

Resolution on the Death Penalty

Submitted by the National Voice Committee

Description: Resolution to support replacing the death penalty with a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole

Essential correctional goals are consistent with the enhancement and support of public safety and maintaining the health and safety of corrections professionals.

Recognizing that a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole is a severe, appropriate and effective penalty for the most serious crimes and recognizing the professional experience of prison wardens that the execution of death sentences has a significant negative impact on corrections staff, correctional goals are satisfied by imposition of sentences requiring life in prison without the possibility of parole for the most serious crimes.

- 1. Life in prison without the possibility of parole is a severe, appropriate and effective penalty for the most serious crimes.*
- 2. The death penalty is not an effective deterrent to crime and does not reflect evidenced based sentencing practices.*
- 3. Replacing the death penalty with life in prison without the possibility of parole ensures an innocent person will never be executed.*
- 4. Performing the duties required to carry out an execution causes psychological harm to correctional personnel.*
- 5. The significant public resources expended on the death penalty can be better used to enhance public safety, including increased policing and solving unsolved crimes such as homicide and rape.*

We therefore resolve to support the replacement of the death penalty with the sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Approved by the Executive Committee, April 27, 2013