# Getting Started    Information Needed to Start a Campaign

On any given day in the United States, tens of thousands of young people are confined in juvenile detention and correctional facilities. While some facilities stress rehabilitation, many more closely resemble adult prisons. And like adult prisons, juvenile facilities sometimes employ the most counterproductive and inhumane correctional practices—including extended periods of solitary confinement and other forms of isolation. Juvenile justice officials claim they need solitary confinement to isolate a youth after a confrontation, or for punishment and disciplinary purposes, among other reasons. But the practice is widely overused, and can cause much more serious problems than those it is ostensibly employed to temporarily solve. Isolation practices frequently involve placing a youth alone in a cell for several hours, sometimes more than 22 hours a day for multiple days; restricting contact with family

This type of information may be publicly available on the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention website, on your state's department of juvenile justice website, or in state regulations. Much of this information, however, will only be obtained through a formal public information request.

force at any of the facilities where youths are held in solitary confinement, including any written response by a facility/department of juvenile justice administrator, medical and/or mental health personnel.

## Step 2: Research the Policies that Govern Solitary Confinement in Your Community

You will need to understand the policies that govern solitary confinement at juvenile detention facilities in your jurisdiction. These are the types of general policies to look for when researching the operation of solitary confinement in your local juvenile detention facilities:

Discipline policies

Protective Isolation policies

Administrative Segregation/Isolation/Seclusion policies

Medical Isolation policies

Room Confinement policies

Classification Plans or Classification Systems

Suicide Prevention and Watch policies

Mental Health programs and policies

Visitation policies

Recreation policies

Resident Property policies

Education policies

Phone Call policies