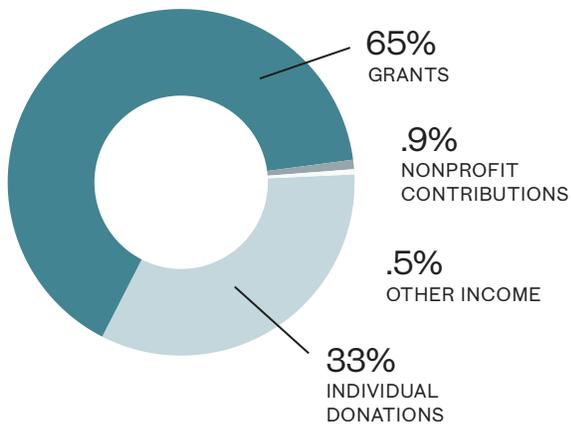
2025

Following is the financial summary for NCCADP for the year ending December 31, 2025. NCCADP is a 501(c)(3) Public Charity.

EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



REVENUE BREAKDOWN



INVESTMENT & EXPENSES

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Personnel | \$147,590 |
| Programs | \$19,527 |
| Operations | \$23,877 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$190,994 |

SUPPORT & REVENUE

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Individual Donations | \$82,877 |
| Grants | \$163,000 |
| Nonprofit Contributions | \$2,183 |
| Other Income | \$1,201 |
| TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE | \$249,261 |
| NET INCOME | \$58,268 |

NET ASSETS

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Beginning 2025 | \$101,083 |
| Ending 2025 | \$184,351 |

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Our work is strengthened by generous in-kind contributions that make our advocacy possible and extend the reach of every dollar raised. Throughout 2025, community partners provided meeting and event space, volunteers contributed countless hours of support, and people with lived experience shared their expertise in ways that cannot be captured on a balance sheet. We are deeply grateful for you.

367 contributions
to NCCADP throughout 2025

258 individual donors
contributed in 2025

17 major donors
gave \$500 or more this year

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

We are grateful to each and every person who makes this work possible, including several of our individual major donors who wish to remain anonymous. We extend special thanks to our foundation funders, including Fund for Nonviolence, Quinn Delaney, Unitarian Universalist Fund for a Just Society, and Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Ending North Carolina’s death penalty requires sustained, strategic action. It depends on people who are willing to invest in justice over fear. Your support fuels work that saves lives – like organizing across the state, amplifying the lived experiences of impacted people, advancing policy change, and resisting efforts to restart executions.

DONATE

Your tax-deductible gift powers NCCADP’s statewide advocacy and rapid-response organizing. Contributions can be made as a one-time gift or as a recurring investment that sustains this work year-round.



Learn more or give online at nccadp.org/donate or at the QR code.

To give by mail:

Please make a check payable to the NC Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty and send to:

3326 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd
Building D, Suite 201
Durham, NC 27707

To give by donor-advised fund (DAF):

To recommend a gift through your DAF, please use the information below.

Account Name: North Carolina Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
Tax ID: 45-4288573
Address: 3326 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd,
Building D, Suite 201, Durham, NC 27707

To make a gift of stock:

We gratefully accept gifts of stock. For more information, contact Noel Nickle at noel@nccadp.org.

GET CONNECTED

Sign up to receive all the latest action alerts and opportunities to get involved at bit.ly/NCCADPemails.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteer with NCCADP! Learn more at: nccadp.org/volunteer-intern-interest.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION



On Zoom: Erica Washington. From left to right: Liv Perkins-Davenport, Jessica Turner, LaShauna Austria of Seeds of Change Consulting, Jennifer Marsh, Noel Nickle, Melissa Boughton, and Paul Klever. Not pictured: Kerwin Pittman and Andre Smith.



STAFF

Noel Nickle, Executive Director
 Liv Perkins-Davenport, Director of Communications

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Marsh, Board Co-chair
 Erica Washington, Board Co-chair
 Jessica Turner, Treasurer
 Melissa Boughton, Secretary
 Andre Smith
 Kerwin Pittman
 Paul Klever

ADVISORY CIRCLE

Rep. Vernetta Alston
 Henderson Hill
 Ken Rose

**IMPACTED PEOPLE:
 LEADERS IN OUR WORK IN 2025**

Alfred Rivera
 Glen Edward Chapman
 Henry McCollum
 Andre Smith
 Brenda Hooks
 Carol Dreiling
 Jean Parks
 Kristin Stapleford
 Lynda Simmons
 Megan Smith
 Pat McCoy
 Pastor Dewey Williams
 Al Frazier
 Rev. Philip Cooper
 Michael Hayes



COALITION MEMBERS

ACLU Capital Punishment Project
ACLU of North Carolina
Amnesty International Local Group 213
Beloved Community Center
Carolina Jews for Justice
Catholics for Abolition in North Carolina
Catholic Mobilizing Network
Center for Death Penalty Litigation
Conservatives Concerned About the Death Penalty
Emancipate NC
Fayetteville Police Accountability Community Taskforce
Forward Justice
Hidden Voices
Human Kindness Foundation
Jubilee Home
National Association of Social Workers – North Carolina
North Carolina Council of Churches
North Carolina Justice Center
North Carolina Poor People’s Campaign
Recidivism Reduction Educational Programs Services, Inc.
RedressNC
Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham
Southern Coalition for Social Justice
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
The Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of North Carolina



WHAT DOES WORKING IN COALITION MEAN?

We believe that we are stronger together. That’s why coalition members are a vital part of our NCCADP team.

Working in coalition means we share expertise, resources, influence, and capacity as we collectively pursue the end of North Carolina’s death penalty. It also means we are not siloed as we collaborate on broader issues of justice. Our coalition of diverse member organizations each brings unique audiences and bases of power.

We extend sincere gratitude to each of our partners.

Organizations who are interested in joining our coalition are invited to reach out to Noel Nickle at noel@nccadp.org to learn more.

The North Carolina Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty is a statewide coalition of member organizations and individuals committed to ending the death penalty and creating a new vision of justice.

NCCADP
COALITION *for* ALTERNATIVES *to the* DEATH PENALTY

Report by Liv Perkins-Davenport

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