



U.S. Department of Justice

## Civil Rights Division

### Georgia Prisons Investigation Findings

On October 1, 2024, the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorney's Offices for the Northern, Middle, and Southern Districts of Georgia announced their findings from a civil rights investigation of Georgia prisons.

The investigation found reasonable cause to believe that the State violates the U.S. Constitution by failing to provide reasonable protection from harm in its prisons.

These findings reflect a pattern or practice of resistance to incarcerated persons' full enjoyment of their constitutional rights.

Now that the investigation is complete, we will work with Georgia to fix the identified violations and implement change.

**Questions? Concerns? Ideas for reform?**

**Contact us at (844) 401-3736 or**

**[Community.GeorgiaDOC@usdoj.gov](mailto:Community.GeorgiaDOC@usdoj.gov).**

### Findings:

- **Protection from Violence and Harm:** The State fails to protect incarcerated people from violence and harm by other incarcerated people in violation of the Eighth Amendment.
- **Protection from Sexual Harm:** The State fails to protect incarcerated people from harm caused by sexual violence in violation of the Eighth Amendment. The State also fails to adequately protect people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) from a substantial risk of serious harm from sexual violence and abuse by staff and other incarcerated people.
- Serious systemic deficiencies contribute to this harm and risk of harm. These include extremely low staffing and inadequate supervision, flawed and ineffective classification and housing systems, poor management of gangs and dangerous contraband, and poor incident reporting and investigations.
- The State of Georgia has long known of these problems and has failed to take reasonable measures to protect incarcerated people from harm.