

Families and loved ones of murder victims support alternatives to the death penalty for many reasons, including:



"My husband and I had no say about what was going to happen to our son's murderer. We weren't allowed in the courtroom and we weren't treated

fairly by the criminal justice system. I was never allowed to say that more killing was not the answer for our family."

—*VERA RAMIREZ-CRUTCHER, Oxnard, CA. Vera's son, Donald Bruce Crutcher, was 22-years-old when he was killed. He had just moved into his first apartment.*



"There is no way to measure grief, but there are ways we could minimize it...End wasteful spending, solve more murders and support early childhood

intervention and violence prevention programs. This would go a long way toward protecting all young people from random violence, especially those in urban war zones."

—*AQEELA SHERRILLS, Los Angeles, CA. Aqeela's son, Terrell, was 18 when he was killed while at home on break from his first semester at Humboldt State University.*

- **The death penalty prolongs the victims' pain.** The lengthy death penalty process can be harmful to victims' families because it forces them to endure years of waiting and uncertainty. Permanent imprisonment provides swift, certain, and severe punishment without the endless reopening of wounds.

- **The death penalty takes away valuable resources for murder victim family members.** By replacing the death penalty with permanent imprisonment, California would save \$1 billion in just 5 years. That money would be better spent on violence prevention programs, victim services, funding for state crime labs and local law enforcement to solve cold cases.

- **The death penalty takes the focus away from the victims.** By focusing on legal consequences, rather than human consequences, the death penalty directs the attention on the criminal instead of where it belongs – on the family and loved ones of the victim and on the community. Permanent imprisonment punishes the criminal without putting him or her in the headlines.

"Taking another person's life does not stop violence...I believe that the death penalty encourages violence. If the government really wanted to end the violence, it would take the millions of dollars it is wasting on the death penalty in California and use it for violence prevention for youth, rehabilitation, and victim services."

—*LORRAIN TAYLOR, Oakland, CA. Lorrain's twin sons, Albade and Obadiah, were murdered in 2000 at the age of 22. Their cases were never solved.*

"I struggled for many years through grief, anger, rage, and lust for revenge. I believed the 'big lie' given to me by the district attorney that I would be healed by the execution of the man responsible for all my grief and pain."

—*ABA GAYLE. Her daughter, Catherine, was murdered in 1980 at the age of 19. Catherine's murderer is on Death Row in California.*



California Crime Victims for Alternatives to the Death Penalty

(CCV) is made up of families, friends, and loved ones of murder victims who support alternatives to the death penalty.

For more information, please contact:

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WHAT WE DO

CCV is a coalition of families, friends, and loved ones of murder victims who oppose the death penalty. The coalition supports families, friends, and loved ones in telling their stories and being heard. CCV educates the public about alternatives to the death penalty and provides information and support to families regardless of their views on the death penalty or whether the perpetrator has been apprehended.



"The death penalty is often justified in the name of the victims' families. Advocates claim that it will bring justice and closure. However, true justice is

something we can never achieve, as we can never have our daughter back. In our view, the lengthy process of trials, appeals, and anticipated execution would only impede coming to terms with our horrible loss."

—AMANDA AND NICK WILCOX, Penn Valley, CA. Their 19-year-old daughter, Laura, was killed while home on winter break from college.

california
Crime Victims
for **Alternatives**
to the **Death Penalty**

www.californiacrimevictims.org

I would like more information about CCV.

I have lost a loved one to murder.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Evening Phone: _____

Email: _____

