

OHIOANS TO STOP EXECUTIONS (OTSE)

Ohioans To Stop Executions (OTSE) was founded in 1987. Its purpose is to end the use of capital punishment in the State of Ohio. The views of the members that underlie that purpose are many, but can be summarized in two broad categories:

- 1) A moral commitment to life that precludes the purposeful killing of any human being
and/or
- 2) Recognition that the death penalty as it is being implemented in Ohio is not fairly or accurately applied.

Since 2003, OTSE has united death penalty opponents and death penalty supporters in the call for a moratorium on executions in Ohio while a comprehensive study of the flaws in Ohio's death penalty system is conducted and its findings are addressed.

OTSE is a statewide coalition with local chapters and affiliates in every major geographic region of the state including Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton/Miami Valley, Lorain County, and Toledo. OTSE is also comprised of numerous statewide partners including the League of Women Voters of Ohio, the Ohio Catholic Conference, the American Friends Service Committee, the American Civil Liberties Union, and many others.

OTSE has a reputation for providing accurate and reasoned information about all aspects of our state's death penalty, acting as a clearinghouse for information. Schools, churches, and civic groups regularly contact us for data, speakers, and interviews.

OTSE accomplishments:

- In 2003, OTSE launched a 17-day speaking tour to highlight the unique impacts of the death penalty on those who have lost a loved one to murder. The tour, called the "Journey of Hope... from Violence to Healing" brought murder victims' family members, exonerated death row inmates, and death row family members together, reaching over 10,000 Ohioans.
- In 2004, the Ohio House of Representatives passed bi-partisan legislation to conduct a comprehensive study of Ohio's death penalty system.
- In 2003, DNA tests revealed that blood evidence used to sentence Jerome Campbell to death did not belong to the victim, shedding doubt on Campbell's guilt. OTSE helped secure a commutation of the sentence to life without parole – the only commutation in a death case ever granted by Governor Taft.

OTSE Board of Directors Executive Committee

Sr. Alice Gerdeman, CDP – Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center

Sr. Alice Gerdeman, CDP, Chair of the Board of Ohioans To Stop Executions (OTSE), is the coordinator of the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center (IJPC) located in Cincinnati, Ohio. IJPC hosts the Cincinnati Chapter of OTSE, facilitates Families That Matter, working with families who have or had members on death row, and facilitates the newly formed chapter of Ohio murder victims' family members. Alice has over 25 years of experience in education and advocacy around a variety of peace and justice issues.

Carrie Davis – American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio

Carrie L. Davis is Vice Chair of OTSE and is employed as staff attorney and legislative counsel for the ACLU of Ohio. In her role as ACLU counsel, Davis lobbies Ohio elected officials on criminal justice reform, death penalty, and other issues. Davis is also a spokesperson for the ACLU and conducts public education programs, including a "how to lobby" training program for students and community activists.

James Tobin – Ohio Catholic Conference

James W. Tobin is Treasurer of OTSE. He has worked for the Catholic Conference of Ohio as Director of Social Concerns since 1987. The Catholic Conference represents the Ohio Bishops in public matters affecting the church. Jim communicates with Ohio's Government officials on death penalty and various other social justice issues. He convenes the Catholic Church's social service, social action, prison ministry, and rural life directors throughout Ohio. Jim has been a participant on several governmental committees involving adoption reform, welfare reform, faith-based partnerships, and farming regulations.



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