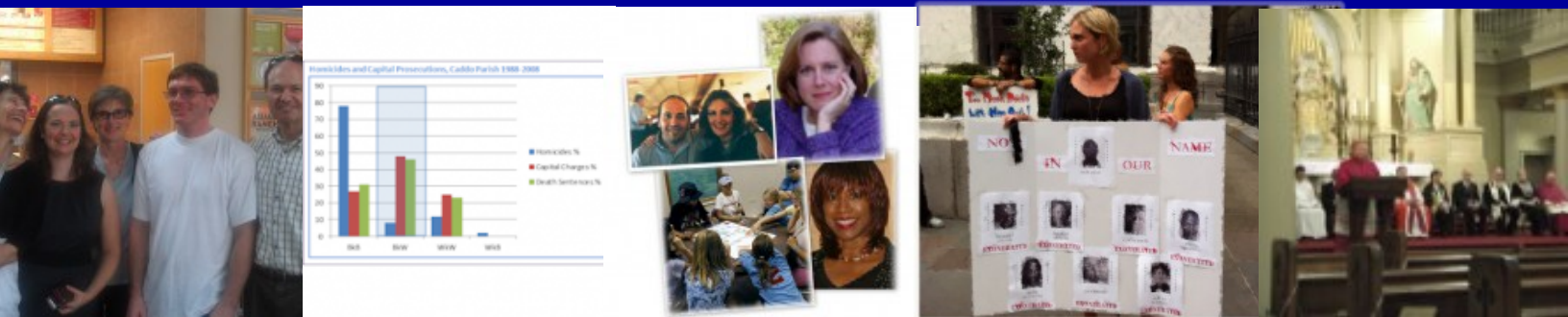


# WHY SAY 'NO' TO THE DEATH PENALTY?



- **The death penalty claims innocent lives.** Since 1973, 140 people have been released from death rows throughout the country due to evidence of their wrongful conviction. In this same time period, more than 1,200 people have been executed.
- **The death penalty is not a deterrent.** FBI data shows that the 14 states without capital punishment in 2008 had homicide rates at or below the national level.
- **The death penalty costs more and diverts resources from effective solutions to crime.** Even without post-conviction appeals, the death penalty is far more expensive than alternative sentences.
- **The death penalty does not bring lasting relief to victims' families.** Recent studies have shown executions can actually cause greater emotional harm to families.
- **The death penalty is racially biased.** Since 1977, the overwhelming majority of death row defendants (77%) have been executed for killing white victims, even though African-Americans make up about half of all homicide victims.
- **The USA is the only Western democratic country that retains the death penalty.** Over two-thirds of the world have abolished the death penalty. The USA sits alongside China, Iran, North Korea and Yemen as having the world's highest execution rates.
- **The death penalty is arbitrary and unfair.** Nearly all Death Row inmates are from the poorest backgrounds and could not afford their own attorney at trial. Local politics, the location of the crime, plea bargaining and pure chance make the legal process a lottery of who lives or dies.
- **The death penalty disregards mental illness.** In the USA, there are inadequate Constitutional protections for those with mental illness and dozens of prisoners have been executed despite suffering from serious mental illness.