

Over the past few years we in Connecticut have examined the use of the death penalty as punishment for horrific crimes. Very many studies have demonstrated the following points:

The death penalty doesn't work to deter crime or execute the perpetrators of vicious crimes.

The death penalty does not bring closure to the victims' families who suffer over and over again the trauma of their loved ones' death.

Race plays an important part in the decision to enforce the death penalty. The race of the victim is a major factor in determining whether or not to pursue the death penalty. Implementation of the death penalty in Connecticut does not provide equal justice to the victim or perpetrator.

The death penalty creates an expensive system in which there is neither justice nor peace for the victims.

The death penalty is final. And yet we have seen examples, even in Connecticut of innocent men convicted of serious crimes .

What we in Connecticut know is that the death penalty is a failure. We fail the notion of justice, we fail murder victims' families . And we cannot guarantee that an innocent person will never be executed.

It is time to end the death penalty in Connecticut.

Mary Ann Handley

Manchester Connecticut

March 7, 2011