

Invitation to join NRCAT

Peace Resources Committee recommends to all participants within Illinois Yearly Meeting to become familiar with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (www.nrcat.org). The committee recommends this as preparation for a Minute to be passed at Annual Sessions (June 2014) authorizing ILYM to become a supporting organization of NRCAT.

1. 57th Street Meeting, Oak Park Friends Meeting, Urbana-Champaign Friends' Meeting, AFSC, QUIT (Quaker Initiative to End Torture) have already joined. The membership list is laden with Friends' organizations at <http://www.nrcat.org/member-organizations>; reasons for endorsement are at http://fcnl.org/resources/newsletter/apr06/fcnl_joins_religious_antitorture_coalition/.

2. Supporting members make a modest financial contribution and designate a delegate who joins a monthly free conference call. The web site and the conference call are packed with progress reports and opportunities to participate. Campaigns are always in good taste, dignified so as to be persuasive. Extensive research and planning enable NRCAT to select areas of need where people of conscience can make a difference. Large numbers and interdenominational participation provide the strength to pursue a considerable number of causes that are dear to the Quaker peace testimony. Suggested activities include signing petitions, visiting legislators, making presentations (videos and tailored discussion guides are provided), distributing handouts, and other efforts to spread positive attitudes and practices. Currently there is a national focus on rethinking solitary confinement, along with other issues; elimination of torture and bigotry involves the broader ranges of penal reform and intercultural understanding.

3. Quaker groups benefit from the NRCAT material, and NRCAT benefits by representing significant portions of society.