



For Immediate Release

February 26, 2021

Contact: Allison Cohen
513-787-9399
allison@deathpenaltyaction.org

Death Penalty Action Announces Second Phase of 100 Day Push to Abolish Federal Death Penalty

- New action tools; video narrated by Rep. Ayanna Pressley to be unveiled
- Rev. Sharon Risher, whose mother & cousins were victims of federal death row prisoner Dylan Roof will share why abolishing federal death penalty is her priority.

Forty days into the first 100 days of the Biden administration, Death Penalty Action and a coalition of more than 250 organizations are calling on Congress to abolish the federal and military death penalty. Death Penalty Action will launch an invigorated second phase of its campaign with a virtual event at 11 a.m. EST on Monday, March 1, 2021. [Register for the Zoom event here](#) or [watch live on Facebook here](#).

The event will feature Rev. Sharon Risher, whose mother, Mrs. Ethel Lee Lance, as well as two cousins and a childhood friend, were among nine church members killed by a white supremacist terrorist at the Mother Emanuel AME Church on June 17th, 2015. Dylan Roof awaits execution on the federal death row at Terre Haute, Indiana. Rev. Risher will speak about her experiences and her conclusion that the death penalty is not the response that murder victim families and other co-victims need.

Death Penalty Action will also unveil new action tools for the campaign, including a new promotional video narrated by Rep. Ayanna Pressley, the lead sponsor in the U.S. House of Representatives for the Federal Death Penalty Prohibition Act of 2021.

Monday's date is symbolic both as the 40th day of the Biden administration and it is also Death Penalty Abolition Day, the 174th anniversary of the date that Michigan became the first territory in North America to legislatively abolish the death penalty. Michigan is the first of 22 states currently without the death penalty, with Virginia poised to become the 23rd state without capital punishment. That legislation is expected to be signed by Governor Northam in April.

What: A virtual campaign event with premier of our new short video narrated by Representative Ayanna Pressley

Who: Rev. Dr. Sharon Risher, whose mother, two cousins and a childhood friend were among nine church members murdered in the Charleston massacre

When: March 1, 2021 at 11 a.m. EST

Where: [Register for the Zoom event here](#) or [watch live on Facebook here](#).

Speakers can be made available for comment. Please contact Allison Cohen for more information, allison@deathpenaltyaction.org or 513-787-9399.

###