

Rights Behind Bars

Protecting the Rights of People in Prisons, Jails, and Forensic Facilities, and Their Loved Ones, in New York State

New York prisons and jails are, and always have been, sites of racism, repression, brutality, and abuse. Recent practices by prison and jail administrators and staff have inflicted even greater harm on people who are incarcerated and their family members.

**RESTORE
CARE
PACKAGES**

**ENHANCE
VISIT RIGHTS**

**FOLLOW
THE HALT
SOLITARY
LAWRY**

**STOP
OFFICER
BRUTALITY**



The Rights Behind Bars bill aims to correct & clarify specific human rights of all people inside & their loved ones..

This legislation specifically addresses certain issues that have arisen in New York prisons and jails in recent years. Not intended as all-inclusive. the bill aims to ensure that people have a right to:

- Receive care packages from their loved ones
- Visit with their loved ones
- Have regular communication with their loved ones
- Have access to healthy and nutritious food
- Be free from staff brutality and retaliation
- Be free from the torture of prolonged solitary confinement, and
- Have access to real and meaningful out-of-cell group programming and engagement.

Recognition of these basic human rights will alleviate suffering of incarcerated individuals, strengthen ties with families and communities, better prepare people for release, increase safety in prisons and jails and in outside communities, and establish that brutality, racism, sexual abuse, harassment, and denials of access to family and loved ones have no place in New York's jails and prisons and will not be tolerated.