

DEATH PENALTY ACTION

www.DeathPenaltyAction.org

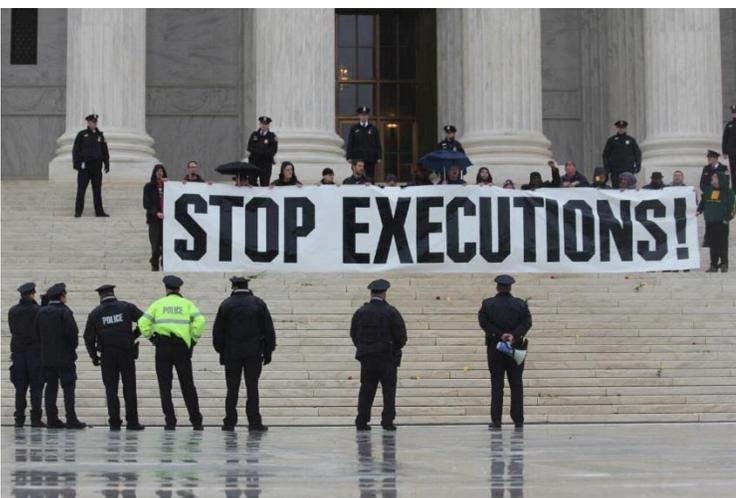
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Join the Journey of Hope at *Starvin' for Justice - the 25th Annual Fast & Vigil to Abolish the Death Penalty at the U.S. Supreme Court* – June 29 to July 2. Get all of the details at www.abolition.org

Death Penalty Action (DPA) is a newly launched organization providing high visibility resources, support, educational and direct action events and activities within the broader anti-death penalty movement. We are prepared to assist YOU – and any other local, state and national groups or individuals wishing to help end the use of the death penalty. Call us for speakers, workshops, event/action production, information & resources.

>>>> TinyUrl.com/GinaGrimmiIntercept <<<<



Journey of Hope and DPA Board Members in action at the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, DC.



Check the Live Stream!

Facebook.com/JourneyOfHope/

Led by murder victim family members, along with the families of the executed and those on death row as well as exonerated death row survivors and supporters, Journey speakers share their Voices of Experience and their rejection of the death penalty in favor of love and compassion for all of humanity.

**The Texas Journey of Hope runs from October 14 to October 29.
Many events will be live-streamed. See the schedule, links and more
at DeathPenaltyAction.org/journeyofhope**

See DPA Advisory Board Chairperson and Evangelical Christian leader Shane Claiborne's Testimony & Give Back at:
YouCaring.com/TXJourneyViolencetoHealing

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Essential Needs of Murder Victim Families

Compiled by the OTSE.org Murder Victim Family Services Project
Rev. Jack Sullivan, Ms. LaShawn Ajamu & Ms. Melinda Elkins Dawson

The suggestions listed here are based on the experiences of homicide survivors. They are not listed in a particular order. Every situation is unique and some murder victim family members have more needs while others have fewer needs. Ideally, it would be a victim advocate's job to review a check list and to attempt to secure that which is needed with regard to each case. When a case is new, the police should not leave before handing victim survivors a standard set of information, per the below. In a best case scenario, a murder victim advocate begins an initial consultation within 24 hours of a primary family member learning of the murder, as appropriate.

- Trained Grief Counselors for families seeking support;
- Experienced assistance in getting a loved one's body released from the hospital;
- Assistance in paying for funeral expenses including a burial plot, and in planning the actual funeral service;
- Court-provided advocates for the murder victims families, so that they do not have to depend on services from law enforcement offices (including county prosecutors);
- Independent victim service providers who focus on those impacted by the crime regardless of allegations against the victim or past unrelated history of the victim's family;
- A complete list of resources that victim families can access, and someone who regularly visits victim families to talk through the possibilities and assist with applications;
- Assistance to understand and apply for crime victim compensation;
- Personalized assessment of immediate, intermediate, and long-term victim family issues and needs, followed by supportive services that address the unique situations of each victim family;
- Immediate and long-term psychological examinations and treatment for victim families, particularly for those who witnessed the murder of their loved ones or were in close proximity to the crime;
- Economic advice and financial planning services for those who upon the murder of their loved ones find themselves suddenly responsible for giving financial leadership;
- Short term immediate assistance with maintaining mundane tasks like paying bills on time, alerting employers and securing time off, and with creditors when payments dates are missed or income is lost as a result of the homicide of a loved one;
- Financial assistance when a primary wage earner is murdered.
- Assistance in securing employment, to include skill assessment and resume building, when the homicide victim is a primary wage earner;
- Relocation assistance, particularly for those whose loved ones were murdered in their homes;
- Sensitive professionals and/or clergy to assist victim family when they learn they must identify the bodies of their loved ones;