

Washington Region Religious Campaign Against Torture

Serving Northern Virginia, Washington, D.C. and Maryland

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WRRCAT Introduces New Speakers Bureau

The Washington Region Religious Campaign Against Torture (WRRCAT), the mid-Atlantic affiliate of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, is pleased to announce the formation of a Speakers Bureau for the region and the nation.

Speakers are available to address audiences in a variety of settings from college and seminary campuses to special forums and adult education classes at religious congregations. Speakers also have access to a range of short videos produced by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, which can be shown to accompany speeches and to spark audience discussion.

As the United States approaches the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the prison at Guantanamo Bay, an institution with a legacy of torture and abuses, reflection about America's role in the treatment of prisoners is timely.

There is no charge for the speakers other than covering their travel costs.

A sampling of topics speakers can address includes the following:

- Americans and moral choice - the ethical implications of torture for democracies.
- How we learned to love torture
- Human rights – what are they, who has them and why are they important?
- Becoming an activist, or, since when did doing nothing ever change anything?
- Accountability for torture – turning the page or reading the page
- The effects of torture – on the tortured, the torturer and the nation that sanctions it
- Buried alive – the effects of solitary confinement in U.S prisons

- What is the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, and why is it important?

Additionally, WRRCAT can make available short videos and discussion guides for self-guided groups on the following topics:

- Ending extended Isolation in U.S. prisons
- Understanding Muslims in America
- Ending U.S.-sponsored torture forever
- Preventing torture everywhere
- Torture on trial
- Reckoning with torture

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