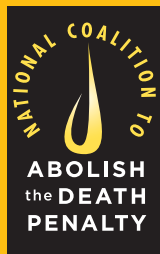


RACHEL'S FUND



Who was Rachel King?

The human rights community, particularly the anti-death penalty movement, lost one of its most remarkable figures in 2008, when Rachel King, death penalty activist, public defender, author, law professor and Congressional staff member, died at the age of 45.

Rachel was a long-time activist against the death penalty, chairing the NCADP Board of Directors from 1998 to 2001. NCADP posthumously awarded Rachel its Lifetime Achievement Award in January 2009. The award was a fitting commemoration, as Rachel's life exemplified the principles that underlie our opposition to the death penalty: an unflagging commitment to the dignity and intrinsic value of every human being; a deep appreciation for the compassion, love, and faith that heal the wounds of violent crime and personal tragedy; the exquisite realization of humankind's interconnectedness; and the emphatic opposition to causing more suffering in the name of justice.

Rooted in Rachel's belief in the power of individuals, Rachel's Fund has been established to continue Rachel's fight for a better and fairer justice system. It brings together anti-death penalty organizations, organizations that serve the needs of murder victims' family members, organizations that serve the needs of family members of death row prisoners and concerned citizens on a local level to find and build common ground for public policy alternatives to the death penalty.



Why We Must

Listen

to Victims

The death penalty is an example of a criminal justice policy which provides an inadequate response to the real needs of families struggling in the aftermath of the murder of a loved one. Ending the death penalty is one step toward refocusing limited resources where they should be: on those services and policies that help families recover, and as some victims' advocates say, gain a sense of "new normalcy." Similarly, forging public policies that better respond to victims of violent crime is key to ending the death penalty.

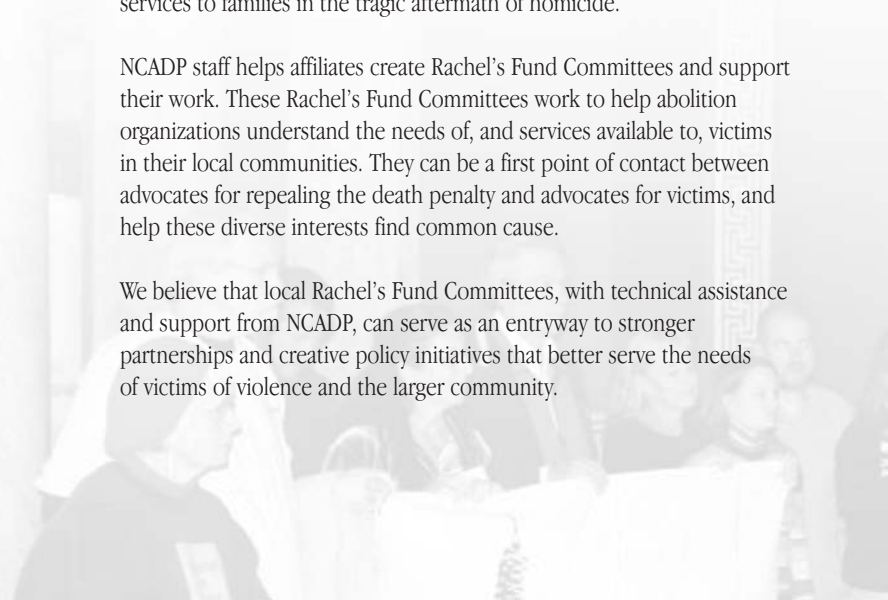
What is Rachel's Fund?

Rachel's Fund is a program of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (NCADP). The goal is to encourage and support NCADP affiliates in their efforts to build common ground with organizations that serve the needs of families of murder victims and families of people on death row.

In states and communities across the country, Rachel's Fund Committees are designed to serve as a bridge between organizations that are committed to ending capital punishment and those providing needed services to families in the tragic aftermath of homicide.

NCADP staff helps affiliates create Rachel's Fund Committees and support their work. These Rachel's Fund Committees work to help abolition organizations understand the needs of, and services available to, victims in their local communities. They can be a first point of contact between advocates for repealing the death penalty and advocates for victims, and help these diverse interests find common cause.

We believe that local Rachel's Fund Committees, with technical assistance and support from NCADP, can serve as an entryway to stronger partnerships and creative policy initiatives that better serve the needs of victims of violence and the larger community.



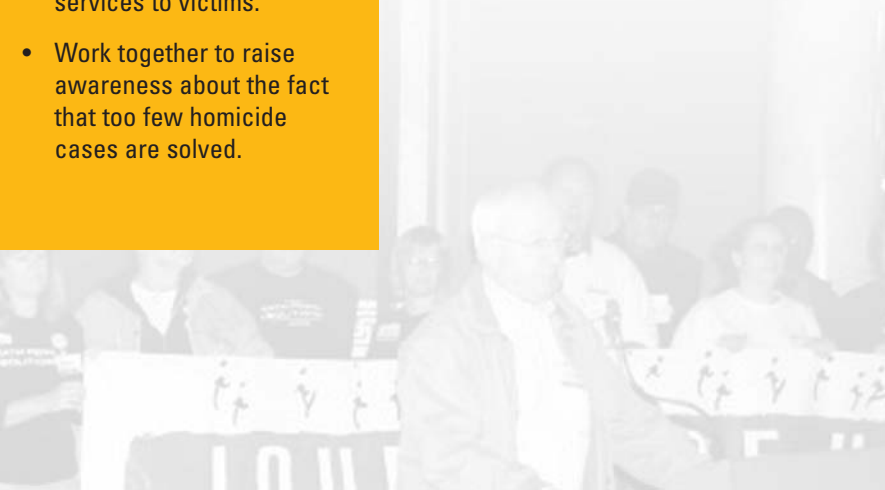
For example:

A local Rachel's Fund Committee and Victims Service organization might:

- Jointly sponsor a public forum on anti-crime initiatives.
- Collaborate on the passage of legislation to improve and expand services to victims.
- Work together to raise awareness about the fact that too few homicide cases are solved.

NCADP's Rachel's Fund is also a catalyst for stronger partnerships with national organizations of murder victims' and death row inmates' family members who oppose the death penalty: notably, Journey of Hope...from Violence to Healing, Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights and Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation.

In brief, Rachel's Fund seeks to change the shape of the policy debate to focus on policies that work and support the needs of families and their communities.



How to Get Involved

- Educate yourself on the experience and needs of victims of violence by visiting **WWW.NCADP.ORG** and following the links to our partners working on behalf of murder victims' families.
- Become a member of **Rachel's Champion Circle** by raising money for **Rachel's Fund**
- Work with your local affiliate to support victims of violence locally
- Participate in your state affiliate's **Race to Heal**

FirstGiving and the Race to Heal Initiative

The Rachel's Fund Program provides a mechanism for local affiliates to raise money to support this important policy outreach work – the local “Race to Heal Initiatives.”

Modeled after other popular online fundraising cause-related campaigns, NCADP affiliate-sponsored Race to Heal Initiatives provide members and volunteer the opportunity to reach out to peers, friends and family members to raise awareness about the need to change our response to homicide and raise funds to support local programs.

NCADP has contracted with FirstGiving, an online donation management and outreach site, which offers tools that enable non-profits such as NCADP and our affiliates to set up donation websites for individuals, track and acknowledge gifts and create viral messaging that leverages existing supporter networks by spreading messages to their contacts.

One example of an activity affiliates could use to encourage their members to raise funds, and to find new donors for this important work, is a local 5K road race. NCADP will supply branded promotional materials bearing the “Rachel’s Fund” and “Race to Heal Initiative” name and logo, and permission to use these materials.

NCADP will work with each affiliate and its Rachel’s Fund Committee and partnering groups to determine the best events and activities for their membership and community.

However affiliates choose to activate their Rachel’s Fund Committee, NCADP will offer skills training and technical assistance to ensure Rachel’s Fund succeeds. This will include online webinars, training and networking conference calls, and on-site visits.



About NCADP

More than thirty-three years ago, a group of leading civil and human rights activists founded the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, responding to the resumption of executions following the Supreme Court's 1976 *Gregg v. Georgia* decision. Today, NCADP continues to work to fulfill our mission:

To abolish the death penalty in the United States and support efforts to abolish the death penalty worldwide.

As the nation's oldest organization dedicated exclusively to death penalty abolition, NCADP unifies an extensive network of over one hundred affiliate organizations, thousands of advocates and volunteers, murder victim family members, and prominent civil justice organizations.

For more information,
email RachelsFund@ncadp.org
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